

Esther The Barbie Spiel

Erev Purim

Saturday, March 23 at 6:30 pm

Join us in Barbie's Shushan Dream House.
Pink costumes are highly encouraged.
Our Purim spiel is for all ages.
Enjoy the spiel, costume contest, Jewish food
debate, trivia, and an evening of tasty
beverages and scrumptious eats.

You don't want to miss this beloved
annual tradition!

FROM THE RABBI

What's With the Drinking on Purim?



I experienced Purim as I never had the year I visited my friends in Israel during our junior year in college. Growing up, Purim was the holi-

day of synagogue carnivals, dressing in costumes, booing Haman's name, and eating plenty of (apricot!) *hamantaschen*. I had no idea that Purim could be so... "debaucherous." As far as I knew, Purim was for kids. And then in Israel I saw grown-ups celebrating with abandon. After all these years I can still remember the scene at the *megillah* reading I went to in Jerusalem. I don't think anyone was of sound mind, and that's putting it mildly. It was another couple of years until I learned this famous text from the Talmud: *Rava said: A person is obligated to become intoxicated with wine on Purim until one does not know how to distinguish between 'cursed is Haman' and 'blessed is Mordecai'* (BT Megillah 7b). What is going on here? Why do the rabbis want us to get drunk on Purim? And perhaps more importantly, why would Rava want Jews to stop distinguishing

INSIDE:

• *On the Map*
screening
May 13,
page 4

• *Faces in Our*
Community:
Ashley Mask,
page 8



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From the President...

On My Mind



Here are some of the topics that are on my mind as I write this article:

- How do we engage our members and meet them where they are? Are we adequately providing enough opportunities for members to gather, pray, converse, and play?
- How do we improve our security post 7 October with antisemitism becoming tragically normalized, and given that our security costs have increased 35%?
- When was the last time we updated our Master Emergency Plan? Who has copies? What about cyber security?
- How will we pay for the completion of the sanctuary *Bima* and finish the spaces and walls around our beautiful arc?
- How do we put in action our plan to raise monies to complete a long list of items envisioned when we moved onto the property? Our Torah mantels are old and tattered and need replacing. Seating in the sanctuary/social hall has served us well for many years but is old, inflexible, and not comfortable for many. We have long planned for new lecterns and speaker podiums and need funds to proceed and purchase.

I could go on and on, but perhaps this gives you, dear fellow CBI members, a small insight into some of what swirls in my head day to day. To be honest, on certain days the list can seem long enough to topple over.

As a lay leader I work to keep perspective and realize there were many smart leaders before me who have paved the CBI path so generously with their time and wisdom. It also

helps to know and remember that we have many congregant volunteers in every facet of our building and programming. I know I am not alone, and that working as a team, as a community, is the secret sauce for success. It reminds me of the adage: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

Once I come down from internally spinning like a whirling dervish, I generally find my way back to equilibrium. I am by nature a positive person who can control my attitude and my response to well-meaning people, and that a balance between short-term problem solving, and long-term planning is important.

So here below is a short list of what is going wonderfully right now at CBI:

1. We have an amazing office staff. Sarah has updated so many of our previously manual processes and is able to take on many of the tasks our volunteer members previously tackled. This step forward at CBI has been game changing, and I am excited about many forward thinking and efficient solutions Sarah is contemplating.
2. Our kitchen task force continues to work to formally open the main-floor kitchen for our event use. We are very close, with signage and policies being formulated as I type. I look forward to events large and small ramping up as a result.
3. We have added 28 new members since August 1, 2023. While synagogues around the country are losing members or closing their doors, CBI is growing.
4. Our Keshet and youth engagement programs are thriving thanks in large part to leadership from Rabbi Samuels, Victoria Mayers, Leah Bordman, as well as key visionary

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

MASSA Updates, Volunteers Needed

BY VICTORIA MAYERS

MASSA Updates

January 28 the MASSA class attended the presentation by Dr Ray Wolpow. Students listened to heartfelt stories about Noemi Ban z"l and Fred Fragner z"l and how they managed to turn their hurtful pasts into hopeful futures.

The class has started learning about the Sephardic culture and history. Jeff Galbraith will be speaking to the class on his Sephardic heritage and telling the story of how his ancestors came from Rhodes to Seattle. The Samis Foundation founding father Samuel Israel, was also from Rhodes. Jeff's talk will reveal how the Sephardic Jewish community traveled around the world and landed in Seattle.



Dr. Ray Wolpow shares stories about CBI Holocaust survivors Noemi Ban z"l and Fred Fragner z"l for the MASSA class, WWU representatives and students, and fellow CBI congregants

Donate Silent Auction Items

Students are currently working on their next big fundraiser. MASSA is now collecting silent auction items that will be displayed at Erev Purim on March 23 and during the Purim Carnival on March 24. If you have any items you would like to donate please contact Nicky Naiman at nickybassett@hotmail.com. Larger items can be stored in our storage unit. During Purim we encourage everyone to stop by and see if you can find some nice treas-

ures, need some services offered, or want some art work to add to your collections. All proceeds will go directly towards students' tickets and travel costs.

Hire MASSA Youth

MASSA youth are also available for hire. They can perform basic household chores, help with gardening, snow shovel driveways or sidewalks, assist with house projects, offer pet sitting or dog walking, and some are trained through Red Cross for babysitting. If you are interested in hiring out our youth please contact Kevin Donner at the_kid@hotmail.com. He is setting up an on-line sign-up sheet for people to list jobs and where our youth can go to that site to select jobs. This is a great opportunity to get those projects done that have been sitting around waiting for helpers. A win-win for all involved.

