

Is Traveling to Cuba on Your Bucket List?

BY KATIE EDELSTEIN

Cuba, an underrated jewel of the Caribbean, is a country caught in a cultural time warp. Experience a bright snapshot of the mid-twentieth-century, and a true feast for the senses, when you visit Cuba. Behind the



hum of vintage cars, pastel hues of sixteenth-century buildings, and wafts of cigar smoke, the real Cuba shines bright. Watch as colorful vintage vehicles roll down the coastal boulevards of picturesque Old Havana, visit the most beautiful beaches with some of the world's whitest sands such as Playa Paraiso, experience historic Bay of Pigs, feel the sultry and spicy vibes of salsa as you dance the night away in Havana, and so much more.

Katie Edelstein and Victoria Mayers will be leading a group of travelers to Cuba from April 3 to April 11, 2025. We are working with a tour company which has created the itinerary for our group and will also be coordinating travel arrangements to Cuba. Due to restrictions by the Cuban government, we are limited as to the number of people who can travel with us. The tour company will offer two packages: land only package, and land/airfare package. Registration for this trip will open on September 2, 2024 on a first-come basis.

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FROM THE RABBI

My Recommendations to You



My mom still sends me articles that she cuts out of actual newspapers. She sometimes draws an arrow pointing to where the

article begins or to a picture of someone I might know. You might think that she's the only one who sends me clippings worth reading, and you'd be wrong. Many of you who are reading these words this moment also send me articles to read, although rarely do they come from newspapers. I love when you send me links to online articles. I read (OK, sometimes I just scan) all of them. I appreciate when you think of me in this way.

Now that summer is under way, I would like to reciprocate your thoughtfulness by sharing with you some things that I have enjoyed reading or listening to since October 7. Since most of your recommendations are related to Jewish thought, culture, politics, and Israel, this short list will not include favorite novels that I've thoroughly enjoyed this year. The list below is entirely related to deepening one's

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From the President...

Notes from Our Annual Meeting



In my address to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in May, I reflected on all of the accomplishments we have made this past fiscal year.

For those who weren't in attendance, below is the abbreviated version of my remarks.

Please let me know if you'd like to chat or meet about any of these items, or are looking for ways to get involved.

In the past 12 months, we've added professional security to all Shabbat mornings so we can safely gather, pray, and relax on the holiest day of the week. This added coverage came about thanks largely to many member congregants who generously contributed financially to a newly formed security fund established to offset unbudgeted labor increases. How wonderful it is to arrive at CBI on Shabbat morning and know we are being looked after.

We've put together policies outlining when the front gate is open and how and when the front door is unlocked. We've applied for additional federal grants to increase the height of our fencing at the weak points of our property, among other things. We are in the process of updating our Master Security Plan to share with law enforcement if we need them. Our Safety and Security chairs, Tammy Dixon and Dan Ohms, have strengthened our relationships with EMS and law enforcement and trained our leadership on our opening and closing procedures to bring needed uniformity to CBI security processes. We are actively thinking about ways to better educate our membership.

I don't mind telling you that it's a lot...and we have a way to go! And I thank Tammy and Dan and the members of the security and safety team: Brooke Kassan, Kevin Donner, Steven Garfinkle, Isaac Konikoff, and Josh Greenberg for their devoted work.

The Security and Safety Committee is part of a super-committee called FMMC...code for Facilities and Maintenance. Under this umbrella is a long list of accomplishments. I want to highlight and thank the Interior Design Committee who, with Katie Edelstein at the helm, beautifully and economically, created the lovely sitting areas in the foyer. Katie and her husband, David, also donated most of the furniture, and we thank them for their generosity.

In the past year FMMC worked to get our main floor commercial kitchen fully permitted and close to being fully realized and usable. We have already improved the water pressure from near trickle to full flow. Sometimes it's the little things that make us the happiest!

We are awaiting the shelving and storage pieces to organize and allow us to all use the kitchen in a consistent manner. I appreciate everyone's patience in this area. We know it has been a long time coming, and we look forward to formally celebrating the kitchen opening this fiscal year.

If you look off to the side by the back near the kitchen, you will see we are hard at work making the space between the gaga pit and the back patio useable and functional. Soon we will have full electrical power out there, allowing for the use of food trucks and giving us even more space outside to celebrate *simchas* in the coming budget year.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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Bellingham, WA 98229

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Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the September/October issue is AUGUST 11. Call the office for more information.

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From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

Keshet School Year Wrap-Up

BY VICTORIA MAYERS

What a great year, with several notable highlights, and with a lot of help from our volunteers.

Throughout the year our students learned to bake goodies, participated in an amazing Earth Day project, helped stuff hygiene bags for homeless teens, went on field trips, learned new songs, played games in Hebrew, led family services, made thank you gift bags for volunteers, and enjoyed various holiday celebrations.

Several CBI community volunteers and parents answered our call for readers, signing up to read stories to grades Gan-fifth. The kids really enjoyed this new addition to their school day. We plan to continue this activity, so please let us know if you would like to come to Keshet and read to the kids.

Our Barbie Purim theme was a huge hit. Everyone enjoyed dressing as their favorite character from the movie; and, watching the teachers perform in the Purim Spiel was a huge highlight. The Rabbi is always looking for more actors and actresses for Purim.

The MASSA Youth trip to Spain and Portugal is from June 26-July 8. Our students have been studying about the Jewish communities in those countries, and the class will present at the September 6 family service. If you are able, please plan to attend that service to hear about their adventures and see the pictures from their trip. More details will be provided as the event draws closer.