MASSA Youth Collecting for Next Value Village Drop-Off

After you have selected items for the Silent Auction and still have things to give away, MASSA is also currently collecting used clothing and small household items for our Value Village drop-off in April. Please make sure to put your soft items in plastic bags and box up any books, household items, toys, or any other donations. Please try to deliver your donations on Sunday mornings during Keshet's operating hours or call the office to set up a drop-off time.

Volunteers Needed for Purim Carnival

Purim is coming soon and we are looking for volunteers to assist in making it a wonderful event. We need assistance in setting up, preparing the food, cleaning up, selling tickets, handing out prizes, and monitoring the buffet line. If you are available to help, please contact Cathy Zitzer at c.zitzer@yahoo.com. Plan to come in your favorite costume, be prepared to enjoy lots of carnival games, and be ready to eat lots of yummy food.

Synagogue 411

Archives:

Tim Baker, (360) 305-6945

Care:

Else Sokol, (360) 393-9618

Sarah Witte, (360) 296-3058

Membership:

Ann Suloway, (360) 296-8220

Sue Mahar (360) 319-5314

Library, Scrip:

Joan Wayne, (360) 676-8939

Gartner Scholarship Fund:

Emil Hecht, (360) 201-4664

Carol Robinson, (360) 671-3852

Social Action:

Linda Blackwell, (360) 647-9519



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May 13: Watch a Joyful Sports Movie To Celebrate Israeli Independence Day

BY EMILY WEINER

Young and old, CBI members, friends, and all sports fans are invited to CBI at 5:30 pm on Monday, May 13, to eat falafel, sing Hatikva, and watch *On the Map*, an exciting basketball movie that celebrates the spirit of Israel.

This Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) event is free, presented by CBI's Programming Committee, with the support of many CBI volunteers and staff.

On the Map tells the story of the Maccabee Tel Aviv '77 basketball team, which brought the first European Cup to Israel and became "The Team of the Nation."

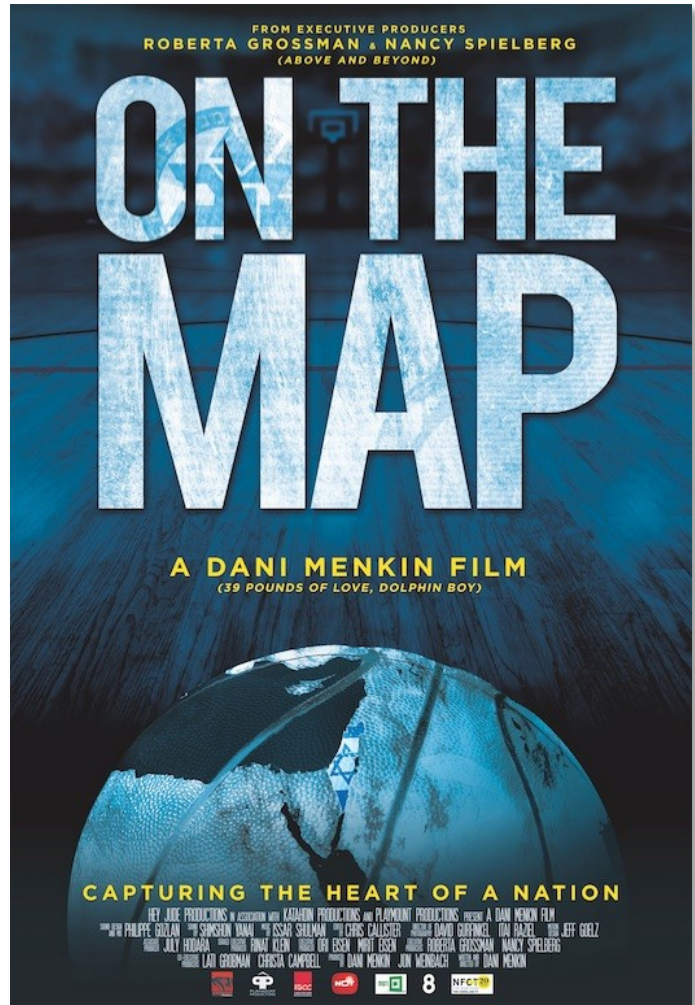
Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Walton, who narrates *On the Map*, called the Maccabee victory "one of the greatest sporting accomplishments ever."

Featuring interviews with the athletes who made history, *On the Map* combines the pulse-pounding action of high-stakes games with brief historic film clips that place the sports competition into its political context. You will find out how an underdog Israeli team attracted top U.S. basketball players including Tal Brody, inducted into the Israeli Basketball Hall of Fame, the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, and the U.S. National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. You will see that the streets of Israeli cities were empty while the whole nation was glued to their TVs during the final contest. And you will discover that even General Moshe Dayan attended the Maccabee games.

The Hollywood Reporter called *On the Map* a "compelling sports tale." *LA Weekly* called the film "a feel-good Cinderella story." And *The Wall Street Journal* said it was a "sports movie at its best."

The film is produced by Hey Jude Productions and directed by Academy-award-winner Dani Menkin. This fast-paced documentary runs 85 minutes.

On the Map honors Israeli heroes, mesmerizes fans of the game, and captures the spirit of a nation triumphant and victorious against all odds.



Please join us for this free, joyful, intergenerational gathering.



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Collecting for Mitzvah Day

BY VICTORIA MAYERS

Mitzvah Day is on May 19 and Kesher is now collecting toiletry supplies for the hygiene kits that CBI assembles annually for homeless and youth centers. Desired items include new and unopened small shampoo/conditioner bottles, toothbrushes/paste, socks, underwear, soaps, feminine hygiene products, or healthy snacks.