Although this year's Shabbaton at URJ Camp Kalsman was not an overnight, it was an amazing day! We had approximately 60 participants arrive at camp between 9:00-10:00 am and began our day with *tefillah* led by Rabbi Samuels and Mikayla Goodkin, while overlooking the quad and the mountains. In the morning it rained, but after lunch the sun came out, and we played outside for the rest of the day, climbing the 50-foot tower, sliding

down the zipline, canoeing and kayaking on the lake, making friendship bracelets, and playing team-building games. After dinner, we closed out the day with a song session and *havdalah* around the campfire! We can't wait for the CBI Shabbaton overnight next year! If you have never participated in this weekend getaway, please consider joining us next year.

By the time this appears, our BAY teens' program will have closed out this year with an outdoor movie night/campfire on the first day of summer, June 20, at CBI. We are excited that next year's budget for teen programming was approved because we have been planning some cool events, chill hangouts, and a redesign of the youth lounge! Next year we will be calling upon parents to help establish a new Parent Committee. We plan to have an informational parent meeting after *tefillah* during Keshet's Open House in September. More details will follow at a later date.

Keshet will be hiring new teachers for next year. If you are interested in being part of a dynamic team that wants to work with kids while having fun, please contact Leah Bordman at leah.bordman@bethisraelbellingham.org

Early Bird registration for Keshet will be opening up July 1. We encourage families to take advantage of the discount for registering your children early. It really helps our team plan for next year when we have a basic student count for each grade before Keshet resumes.

Our goal is to make a Jewish connection between our teachers, *madrichim*, students, parents, and community at large. We strive to make Keshet a fun learning establishment geared towards creating a sense of belonging and *chavurah* for everyone. Please consider joining us by volunteering some time and energy to our Jewish learning program.

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

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Linda Blackwell, (360) 647-9519

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Bat Mitzvah



Vivian Louise Ellis will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on August 10, 2024. She is the daughter of Todd and Mia (Hecht) Ellis, and the sister of Josie and Audrey Ellis. Vivi will be entering eighth grade at Fairhaven Middle School this coming fall. She spends almost all of her free time dancing at Evolution Dance Studio in Bellingham, where her

favorite types of dance are contemporary, tap, and musical theater. When she's not dancing, she loves to read,

ski, make bracelets, hang out with her friends, and travel. As part of her mitzvah project, she has been cleaning up the beaches around Bellingham by collecting and disposing of trash.

The Ellis family invites you to join them in this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Friday, August 9, 2024 at 6:15 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 10:00 am
Kiddush lunch afterward in the Social Hall.

If you are planning to attend the Saturday service and Kiddush lunch, please RSVP to ellis.mia@gmail.com

Bar Mitzvah



Jacob Mathew Ravitsky (Koby) will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on August 24, 2024. He is the son of Oleg and Orly Ravitsky, and is the brother of Natalie and Avigail. Koby is an upcoming eighth grader at Whatcom Middle School, in which he is an active member of his school's Technology Student Association. He enjoys math and science, and

being a part of his school's wrestling team. Outside of

school, he loves playing hockey with his teammates, and playing video games with his friends and cousins.

Koby's family invites you to join them in celebration of this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Friday, August 23, 2024 at 7:30 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 10:00 am

The Kesher Program Is Looking for New Teachers

We are looking for adults who enjoy working with students from kindergarten through eighth grade. We need confident teachers who foster a strong sense of belonging, promote self-discovery, and have a solid awareness about our Jewish heritage, traditions, and holidays. Our overall goal at Kesher is to provide a learning community where every student feels loved and respected, and is encouraged to develop to their fullest potential. Our expectations are to offer a high-quality Jewish education that incorporates Jewish values and principles while embracing opportunities to have fun. If you feel that you would like to work with Kesher, please contact Kesher co-director Leah Bordman at leah.bordman@bethisraelbellingham.org before July 31.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT*Continued from Page 2*

Thank you to the hard-working members of FMMC and especially to chairs Josh Greenberg and Isaac Blum for tackling some of the most visible and important areas of our campus.

The progression of the afore-mentioned capital projects was aided by the addition of key personnel. We hired Ken Weaver, our half-time maintenance person, and Sarah Cobb, our office manager, in the last year. The impact of this dynamic duo cannot be overstated. Sarah is streamlining many of our finance and administrative areas and taking pressure off many volunteers—and saving us money along the way. She has been an important assist to the Rabbi.

Ken has organized our storage spaces and handles our weekly cleaning and weekend set-ups. He is mowing the outside areas and saving us from having regular lawn service. Thank you, Ken. Thank you, Sarah!

With our added personnel came refreshed leadership in the HR committee. I want to acknowledge Paul Blum for agreeing to chair the committee and leading with an open heart for the past couple of years. Ellen Smith recently took over the leadership of the HR committee and brings substantial experience, having owned and run her own behavioral health practice for many years. One of the many hats Ellen wore was of HR Director, and we are fortunate to have Ellen stepping in to continue professionalizing the process under which we hire, evaluate, and treat our valuable staff. Thank you, Ellen.

Just before the High Holy Days, a small group of dedicated members got together and facilitated a successful fundraiser to acquire new *machzors* for the High Holy Days. Thank you to Karen Sloss, Nicole Samuels, and Miriam Davids. It was inspiring to see what can be accomplished when a clear goal and deadline are set, and what a team you were seeing us through!

Karen Sloss, our dedicated Treasurer, mentioned the recent establishment of an endowment fund. This has been a long time coming and, thanks to the work of Karen and Binnie Perper, we are nearly there. Soon members will have the opportunity to contribute to the

long-term financial health of CBI ...an important achievement as we look to completion of our Strategic Plan headed by Jane Relin.

Sometimes it seems as though CBI moves slowly—as if in molasses or honey. I grow anxious at times wanting to move more quickly than we are able. As I prepared these remarks, I was in that space.... Wanting so much and knowing we can only move at our collective pace and within what our finances allow. In retrospect, as I read these remarks, I see how very much we accomplished, and I am so proud of where we are financially and from a membership perspective. Hearing about 90 enrollees in Keshet under the great leadership of Leah Bordman and Victoria Mayers, plus 18 B'nei Mitzvot on the horizon next year, my mood lightens and excitement bubbles.

So...who wants to help?

Since you are here, I know you care about CBI. Maybe this program is inspiring you and you want to know where we need help. Maybe you are new to CBI and looking to see how you can fit in. Maybe you are a recent empty nester and have a bit of time...

What do we need?

- Linda Blackwell was our long-serving chair of the Social Action Committee, and she stepped away at the start of our fiscal year. If, for example, what is occurring on the WWU campus has you concerned and wanting to help raise the Jewish voice in Bellingham, put your hand up. More than ever, with antisemitism on the rise the need for calm and reasonable Jewish voices to be heard has never been greater. There are many who want to get involved. We need a leader to chair the committee. Linda is willing to help and add context to where CBI has been involved in the past, but we need a leader-organizer. If this is you or someone you know, please let myself or Rabbi know. We are definitely missing the impact of a collective Jewish voice in these challenging times.
- Are there any attorneys or members with business backgrounds out there who can lend some experience to our Governance Committee and continue to help shape CBI policy and structure? We are looking for new chairs and members of this very important committee.
- We are planning to start a capital campaign hopefully in this coming year. If you have fundraising experience, we could use some additional hands to get us started. Please let me know if you can lend your skills to this area.

There are other areas of need and lots of ways to donate a little or a lot of time to your Jewish community and strengthen connections. Thank you for being part of our collective Jewish community.

B'shalom,

JODI LITT
PRESIDENT



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Judaism and Israel on Campus: A Discussion with Rabbi Samuels

Sunday, August 18 at 7:00 pm in the CBI Library

Join Rabbi Samuels for a discussion centered around a letter written by Columbia University's Jewish students and an article authored by Aliza Lewin in *Sapir*, a quarterly journal focused on Jewish ideas. Both pieces discuss the climate of antisemitism on college campuses.

Back in May, over 500 Jewish students signed onto a letter, titled: **In Our Name: A Message from Jewish Students at Columbia University**. In the Summer 2023 issue of *Sapir*, Lewin, who is the President and General Counsel of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human

Rights Under Law, wrote an article titled: "Anti-Zionist Harassment Is Against the Law, Too."

Both can be found by doing a simple web search. Or you can access them in the online version of the *Shul Shofar*.

Registration through the *Timbrel* will be required to attend.

Columbia letter: tinyurl.com/kx54dfub

Aliza Lewin's article: tinyurl.com/59erpp9j

Special Interest Groups

BY ERIN COHEN

CBI has several Special Interest Groups started by our members. Here is an update of the groups and how you can get involved.

Golden Girls is a group of older women who meet for lunch and conversation on the last Wednesday of every month at Colophon Café at noon. Contact Nancy Auerbach at nbauerbach@earthlink.net for more information.

Walking Group meets every Wednesday at the parking lot above the playground at Lake Padden. They leave promptly at 9:00 am for a walk around the lake. Contact Joan Wayne at jawayne2@gmail.com for more information.

Knitting Group meets Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 pm. The first Tuesday of the month they meet by Zoom. The second Tuesday they meet at Joan Wayne's home and the third and fourth Tuesday they meet in the Beit Midrash at CBI. People knit, crochet, needlepoint, and sketch. Contact Joan Wayne at jawayne2@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Group, a gathering of discussion and camaraderie for middle-aged and older men in the community

meets the second Thursday of the month from 12:00-1:30 pm in CBI's Library. The group creates a safe, open, and supportive space for men to talk openly about themselves in relation to various topics. Some examples might be: how Judaism has shaped your identity, being a Jewish partner, friendship, aging, giving back, intimacy, and quieting the mind in the world of noise. Contact Jerome Rosen for more information: 360-914-0524, benjam4r@gmail.com

Mah Jong Group meets every Wednesday at 1:00 pm in the social hall at CBI. Contact Erin Cohen at erin.cohen@bethisraelbellingham.org for more information.

Announcing our newest group: **Out to Lunch Bunch** for men and women, with our first lunch on July 16 at noon at Panera. Please contact Erin Cohen, erin.cohen@bethisraelbellingham.org to RSVP.

If you have an idea for a special interest group, please let Erin know at erin.cohen@bethisraelbellingham.org

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Amanda Robins

ACROSS

- 1 Bulls or rams
- 6 Humble abodes
- 12 He's got ____ up his sleeve
- 13 Goldsmith and others
- 15 Sunny day in January in Bellingham
- 17 There are four of these on a automobile
- 18 Continues until
- 19 Old school transparencies
- 20 Start of a new month on the Jewish calendar
- 22 Oops!
- 24 A type of Italian bread
- 29 What angels wear
- 33 Canopy support
- 34 U, to chemists
- 36 Translator's challenge
- 37 Jungle gyms
- 38 Rebellious
- 41 Amazing
- 47 Prepare for later, in a way
- 51 Type of skiing
- 52 Onetime treat with chocolate creme and vanilla cookies
- 53 Schindler portrayer
- 54 People updating their library loans
- 55 Con artist's crime
- 56 Nearby
- 57 Circus sites