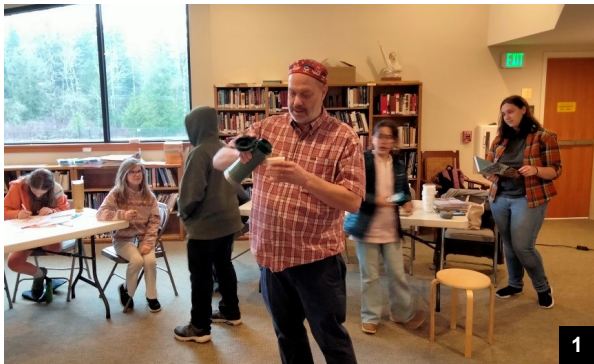
In addition, we are also collecting pet supplies for the Alternative Humane Society. Donations can include animal toys, bedding, or healthy treats. All clearly marked

Mitzvah Day Donations may be dropped off at CBI. Please call ahead to make sure someone is in the building.

On May 19, Kesher students will assemble the bags to be delivered to various organizations.

Mitzvah Day is open to all CBI congregants. Everyone is welcome to share in a provided breakfast starting at 9:00 am, *Tefilah* services will start at 10:00 am, and then everyone can partake in the various Mitzvot organized for the day. More details about Mitzvah Day will be available at a later date.

Latest Kesher events: 1. Parent volunteer Jeff Galbraith shares his Sephardic family heritage with sixth-grade Kesher students. He brought ginger tea and traditional cookies to share. 2. Fourth-grade Kesher sings. 3. Hebrew teacher specialist Jason Benhaim teaches students about the order of a Tu B'Shevat Seder. 4 and 5. Sixth-grade teacher and Hannah's mom Stephanie Shernicoff joined the class and taught about Jewish cultural foods. 6. Parent volunteer Samantha Terriss leads an art project for Earth Day. Fourth- and fifth-grade students decorate mini trees to be displayed on a larger tree structure 7 and 8. Kesher volunteer Terri Weiner helps K-1 make lovely challah.



Birthdays

MARCH 2024

3/1 Richard Cavell
 3/1 Tannia Hecht
 3/1 Brenda Miller
 3/1 Debbie Whitney
 3/2 Ivy Hammerstrom (3rd)
 3/2 Nadia Mazonson (19th)
 3/4 Renee Elder
 3/4 Nancy Luster
 3/4 Talya Sanger (23rd)
 3/5 Lev Cornwall (18th)
 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 (11th)
 3/9 Ryan Goldman (19th)
 3/9 Scott Kennedy
 3/11 John LaMont
 3/11 Samuel Pomerantz (9th)
 3/12 Sivan Wells-Langley (13th)
 3/13 Carly Benhaim
 3/13 Rebecca Orloff
 3/13 Steve Schwartz
 3/14 Jeff Galbraith
 3/14 Jordan Verkh-Haskell (22nd)
 3/15 Yaniv Attar
 3/15 Esther Horton (12th)
 3/16 Jason Benhaim
 3/18 Jessica Cohen
 3/18 Samantha Sinai
 3/19 Carol Robinson
 3/20 Jody Meltzer
 3/20 Matthew Schall

3/21 Naomi Pomerantz
 3/21 Bonnie Quam
 3/22 Jonah Attar (14th)
 3/22 Sonora DesRosiers (16th)
 3/22 Sue Mahar
 3/22 Roy Shankman
 3/23 Camille Keefe
 3/23 Elle Kronenberg
 3/23 Jerome Rosen
 3/24 Ruth Ingberman
 3/25 Tami DuBow
 3/25 Ariel Sarah Gott (11th)
 3/25 Tahlia Grace Gott (11th)
 3/27 Marybeth Taranow
 3/27 Aviva Weinstein (17th)
 3/28 Eileen Miller
 3/28 Nancy Thomson
 3/29 Rick Romito
 3/30 Meghan Galvin
 3/30 Magnolia Frances Jeffers (1st)
 3/30 Samantha Konikoff
 3/30 Niilo Witter McGarrity (5th)
 3/31 Jeff Margolis
 3/31 Gabriel Witte (15th)

4/7 Kevin Parker
 4/10 Katie Comstock
 4/10 Jeffrey Feld
 4/10 Susan Katz
 4/11 Lilah Blum (23rd)
 4/12 Cora Boothby
 4/12 Sarah DesRosiers
 4/13 Steve Ban
 4/13 Karen Fisher
 4/14 Jeffrey Probst
 4/15 Gabriel Burkill (3rd)
 4/16 Mia Clarke (18th)
 4/16 Elizabeth Witte (12th)
 4/17 Paul Blum
 4/17 Benjamin Sommers (18th)
 4/18 Navah DesRosiers (19th)
 4/18 Ian Horton
 4/18 Liza Jane Price (16th)
 4/18 Linda Read
 4/18 Ruby Simon (13th)
 4/18 Alexandra Verkh
 4/19 Jaz Balasa
 4/19 Orly Ravitsky
 4/23 Lindsay Roberts (14th)
 4/24 Leah Lippman
 4/24 Aniel Wells-Langley (15th)
 4/25 Margaret Bikman
 4/25 Ian McCurdy
 4/25 Jason Stoane
 4/26 Spencer Jantzen (19th)
 4/27 Philip Wolff
 4/28 Joel David
 4/28 Andrew Orloff
 4/28 Katlaina Rayne
 4/28 Shoshana Samuels (12th)
 4/29 Abigail Comstock (16th)
 4/29 Richard Widerkeh
 4/30 Shiloh (Shy) Gentry (14th)

APRIL 2024

4/1 Amy Kraham
 4/3 Ethan Oliver (22nd)
 4/3 Alisa Sachs
 4/4 Daniel Feller
 4/4 Mary Jo Lewis
 4/5 Jeff Crollard
 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 (17th)

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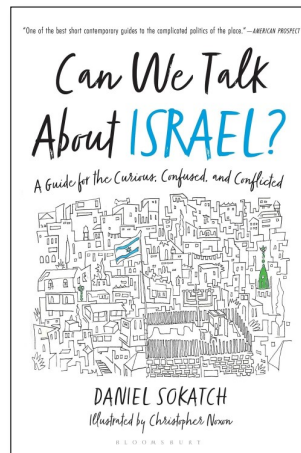
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Second Israel Book Discussion with Rabbi Samuels

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 1:30 pm

For the second Israel Book Discussion of 2024, Rabbi Samuels will be leading a conversation about Daniel Sokatch's book, *Can We Talk About Israel?: A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted*. The Jewish Book Council writes, "*Can We Talk about Israel?* is a supremely nuanced discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, past and present. It is broad in scope yet detailed in analysis, thought-provoking for the well-informed yet accessible for the new learner. It is an important and needed addition to the books on the subject." For those who enjoyed reading Noa Tishby's book, *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*, Rabbi Samuels thinks you will also appreciate Sokatch's detailed, nuanced, and easy to follow approach to the topic.

Daniel Sokatch has been the CEO of the New Israel Fund since 2009. The NIF is committed to strengthening and expanding progressive forces in Israel by helping



You can learn more about Daniel Sokatch at www.nif.org/people/daniel-sokatch/

Order your copy of the book from your favorite bookseller.

"Israel to live up to its founders' vision." Under Sokatch's leadership, the NIF has worked tirelessly advocating for civil rights for all Israel's inhabitants. He is a staunch supporter of religious tolerance, pluralism, and social justice. Before joining NIF, Sokatch served as the CEO of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties.

Join Us for a Wine Tasting on Saturday Evening, March 9

We'll Begin with Havdalah at 7:00 pm.

In time for your Purim and Passover wine selections, join us for some wine savvy and to sample five Israeli wines from the Golan Appellation in Israel. Seifert & Jones Wine Merchants and Holly Witte, your wine host for the evening, have selected two white wines and three reds from the Golan Heights, Israel's renowned wine region.

Holly, who moved to Washington after 15 years in the Willamette Valley, where she and her late husband owned a vineyard and a winery, will guide us through the tasting with some tips along the way and, maybe, some insider information about "wine speak"!

We'll learn something about the Golan Appellation and its characteristics and see if we recognize them in the wines we taste. You'll hear about weather during the vintages we taste and how that affects the wine. We'll also do a little test to find out who among us is a "Super Taster" — and what that means! And we'll have platters of appetizers selected to pair with our wines.

Sounds like a party, right?

Seifert & Jones is offering a 10% savings if you decide to buy wine through them. Forms will be available that

evening...while the memory of the wine is still on your palate!

We have wine makers in the CBI congregation, surely wine lovers, and probably those who want to learn a bit more. We will have space for 40 tasters, all members please, at \$36/person — reservations have already been coming in, so reserve now. Members can register through the link in the Timbrel, or call the office.

Gathering to explore the mysteries of wine is often a magical experience. Join us for a little magic and a lovely evening together.

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Faces in Our Community: Ashley Mask

BY LINDA HIRSH

While Ashley Mask was growing up in a “small, sweet” place called Bluff Park, a suburb of Birmingham, Alabama, she attended the Chapel in the Pines. She is now an active member of Congregation Beth Israel.

It seems an unconventional religious journey. Yet “my Presbyterian pastor was a really progressive, open-minded person who never pushed ideas or shamed people into [any] religious beliefs,” she said. “It differed from many of the Southern Churches I grew up around.”

That freedom must have enabled her to jump into Judaism. Of that, she says, “I loved the whole process. All that learning! When I stepped into the *mikvah* in New York City with my one-year-old daughter in my arms, saying the blessings and dunking down into the water, then hearing my rabbi out in the hallway singing, I knew I had done a wonderful thing.”



Dan, Ashley, Natan, and Adina

Breathtaking! But Birmingham, Alabama; Boulder, Colorado; Newark, Delaware; then New York, New York? And now Bellingham, Washington?

Ashley’s answer is “all of my life feels special because it’s uniquely mine.”

Even her current address feels special! Ashley and her family moved next door to Melissa and John Schapiro, also active in the *shul*! “Melissa and John have been the best neighbors,” she said. “They invited us to synagogue immediately, and that’s honestly why we already

have so many good friends here — through CBI.”

The feeling’s mutual. “John and I really hit the neighbor trifecta when Ashley and Dan and their kids moved in next door,” Melissa said. “Not only are they warm and friendly, but also we have that Jewish connection. And on top of that, Ashley’s expertise in art enabled us (the Programming Committee) to move forward with a long-dreamed-of art series at Beth Israel. We are so thankful they chose to move to Bellingham.”

To do all this must have taken a good dollop of independence. As for that, Ashley did not waste time. At 16, she started working. Her first jobs were pharmacy clerk, dry cleaning clerk, barista, and bookseller.

“The idea of earning my own money felt like freedom to me,” she said.

Shul Shofar writer Linda Hirsh is moving, as she puts it, “back to her land of origin...Philadelphia,” where she will be closer to her daughter. We are grateful to her for the warm and entertaining profiles she has written introducing people to CBI.

If you have an interest in writing, let us know. In addition to a facility with words, a good dose of curiosity is a definite benefit for this role! Send an email to us at: holly.witte@bethisraelbellingham.org AND nora.mazonson@bethisraelbellingham.org.

Continued on Page 14



1. Seventh- and eighth-grade preparing for Yom HaShoah service. 2. Abby Kroopkin playing cello for her fifth-grade class. 3. Beverly Harrington reading at Keshet. 4. Andrea Shupack at Beit Café. 5. Beit Café. 6. Sarah Witte at Beit Café. 7. Jodi Litt presenting Mary Somerville with lifetime membership. 8. Mary and Rabbi Samuels. 9. Mary with the Atlantics. 10. Rabbi Samuels with members of local Christian communities.