- 1 Atomic clock timekeeper
- 2 Something forbidden
- 3 Treif cooking fats
- 4 Bitcoin, e.g.
- 5 Glacial ice formation
- 6 Emphasize
- 7 Go to bed
- 8 Home of Japan
- 9 Golfer's vehicle
- 10 Child support?
- 11 Sound of air leaving
- 17-across
- 13 National park in Maine
- 14 Meet events
- 16 Pirkei Avot: ____ of our ancestors
- 21 Leave out
- 23 "In" in French
- 24 Org. with a "Most Wanted" list
- 25 Ref. work
- 26 401 in Roman numerals
- 27 Like two peas in ____
- 28 Gets sick (with)
- 30 Tell a fib
- 31 Sleeping soundly
- 32 Texting tech
- 34 Forearm bone
- 35 Wicker material
- 37 Leisurely strolls in Spain
- 39 Was afraid of
- 40 Stellar beginning?
- 42 Start of a Tony Bennett classic

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56																

- 43 La Scala works, to Verdi (Ital.)
- 44 Passover month
- 45 One of three in an inning
- 46 What a library does
- 47 ____ vida (Costa Rican saying)
- 48 Famed Ravens lineman
- 49 OB/GYN's prefix with -gram
- 50 Miami school, informally

DOWN

“We’ve Landed; We’re Solid”: Vermeda Fred and Rodney Shainbom

BY MINDA RAE AMIRAN

The saying that it takes a village to raise a child builds on the strong interdependence between family and community which has been so important in the lives of Vermeda Fred and Rodney Shainbom.

In a way, it was their need for this interrelationship that brought them together from almost impossibly distant beginnings.

Their story starts with their fathers. Vermeda’s father, John Paschetag, was born in 1886 in Galveston, Texas. He was working in a drugstore on September 8, 1900, when the Galveston Hurricane struck; he escaped, with the owners’ family, to the attic, but his mother and three younger siblings



Vermeda Fred and Rodney Shainbom

were killed. He never saw his father again. He was 14. As an adult, after serving in the army in Cuba, he went on to play Minor League baseball, and to work as a manager for Western Union. Born in Beaumont, Texas, Vermeda was the late child of his second marriage; his first wife was barren, and longing for a family, he remarried after she died. In retirement from Western Union, he and Vermeda’s mother, also named Vermeda, developed a successful printing business. The family was very close. He died when Vermeda was 13, and her mother withdrew into private grief.

Rodney’s father, born in Johannesburg, South Africa, was one of the few attorneys who would protect Blacks caught in the wheels of apartheid. Rodney remembers people coming to their house to ask for his help. His grandfather had immigrated from Lithuania or Latvia at the age of 19, and Rodney went to Jewish Day School,

though his family was only modestly observant. Graduating in dentistry from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, in 1977, Rodney bought his own practice in Johannesburg and married an Anglican woman in 1979. But by 1996 he and his wife felt that South Africa’s violence was making home no place to raise their children. They had friends who had emigrated to Vancouver, BC, so they decided to join them there. It wasn’t easy; Canadian society was more open and free, but Canadian ways and even Canadian English expressions were foreign to them. Working as an associate in a practice for a few years, Rodney established Dentistry-on-Bellevue in West Vancouver in 2001.

Vermeda was effectively bereft of both parents when her father died. She was eager to get away from Beaumont. She had always loved music, singing from the age of ten in

Shul Shofar Welcomes a New Profiles Writer

Minda Rae Amiran taught English composition and literature in American and Israeli universities for 45 years. In retirement, she tutored for Literacy Volunteers of Chautauqua County, NY, and became active in the League of Women Voters. Moving to Bellingham in 2019 to be closer to her sons and daughters-in-law, she joined CBI and served on the Social Action Committee.

We look forward to learning more about each other as Minda Rae highlights various CBI members.

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1. Teacher Appreciation Shabbat. 2. Confirmation class. 3. Wednesday mah jong. 4. Second- and third-grade Keshet students take donations and visit Whatcom Alternative Humane Society; teacher Samantha Schwartz led the group. 5. KAG co-chairs Katie Edelstein and Rita Spritzer oversee Keshet students assembling thank you baskets. 6. Fourth- and fifth-grade Keshet students make thank you cards for Keshet volunteers, and Robin Curtis supervises. 7. Steve Spritzer helps Gan student plant seeds on Mitzvah day. 8. Making friends at the Shabbaton. 9. Shabbaton. 10. Last day of Keshet. 11. Keshet all school photo.

Wines of Three Continents

BY SARA GEBALLE

Be sure to save the date for our next wine-tasting event “Wines of Three Continents.” Join us on the patio (weather permitting—indoors, if not) on Sunday, September 8 at 4:00 pm, as Holly Witte, once again, shares her knowledge and love of wine with us. Last March we learned about Israeli wines. This time we will be comparing local Washington State wines with those of France and Australia.

As autumn draws closer, it will be the perfect time to sample Rieslings and Viogniers for our whites. And for our red wines, we will probably be tasting Syrahs and Petit Verdots. In what ways do the same types of wine differ depending on where the grapes are grown and how the wine is made? Which ones do you like best?

Holly will be sharing with us key points about each country’s wine industry and how factors like climate, soil,

and different winemaking traditions all affect the final products we drink. And to make the workshop even more fun, we will be pairing our wines with cheeses, perhaps also from three continents.

Before moving to Bellingham in 2022, Holly and her late husband Jim owned A Blooming Hill Vineyard and Winery in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. For 15 years they grew grapes and transformed them into the magic of wine.

As last time, we will buy our wines from local wine merchants Siefert & Jones who will offer participants a 10% discount on the varieties we taste. Please check the *Timbrel* later this summer for information on how to register. Space is limited to 40 participants.