Good Luck with the Royal Spelling

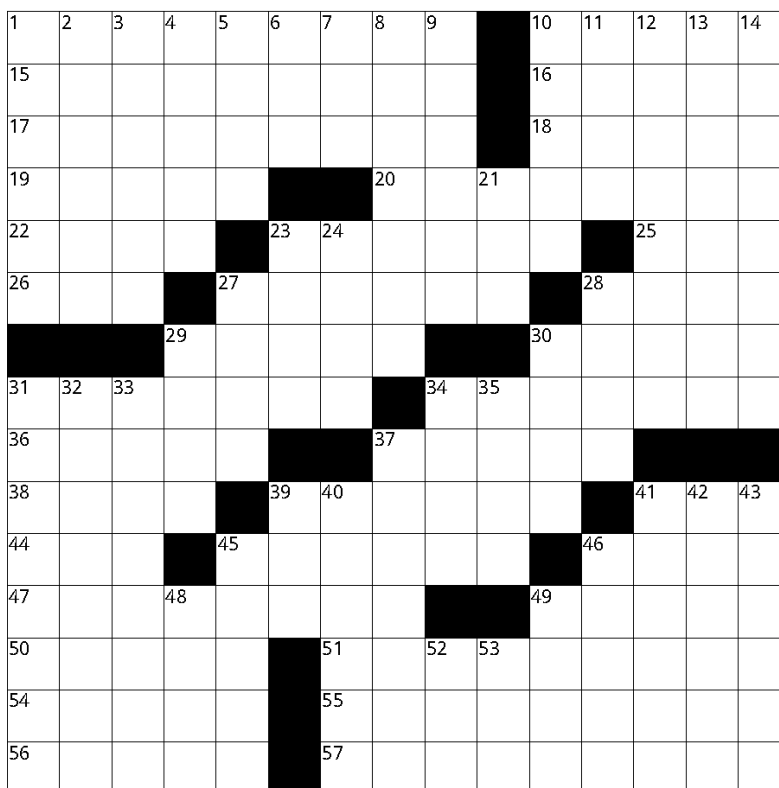
Jason Benhaim

ACROSS

- 1 English name for the Biblical King of Shushan, as spelled on his Wikipedia page
 10 Carell of 'Evan Almighty'
 15 Forecast for the astrologically inclined
 16 "Deck the Halls" plant
 17 Crafter's online shop
 18 Major and minor bears of the night sky
 19 Loud, as a crowd
 20 A good way to take things
 22 Howard and Perlman, e.g.
 23 Voodoo and wizardry, e.g.
 25 Shoot down
 26 NFL six-pointers
 27 First wife of 1-Across and potential feminist icon
 28 Unconscious state
 29 Kind of badge for a scout
 30 Holiday occasionally mischaracterized as "Jewish Halloween"
 31 Appalachian range
 34 Pink Pearl products
 36 Grand vizier to 1-Across who gets the graggers going
 37 Big name in fishing gear
 38 Solution to the riddle: "What force or strength cannot get through / I, with gentle touch, can do"
 39 Second wife of 1-Across, initially introduced as Hadassah
 41 Word to a misbehaving mutt
 44 "Break a ___"
 45 Wielder of Excalibur
 46 Newbie
 47 Caught, as a rabbit
 49 Easy runner
 50 Silent performers
 51 Flesh out
 54 "Without ___ in the world"
 55 Problem-solving process
 56 Pertaining to the kidneys
 57 Hero to 1-Across who foiled an assassination plot

DOWN

- 1 Have ___ (be kind)
 2 Souped-up vehicle
 3 Fiery felonies
 4 Nutritious beans
 5 White Album opener "Back in the ___"
 6 Prefix meaning "outer"
 7 Kanga's kid
 8 ___ Citizens Brigade (LA-based comedy troupe)
 9 Movie night veto



- 10 Closes
 11 Unit of pressure equivalent to one millimeter of mercury
 12 'Hamlet' setting
 13 Novelist Nabokov
 14 Optometrist's tests
 21 ___-fi
 23 Stallion's mate
 24 Yard sale caveat
 27 Blood line
 28 Swear
 29 "Sound good?" in South Park
 30 Two of a kind
 31 Titular clown of a 2005 Rushdie novel
 32 Try to get along
 33 1971 post-apocalyptic film starring Charlton Heston, with "The"
 34 Two-stringed Chinese instrument
 35 Airstream owner
 37 Desdemona's love
 39 Time period
 40 Watch online
 41 Secondary route
 42 "Respect" singer Franklin
 43 First three notes of the musical scale
 45 Photographer Adams
 46 Tire-shaped
 48 Word doubled after "que"
 49 Stuff of legends
 52 Cabinet dept.
 53 Physique, for short

What Is an *Oneg*?

Oneg means pleasure and an *Oneg Shabbat* means “Joy of Shabbat.” An *oneg* is an informal gathering at synagogue or a private home to express outwardly the happiness inherent in the Shabbat holiday.

We all enjoy a *nosh* after services or a potluck dinner shared with our community. Hosting an *oneg* or potluck is easy, thanks to our wonderful upstairs kitchen. Congregants take turns hosting, once a year. Congregants receive a reminder the week before they are scheduled to host with details about what to do as a host.

Do you ever thank the hosts?

The current *oneg* list is on our website in the member only section. There are still a few openings for hosting Saturday events.

In May we begin making a *oneg* list for the year July-June. There will be many B’nei Mitzvahs and those families will host that weekend. Would you like to host on a special day? Do you have a preference on what type of *oneg* you would like to host? Are you feeling not able to host this coming year? Please let us know. Thank you.

We’ll be making the list in May. Questions? Contact Joan Wayne jawayne2@gmail.com or Sarah Witte sntwitte@yahoo.com

Thank You to CBI

To my dear CBI family,

It is hard to find words to adequately express my appreciation for the wonderful farewell party you held for me on January 6. The beautiful decorations, scrumptious food, and festive attire of so many of you combined to create a lovely, magical setting. I regret that I was unable to speak to everyone and thank you for helping me celebrate; I was so glad to see you there, even if we didn’t get a chance to talk.

To everyone who organized, volunteered, donated, wrote cards, sent notes, gave gifts, joined the festivities, or brought tears to my eyes with tributes and a lifetime CBI membership, I offer my profound and everlasting gratitude. It was an unforgettable evening that will shine in my memory for the rest of my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

With much love,
Mary Somerville

The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- **Mikaela Kaiser and James Schneider** – Bellingham
- **Reid Parker, Erin Uloth, and sons, Micah** (age 12) and **Noah** (age 14) – Bellingham
- **Anika and Colleen Tilland-Stafford** and daughter **Elianah** (age 15) – Bellingham

Congratulations to **Naomi Schapiro**! Naomi completed her Masters in Teaching through Western Governors University in December 2023. You may see her substituting in area schools until she lands a permanent teaching position.



Long time congregants, Leslie and Roy Shankman are excited to announce the birth of their first grandchild, **Zephyr Azel Avram** born on 01/02/24. The proud parents are Saybin and Daniel Shankman of Bellingham.



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March/April 2024 Service Schedule

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

Friday, Mar. 1	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family service, featuring the Keshet 2nd/3rd grade class with potluck afterward	Friday, Mar. 29	Fifth Friday-Shabbat at Home
Saturday, Mar. 2	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Ki Tissa</i>) 11:00 am Jewish Renewal Shabbat Service	Saturday, Mar. 30	9:30 am Torah Study on Zoom only (<i>Parashat Tzav</i>)
Friday, Mar. 8	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Friday, Apr. 5	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, Mar. 9	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayakhel</i>) 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service	Saturday, Apr. 6	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Shemini</i>)
Friday, Mar. 15	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with potluck afterward	Friday, Apr. 12	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, Mar. 16	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Pekudei</i>) 11:00 am Tot Shabbat service	Saturday, Apr. 13	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Tazria</i>) 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, Mar. 22	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble	Friday, Apr. 19	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with potluck afterward
Saturday, Mar. 23	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vayikra</i>) 10:30 am Conservative-style, lay-led minyan	Saturday, Apr. 20	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Metzora</i>) 11:00 am Tot Shabbat service
		Friday, Apr. 26	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with leadership from the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
		Saturday, Apr. 27	9:30 am Torah Study 10:30 am Conservative-style, lay-led minyan

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

between the story's hero, Mordecai, and its villain, Haman [boo!]?

Not surprisingly, there are plenty of answers to these questions:

We survived a potential genocide and came out the other end on top. Time to rejoice! This isn't actually a commandment, but a suggestion.

The story itself is preoccupied with drinking and revelry, so, we should act it out in our own time.

And then there's another reason that comes from our friend Rava. According to his teachings in the Talmud, Mordecai endangered the Jewish people of Shushan by not bowing down to Haman [boo!], and he even had multiple opportunities to backtrack on his stubborn decision, but chose not to. In other words, Mordecai jeopardized the entire Jewish community. Rava suggested that Jews drink on Purim so that they have the wisdom to under-

stand what really happened, and how the "hero" wasn't all that wonderful to begin with. How can drinking wine help one discern the truth, you might ask. In another passage from the Talmud we read, *Rava said: Wine and good scents make me wise* (BT Yoma 76b). I wonder if the ancient rabbis would just laugh at us for taking their words too seriously and not realizing that on occasion they were just having fun.

Having fun is the point of Purim and it makes perfect sense. The story is farcical and the topsy-turvy theme pervades the holiday. But drinking too much, not so fun. I know from experience (from observation, of course) that drinking does not make one more insightful, as Rava suggests, but more confused. While there will be beverages of all sorts at our annual **Erev Purim event on Saturday, March 23 at 6:30 pm**, along with tasty treats, the real fun will be cheering on our Purim spiel actors, hooting, and hollering for your favorite costume, and maybe even singing along to a Taylor Swift song.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

Special Fund Donations

BUILDING SECURITY FUND

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

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Minda Rae Amiran; Marta & Craig Brand; Ann Buzaitis & Dena Petersen; Richard & Bonnie Cavell; Patrick Crane; Beverly Harrington; Meg Jacobson; Michael & Mary Jo Lewis; Jodi Litt; Brenda Miller; Binnie Perper; Arundel Pritchett & Art Flores; Sid & Aline Wanne; Joan & Marv Wayne; Laura Wall; Wendy Westgate; Laura & Cassandra Wolfson; Henry Zemel

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:
Karen Sloss, in memory of her mother, Edna Jean Sloss
From: *Ann Suloway & Tim Baker*

IN HONOR OF:
Marv Wayne – Mazal Tov on his 80th Birthday
From: *Ann Suloway & Tim Baker*

CARE COMMITTEE

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

*Suzanne Kite
Dorothy & Ron Walt*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Joshua Samuels, for his patience and kindness with me in my conversion! I appreciate the time he spent making sure that everything would be done properly!
From: *Idalina Trank*

Paul Blum and his wife Alison Zack! It was truly a blessing to have both with me at the Mikva, back on December 7, 2023! Having Alison as my witness was awesome! My husband and I enjoy each minute with them! Thank you Alison and thank you Paul.
From: *Idalina Trank*

Thanks to Sara White and Joan Wayne who made the oneg such an enjoyable time!
From: *Idalina Trank*

Thanks so much to Marcy Probst and Barbe Both for making the oneg a great feast, back on December 8, 2023! Thank you both from the bottom of my heart
From: *Idalina Trank*

Andrea Shupack.
From: *Idalina Trank*

David Goldman for doing the video on the December 8th service.