May/June 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, Jul. 5	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family service with Mikayla Goodkin and Leah Bordman	Friday, Aug. 2	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family service with Mikayla Goodkin and Leah Bordman
Saturday, Jul. 6	11:00 am Jewish Renewal Services	Saturday, Aug. 3	10:30 am Contemplative Service
Friday, Jul. 12	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Andrea Shupack and Rabbi Samuels	Friday, Aug. 9	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Andrea Shupack and Rabbi Samuels
Saturday, Jul. 13	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Chukat</i>) 10:30 am Reform Service	Saturday, Aug. 10	10:00 am Vivian Ellis Bat Mitzvah
Friday, Jul. 19	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Mikayla Goodkin and Rabbi Samuels	Friday, Aug. 16	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Mikayla Goodkin and Rabbi Samuels
Saturday, Jul. 20	11:00 am Tot Shabbat	Saturday, Aug. 17	11:00 am Tot Shabbat
Friday, Jul. 26	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from the Ma’Ayan Shir ensemble	Friday, Aug. 23	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with leadership from the Ma’Ayan Shir ensemble
Saturday, Jul. 27	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Pinchas</i>) 10:30 am Conservative Minyan Service	Saturday, Aug. 24	10:00 am Kobe Ravitsky Bar Mitzvah
		Friday, Aug. 30	Fifth Friday-Shabbat at Home NO SERVICES AT CBI
		Saturday, Aug. 31	9:30 am Torah Study ZOOM ONLY (<i>Parashat Re’eh</i>)

Anniversaries

July 1	Dashka & Jacob Garretson (#17)	Aug. 9	Miah & John LaMont (#9)
July 2	Orly & Oleg Ravitsky (#18)	Aug. 11	Drs. Kathleen & Larry Bell (#45)
July 3	Robin & Bert Curtis (#53)	Aug. 11	Serge Lindner & Deborah Oksenberg (#22)
July 3	Andrea & Josh Shupack (#19)	Aug. 13	Tamar & Shawn Clarke (#24)
July 6	Rebecca & Tom Oliver (#27)	Aug. 14	Kevin Donner & Angie Lee (#20)
July 7	Yaniv & Meredith Attar (#17)	Aug. 15	Isaac & Wendy Blum (#26)
July 7	Gayle & Matthew Kinney (#17)	Aug. 15	Henry Curme & Karen Bailor (#9)
July 9	Vermeda Fred & Rodney Shainbom (#7)	Aug. 15	Ray Wolpov & Diane Leigh (#23)
July 9	Meghan Galvin & Cody Fay (#13)	Aug. 16	Mark & Teresa Sommers (#22)
July 9	Gregg Orlik & Howard Fuller (#16)	Aug. 17	Margaret Bikman & Jay Saxton (#49)
July 9	Mark & Helen Packer (#29)	Aug. 18	Jessie Weinreb Benedict & Jeffery Benedict Weinreb (#6)
July 9	Ted & Penny Schuman (#57)		
July 10	Anna & Noah Booker (#25)	Aug. 19	Shala Erlich & Warren Cornwall (#23)
July 11	Cierra & Peter Burkill (#4)	Aug. 20	L.K. Langley & Lindsay Wells (#19)
July 12	Gary & Trisha Adelstein (#37)	Aug. 20	Ken & Regan Levinson (#18)
July 13	Sara Geballe & Steve James (#16)	Aug. 20	Alexis & Brian Gentry (#25)
July 18	Christoph & Geraldine Reitz (#32)	Aug. 21	Gayle Gordon-Martin & Stephen Martin (#37)
July 21	David & Katie Edelstein (#51)	Aug. 24	Kayla Schott-Bresler & Ian McCurdy (#11)
July 21	Andrew Schwarz & Leslie Garrison (#11)	Aug. 25	Warren & Marybeth Taranow (#28)
July 26	Jack & Karen Fisher (#51)	Aug. 25	Shelley & Jay Wolfman (#54)
July 30	Orly Ziv-Maxim & Tom Maxim (#28)	Aug. 26	Miriam & Greg Schwartz (#23)
Aug. 1	Alyson & Brooke Kassen (#14)	Aug. 27	Emil and Tannia Hecht (#53)
Aug. 1	Jerry Witler & Mary Knight (#14)	Aug. 27	Daniel & Sharona Feller (#46)
Aug. 2	Sylvia & John Williams (#10)	Aug. 29	Steve & Janis Ban (#48)
Aug. 4	Josh Greenberg & Anita Meyer (#28)	Aug. 29	Avram & Corrine Hecht (#12)
Aug. 4	Inka von Sternenfels & Susan Gause (#1)	Aug. 30	Linda B. & Allan M. Hirsh (#65)
Aug. 6	Dan Ohms & Janine Shaw (#24)		

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.

VERMEDA FRED AND RODNEY SHAINBOM

Continued from Page 8

Melody Maids, a girls' chorus, and serving as captain of her high school's drill team. Following her older brothers, she entered the University of Texas in Austin as a piano major, later switching to social psychology; she loved her studies there. Her family had been Methodist, but many of her close friends had always been Jewish, and she had felt more at home in the Jewish community in Beaumont than anywhere else there. When she was about 8, a friend showed her a prayerbook in Hebrew, and she felt as if the letters were dancing toward her. So she studied for a Conservative conversion and successfully survived a two-and-a-half-hour grilling on the Torah, Mishnah, and Talmud by four male rabbis in Austin. And a full *mikvah*.