From: *Idalina Trank*

IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels
From: *Fran Levy*

My son, Rabbi Samuels.

From: *Peter Samuels*

Rabbi Samuels, thank you for being so welcoming to visitors.

From: *Don Chapman*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Kevin Donner's brother
From: *Suzanne Kite*

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Melissa Schapiro and her tireless work selling my house.

From: *Laura Hudgins*

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:
Marcy Probst and her family, in memory of Marcy's father, Michael.

From: *Katie & David Edelstein*

Karen Sloss, in memory of her mother.

From: *Bonnie Stone*

In honor of Karen Sloss' mother.

From: *Erin & Steve Cohen*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Karen Sloss' mother, Jean.

From: *Jay & Donna Solomon*

In memory of Karen's mother.

From: *Joan & Marv Wayne*

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Paul Blum & Allison Zak; Helen Feiger; Jodi Litt; Bob & Nancy Goldman; Carol & David Robinson; Rick & Linda Romito; Dina Tanners, Richard Widerkehr, Rena & David Ziegler

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In Memory of Karen Sloss' mother, Jean.

From: *Jill & David Elkayam*

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Steve & Janis Ban

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Karen Sloss, in memory of her mother.

From: *Suzanne Kite*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 2

volunteers, including Kevin Donner, Nicky Naiman, and Katie Edelstein.

5. We are offering more and more programs, including new live-stream options from fellow URJ synagogues in Seattle. The quality of many of the speakers and presenters is high and offers us in NW Washington a through line to many fellow Jews in Seattle.
6. A small group of dedicated CBI members have met and conceived of a campaign to raise monies for many of the items I mentioned above. Look for their correspondence with specifics to get underway soon. If you

want to get a jump start and donate to the capital campaign, please let me know!

While we whittle away at the list, please know I want to hear from you with ideas, offers of assistance, and/or to share thoughts on the direction of CBI. I love having conversations about Israel, world politics, and other topics centered around our shared Judaism and our place in the continuum of our religion and culture.

Shalom,

JODI LITT
PRESIDENT

ASHLEY MASK*Continued from Page 8*

Not only that, but while still in high school, she flew to Germany on a class trip and enjoyed meeting folks from different cultures. Since then, she has explored India, Mexico, Europe, and recently, the Pacific Northwest Islands.

As far ranging as her religious life has been, art is a lifetime theme. “I feel closest to being a kid again when I’m messing with art materials,” she said.

So she dove into it, earning a Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Montevallo in Alabama, a Master of Fine Art from the University of Delaware, a Master of Science in Education from Bank Street College of Education in New York City, and a Doctorate in Art Education from Columbia University Teachers College. And “after a few art degrees, I began teaching in art museums,” she said. “I fell in love with them and have worked in them ever since.” Among them are The Tate in London, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Boulder [Colorado] Museum of Contemporary Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. The last two happened when she moved to the Big Apple in 2009.

“I was looking for a place that would feed my intellectual and cultural curiosity, and the city has always been a draw. I loved being surrounded by all that amazing art. Perhaps, more importantly, getting to talk with other people about art has always been so fulfilling.”

In 2022, she found her dream job at Western Washington University, where she oversees the Art Education program as well as Museum Studies and teaches 6 courses a year “bringing together my love of art and art

making, education, and museums — all in the context of a university, my favorite sort of place on earth.”

In addition to that, she loves reading, logical for someone who loves learning. She calls stories “my form of continuing education.” That alone could be considered great preparation for having children.

But first things first. In 2012, she met Dan Diamond, at the time, a bartender. Hurricane Sandy had just ripped through New York, and electricity was out at her workplace. While talking, Dan and Ashley found they shared many enthusiasms — art, museums, movies, music, cooking.

Dan, now a psychotherapist, grew up with his family of lawyers in Great Neck, Long Island, in a Reform Jewish household. He attended Carlton College in Minnesota, then moved to Brooklyn upon graduation.

“We just fit really well together,” she said, and so they married in 2015, had daughter Adina in 2017, and son Natan in 2020. “Adina is artistic and thoughtful and really funny; Natan is free-wheeling and bold and poetic. We feel so lucky we get to live life with them; they are teaching us things all the time.”

The family lived in Brooklyn until 2022, then moved to Bellingham.

“Yes, it was a big move!” Ashley said. “We miss New York, but we have been so blessed with amazing friendships already. The kids love this place. Deer walk through our neighborhood! We never saw deer in Brooklyn!”

And here’s a quintessential assessment of Ashley. Recently, she had to fill out an application asking what her friends would say about her.

“I was puzzled by that question, so I asked Dan. He said my friends would say I’m always positive. That’s a nice attribute, I think.”