After completing an MA in counseling at the University of Iowa, Vermeda established her psychotherapy career, first in Texas, where she met and married her husband, and later in the San Francisco Bay area, where they moved. They had a son and daughter, but by 2011 the marriage had come apart, and Vermeda was living on a small ranch she had bought in Idaho. At the same time, Rodney was undergoing a painful divorce in Vancouver. He was looking for a partner who shared the values with which he grew up, and she was looking for a meaningful relationship and a welcoming community. They met on J-Date, and cautiously advanced toward the family and

community they both so much desired, moving to Bellingham in 2014 and marrying in 2017. Rodney had sold his practice that year, and commuted to work in dentistry in Vancouver and Langley until he retired at the end of this June. Vermeda still has a private counseling practice.

One of the first things Vermeda and Rodney did in Bellingham was to join CBI. Miriam Davids reached out and welcomed them into her circle of friends, and they felt they had found their true community. Having earned a second MA in creative writing, Vermeda edited the *Shul Shofar* for four and a half years, and still sings in Ma'ayan Shir. She celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in 2016. With Miriam, she joined Kulshan Chorus, and serves as the Fundraising Chair on their Board of Directors.

Her son, Ben, graduated summa cum laude in Theater from Boston University, and now works from home in technology. Her daughter, Elianna, is a resident in orthopedic surgery in Chicago. Rodney's daughter, Lauren, is a paraeducator in Abbotsford, Canada, where she lives with her husband and two children. His son, Richard, a pilot for Air Canada, has recently married and is moving to Abbotsford as well.

In retirement, Rodney has no lack of hobbies to pursue. He loves gardening, woodworking, painting, and has coached field hockey and cricket. He and Vermeda will also be traveling here and abroad. They have found what they longed for—a stable, loving relationship and an embracing community.

Birthdays

JULY 2024

7/1 Sue Guenter-Schlesinger
 7/2 Meg Jacobson
 7/2 Brooke Kassen
 7/3 Jaxon Mann (18th)
 7/4 Sharona Feller
 7/4 Mark MacDonald
 7/5 David Goldman
 7/5 Julie Hunter
 7/5 Ayla Oliver (18th)
 7/5 Jaelle Oliver (18th)
 7/6 Catherine Covell
 7/6 Dan Raas
 7/6 Josh Shupack
 7/7 Michelle Beller-Siegfried
 7/7 Rabbi Joshua Samuels
 7/8 Daniel Ingberman
 7/9 Lindsey Adelstein
 7/9 Robert Spector
 7/10 Stevie Coleman
 7/10 Nali Lippman (16th)
 7/11 Andrew Covell (7th)
 7/11 Hudson Covell (7th)
 7/11 Max Naiman (13th)
 7/11 Naomi Schapiro
 7/12 Litav Langley
 7/12 Avi Lindner (17th)
 7/12 Iris Parker
 7/12 Mark Sommers
 7/13 Jack Fisher
 7/14 Olivia Probst (19th)
 7/14 Shelley Wolfman
 7/15 Michelle Banks
 7/15 Peggy Hanley
 7/15 Rick Levine
 7/15 Evan Shupack (8th)

7/17 Jay Saxton
 7/18 Ruth Shuster
 7/19 Lior Somers (15th)
 7/20 Leah Kiviat
 7/20 Nicky Naiman
 7/20 Isaac Orloff (19th)
 7/20 Melissa Schapiro
 7/22 Miles Bryant
 7/23 Noah Booker
 7/23 David Robinson
 7/23 Lindsay Wells
 7/24 Lucita Galbraith (9th)
 7/24 Jeff Popp
 7/26 Eliza Bastow (10th)
 7/26 Avi Cohen (7th)
 7/26 Julia Kassen (11th)
 7/27 Cody Fay
 7/27 Aspen Kinney (13th)
 7/27 Jesse Naiman
 7/27 Rebekah Sommers (16th)
 7/28 Audrey Ellis (11th)
 7/28 James Finley
 7/28 Allan Hirsh
 7/28 Asher Suloway-Baker (25th)
 7/29 David Edelstein
 7/29 Evan Konikoff (15th)

AUGUST 2024

8/1 Mary Francell-Sharfstein
 8/1 Diana Lindner
 8/1 Nora Seltz (14th)
 8/2 Gabriella Genut (9th)
 8/6 Gilead Goldman (9th)
 8/6 Arona Henderson
 8/6 Barry Paluch
 8/7 Amy Whiting

8/8 Leigh Squires
 8/9 Henry Curme
 8/9 Jacob Morrill Zarrow (3rd)
 8/10 Joan Wayne
 8/10 Patty Yust
 8/12 Victoria Garfinkle
 8/12 Paul Sarvasy
 8/12 David Smith
 8/13 Mara Donner (11th)
 8/13 Noni Schultheiss
 8/14 Patrick Crane
 8/16 Miah LaMont
 8/17 Avi Hecht
 8/19 Noah Parker (15th)
 8/20 Gayle Cloud
 8/20 Jerry Eisner
 8/20 Jordan Genut
 8/20 Toby LaPlante (13th)
 8/21 Marla Finkelstein
 8/21 Janine Shaw
 8/22 Maeve Hammerstrom (5th)
 8/22 Wendy Holtzman
 8/22 Andrea Shupack
 8/23 Chloe Braunstein (12th)
 8/24 Flora Booker (20th)
 8/24 Donna Solomon
 8/25 Solomon Falk
 8/25 Vermeda Fred
 8/26 Jake Lebovich (22nd)
 8/26 Sylvia Williams
 8/27 Jesse Simon (12th)
 8/28 Wendy Miller
 8/29 Colleen Tilland-Stafford
 8/30 Terrah Short
 8/31 Raelyn Kaplan
 8/31 Zev Kronenberg



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

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
David Robinson's sister,
Marilyn Robinson Beegle
From: Sid and Aline Wanne

IN MEMORY OF:
Marilyn, David Robinson's sister.
From: Jodi Litt

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:
North Edge Arts LLC
Arundel Pritchett and Art Flores
Richard Widerkehr

CARE COMMITTEE

IN HONOR OF:
All the wonderful work done by the Care Committee
From: Phyllis Mazur

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:
Shoshana Samuels' 12th birthday and Happy Mother's Day, Nicole Samuels!
From: Fran Levy

Thank you Kevin Donner for all your work at CBI. Congratulations on the Eternal Flame Award!
From: Linda Blackwell and David Goldman

IN MEMORY OF:
David Robinson's sister,
Marilyn Robinson Beegle
From: Linda Blackwell and David Goldman

IN APPRECIATION OF
Rabbi Samuels for his strong leadership and kindness
From: Idalina Trank

GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN LOVING MEMORY:
David and Carol, we are so sorry to learn of your loss. May precious memories bring you some comfort.
From: Dick and Beverly Harrington

DEEPEST SYMPATHY:
To Carol and David Robinson on the loss of their sister, Marilyn.
From: Ann Suloway and Tim Baker

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:
Andrea Shupack for her kindness and patience during Torah Trope class
From: Idalina Trank

To my husband, Richard, for his thoughtful way of supporting everything I do.
From: Idalina Trank

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Cathy Zitzer's Mother, Donna Raugust
From: Katie and David Edelstein
Joan and Marv Wayne

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:
Fred & Myrna Loceff
John Cook

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN HONOR OF:
Donna and Jay Solomon on their 60th wedding anniversary!
From: Phyllis Mazur

CONTRIBUTION FROM:
Richard and Idalina Trank

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

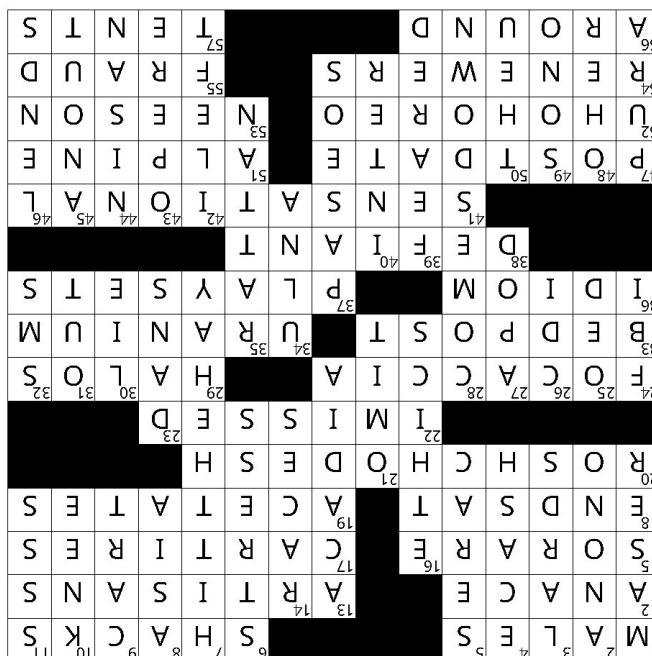
IN MEMORY OF:
Rita Spizer's Brother, Fred Corman
From: Erin and Steve Cohen

IN HONOR OF:
The 50th Wedding Anniversary of Meg Jacobson and Russell Pritchett.
From: Arundel Pritchett and Art Flores

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
My brother, Fred.
From: Rita and Steve Spitzer

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:
Nancy Jo Kaufman
From: Ira and Andrew Kaufman



New Torah Study Schedule

Starting in July, Torah Study with Rabbi Samuels will meet **every second and fourth Saturday of the month** at the regularly scheduled time unless there is a B'nei Mitzvah. The Zoom link will still be active the other Saturdays and we encourage you to meet and read through the *parasha* with your friends. From time to time Rabbi Samuels will provide a prompt in the *Timbrel* for participants to discuss.

Join virtually on Zoom using this link:
tinyurl.com/583anmpf
Or, open Zoom on your device and use this meeting ID and passcode to join:
Meeting ID: 639 591 006 Passcode: 3rkHFn

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

understanding of the current situation in Israel. I welcome your feedback and, if you get a chance to check any of these out, I'd love to meet you for coffee (or a pint) and talk about it. They have all enriched my life greatly.

Every single morning, I listen to the *Times of Israel Daily Briefing* podcast. If you are pressed for time, these 20 minutes are all you need to get a clear picture of what is actually happening in Israel. The reporters are fantastic, and their perspective often differs from mainstream news outlets which don't always get everything right.

Unpacking Israeli History. This podcast, hosted by Noam Weissman, explores a host of events in Israel's history through the lens of an educator. It is engaging and thought provoking.

Wondering Jews is another podcast hosted by Noam Weissman and fellow seasoned educator Mijal Bitton. I love the topics they discuss. They engage with one another with respect and a desire to truly understand various perspectives.

For Heaven's Sake is a podcast hosted by Shalom Hartman Institute's Donniel Hartman and Yossi Klein Halevi. They engage in what is termed *machloket l'shem shemayim*, "discussions/disagreements for the sake of heaven." They challenge each other and even while they might disagree, they do so with the utmost love and respect.

Making Sense podcast hosted by Sam Harris. Sam does not hold anything back, and I appreciate his honesty and clear and rational thinking. He has challenged many of my previous worldviews and I drop everything to listen to his show.

The Ezra Klein Show. This is a podcast hosted by *New York Times* journalist and political analyst Ezra Klein. Like so many other podcasts, Klein's interviews are deep, challenging, and enlightening.

Times of Israel What Matters Now is a weekly podcast exploring one major issue facing the Jewish world. Their interviews are wonderful.

You can likely listen wherever you get your favorite podcasts.