Anniversaries

- Mar. 15 Isaac & Samantha Konikoff (# 16)
- Mar. 18 Nancy & Don Davis (# 40)
- Mar. 19 Robert & Jody Meltzer (# 24)
- Mar. 21 Jerome Rosen & Katlaina Rayne (# 36)
- Mar. 24 Laura & Cassandra Wolfson (# 19)
- Mar. 26 Leah & Jeffrey Grossman (# 13)
- Mar. 29 Joel David & Kristin Sykes-David (# 43)
- Apr. 6 Kristan & Mike Brennan (# 28)
- Apr. 9 Dana and Luke Goodwin (#8)
- Apr. 15 Aline & Sid Wanne (# 61)
- Apr. 16 Michael & Jay Braunstein (# 24)
- Apr. 20 Danny & Marla Finkelstein (# 38)
- Apr. 26 Howard Sharfstein & Francell-Sharfstein (# 37)

*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.*

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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 1

Sandra Glazer Lake	3/1
Robert W. Lippman	3/1
Sandra (Sandy) Miller	3/1
Robert Fife	3/2
Bernie Kaufman	3/2
Jonathan David Mayers	3/2
John H. Bruns	3/3
Ruth Lippman	3/3
Howard Little	3/3
Victoria Goldstein	3/4
Irwin Weiner	3/4
Paul Zentner	3/4
Alice Duckworth	3/5
Jack Eigen	3/5
Joseph Sonneman	3/5
Henry Edwards	3/6
Elsa Zentner	3/6
David Boman	3/7
Fred Fragner	3/7
Phyllis Goldin	3/7
Ida Chia Kahn	3/7
Gilbert Orlik	3/7
George Schwartz	3/7
Harold Shepard	3/7
Carole Bajema	3/8

Friday, March 8

BJ Elder	3/9
Archie Fine	3/9
Harry Skinner	3/9
Judith Goldstein Zibbell	3/9
Saul Faber	3/10
Colleen Koplowitz	3/10
Floyd Pritchett	3/10
Walter von Hollander	3/10
Monica Zderic	3/10
Jessie Edinger	3/4
Thomas Josiah Boothby	3/12
Esther Redel	3/13
Corey Skelton	3/13
Benjamin Goldberg	3/14
Max Lazarus	3/14
Leonard Levine	3/14
Charles Blackwell	3/15
Marcia Landau	3/15
Felicia Elizabeth Romito	3/15
Elaine Fox Suloway	3/15

Friday, March 15

Shirley Boman	3/16
Eduardo Filgueira	3/16
June Krauzer Mazonson	3/16
Charles B. (Bud) Koplowitz	3/18
Harold Schneider	3/18
Lylyan Wick	3/19

Abraham Blum	3/20
Dorothy Brody	3/20
Helen Sharfstein	3/20
Gordon Eli Stolzoff	3/20
Harry Zemel	3/20
Mabel Berman	3/21
Alyson Weinstein	3/21
Raymond DeVries	3/22
Morrie Feller	3/22
Esther Katz	3/22
Frank McKelvey	3/22
Eliezer Spiro	3/22

Friday, March 22

Amy Louisa Blank	3/23
Leila Fallet	3/23
Norman Fallet	3/23
Loren Lund	3/23
Louis Sloss	3/23
Norma Soode	3/23
Anna Kushner	3/24
Debbie Raas	3/24
Ben Zderic	3/24
Jimmy Goldstein	3/25
Leonard Price	3/25
Megan Guppy	3/26
Marjorie L. Hanley	3/26
William A. Gordon	3/27
Lou Mazel	3/27
Herbert Sulkin	3/27
Naomi Stone	3/28

Friday, March 29

Fred Heller	3/31
Harold Schneider	3/31
Leah Rachel Shapiro	4/1
Norma Edwards	4/2
Beatrice Lazaroff	4/2
Justin Scharff	4/2
Joyce Zvenia	4/2
Dr. Michael E. Becker	4/3
Lois Oksenberg	4/3
Burl Ives	4/5
Ray Schapiro	4/5
Manfred Vernon	4/5

Friday, April 5

Dorothy M. Fine	4/6
Curt Jay Alper	4/7
Arthur Feld	4/7
Friday, April	7
Harry M. Eisner	4/8
Sue Ohms	4/8
Arnold Somers	4/8
Max Wolfman	4/8
Naomi Lazarus Barnes	4/9
Arnold Behrstock	4/9

Dennis Scharff	4/10
Jack Mazur	4/11
James Edward Witte	4/11
David Alper	4/12
Esther Suloway	4/12

Friday, April 12

Emanuel M. Lindheimer	4/14
Marcelo Lindner	4/14
Akiva Schoen	4/14
Yochevad Katz Zimmerman	4/14
Jean Cheever	4/15
Violet Shaw	4/15
Max Swartz	4/15
Jennie Shuster	4/16
Ethel Berger	4/17
Glen Myers	4/17
Fragner Family	4/18
Harold Jules (Hal) Kaplowitz	4/18
Selma Lebovich	4/18

Friday, April 19

Morris Fischel	4/20
Gregory Kurman	4/20
Benjamin Shapiro	4/21
Friday, April	21
Thelma Weiner	4/22
Hy Zimmerman	4/22
Henrietta Siegel	4/23
Edward Stone	4/23
Joanne M. Lund	4/24
Rose Sondik	4/24
William Deas	4/25
Karleen Press	4/25
Eliezer Strich	4/25
Ronald King	4/26

Friday, April 26

Sharon Gordon Greer	4/27
Elayne B. Weiner	4/27
Mary Widerkehr	4/27
Friday, April	28
Regina Hiatt	4/29
Judith Teir Kasser	4/30
Esther Siegel	4/30
Rachel Kaplan Tartak	4/30
Leonard Halpern	5/1
Felicia Keller	5/1
Sergio Shwadsky	5/1
Ray Jay	5/2
Benjamin Ostry	5/2
ErmaFlora Haughawout Boothby	5/3
Etta Fine	5/3
Lois M. Welch	5/3

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Second-Night Community Passover Seder!

Mark your calendar for **April 23, 2024** for the second-night community seder.

This all-ages event will include a fun, lively, and upbeat retelling of the Exodus story. Dinner will include vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options and will be catered for the second year by *Taste of Elegance*.

Registration is now open!