I am reading columns by and listening to interviews with Haviv Rettig Gur and Gil Troy. The former is a senior columnist with the *Times of Israel* and the latter an American political scientist and Jewish thinker. Troy's book, *The Zionist Ideas* is well worth adding to your Jewish library.

I am also following Dr. Dan Schueftan. He is the Director of the National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa and a Senior Lecturer at the Israel Defense Forces National Defense College. And for the last four decades, he has been a consultant to Israeli decision makers and the country's national security officials. He is widely published. Schueftan is assertive, confident, brilliant, and well, Israeli.

Finally, I have read or reread: Ari Shavit's *My Promised Land*, Noa Tishby's *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*, Daniel Sokatch's *Can We Talk About Israel*, Yossi Klein Halevi's *Letters to my Palestinian Neighbor*, Benny Morris' *Righteous Victims*, and *Palestine 1936* by Oren Kessler.

I hope these fill your summer to the brim. Happy reading and listening.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

TRIP TO CUBA

Continued from Page 1

For additional details and information about the Cuba trip, please join us for a **Zoom meeting on August 1, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm Pacific Time** (US and Canada).

Click on the following link or paste it into your browser: tinyurl.com/5jxurm5d

Meeting ID: 846 2604 7297

Passcode: 708934

To find your local number:

us02web.zoom.us/j/84626047297

Contact Katie Edelstein

(katie.edelstein@bethisraelbellingham.org) for more information.



Yahrzeits

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

Friday, July 5

Ann Dechter	7/5
Sol Harris Lewis	7/5
Virginia Hunter	7/5
Arthur Thal	7/5
Lawrence Witte	7/5
Libby Witte	7/5
Sandy York	7/5
Lisa Furth	7/7
Ida Ostry	7/8
Joanne Cohen	7/8
Gary Snyder	7/9
Benjamin Heller	7/10
Chase Jimmy	7/11

Friday, July 12

Faye Goldberg-Miller	7/12
Nathan Lassman	7/12
Arthur Miller	7/12
Donald L. Somerville	7/12
Morris R. Hecht	7/13
Calvin Lyle Moyer	7/13
Doris Zemel	7/13
Jacob Schlitt	7/15
Jaron Baker	7/16
Kathleen Clendenen	7/16
Sue Groper	7/16
Naftalie Mottel Jaffe	7/16
Robert B. Hanley	7/18
Eric O. Sonneman	7/18

Friday, July 19

Sara Devery	7/20
Stanley Sklar	7/21
Sandy Thompson	7/21
Myer Horwitz	7/22
Albert Shankman	7/22
Shelly Mazur	7/23
Barry Paluch	7/23
Willa Faye Singleton	7/24
Berte Fischel	7/25
Edward Witte	7/25

Friday, July 26

May Meyers	7/26
Bernice Shear	7/26
Earnest Ban	7/27
Hugo M. Fisher	7/27
Goldie Bettman	7/28

Edward "John" Booth	7/28
Charles Cohen	7/28
Steven Cohen	7/28
Hannah Samuels	7/28
Harold Korn	7/29
Martha Rosenthal	7/3
Abraham Kassen	7/31
Jack Meyers	8/01

Friday, August 2

Leaine (Lee) Farkas	8/4
Robert (Bob) Whitney	8/4
Goldie Dorfman	8/5
Alan Mazonson	8/5
Gail Siskind Sternlicht	8/5
Kaufman Katz	8/6
Philip Kahn	8/8
Daniel Kushner	8/8
Dottie Leonard	8/8
Rose Marks	8/8
Janet Miller	8/8
Annie Schwartz	8/8

Friday, August 9

Sydney Goldman	8/9
Walter Mayers	8/9
Charles William Hospadura	8/9
David Frantz	8/11
Josefina Pombo de Rubiano	8/11
Alfred Steinmetz	8/11
Patsy Faye Whitney	8/12
Thelma Marzullo	8/12
Michael Golden	8/14
Harriet Miles Bryant	8/15

Friday, August 16

Jacob Berger	8/16
William Fox	8/16
Norman Codd	8/17

Harold A. Schwartz	8/17
Fred (Fritz) London	8/18
Liam Balton	8/19
Rose Z. Blecker	8/19
Shulamis "Shu" Fishbein	8/19
Marvin Tartak	8/19
Benjamin von Sternenfels	8/19
Jack Wilson	8/19
Anita (Fragner) Cornell	8/20
Melanie Smith	8/20
Josef Zimmerman	8/20
Simon Sokol	8/22

Friday, August 23

Tom Lopresti	8/23
Sheldon Miller	8/23
Jack Mask	8/24
Laura Weinstein Bell	8/24
Jose Pereira Assuncao	8/25
Shirley Zell	8/25
Bernard M. "Bun" Jaffe	8/26
Norbert Cohen	8/27
Natalie Gubb	8/27
Max Feldman	8/28
Lenore Lackowitz	8/29

Friday, August 30

Betty Bloomfield	8/30
Abraham Luster	8/31
Arthur J. Miller	8/31
Joseph Feiger	8/31
Merrie Schriro	8/31
Ethan Coane	9/1
Rebecca Shapira de Lindner	9/1
Stanley Holtzman	9/1
Mary Ann Perper	9/2
Robert Siegfried	9/2
Trudy B. Somerville	9/3
Wally Moritz	9/4

In Memoriam

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

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

Catherine Zitzer's mother, **Donna Raugust**, died peacefully at home on Sunday, April 14, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was 89.

David and Carol Robinson mourn the passing of his sister, **Marilyn Robinson Beegle**. Marilyn died on May 11, 2024 in Lakewood, Colorado. She was 89.

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