

BETH ISRAEL THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 29, NO. 3 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98229 * bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

SAVE THE DATE! **Erev Purim** at CBI Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 pm

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FROM THE RABBI

A Journey to Compassion



One of the most recognizable liturgical passages during the High Holy Days is known as the "13 Attributes of God." This text comes

from Exodus 34, following the incident of the Golden Calf. The first attribute of God in this long list is that of compassion. We find a similar passage in Psalms 86 that reads, "But You, O God, are compassionate and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." In both texts compassion is the first adjective to describe God. I have been asking myself in recent months how I can emulate this quality more in my own life, but more particularly, as a rabbi.

A common critique of my Shabbat and High Holy Day sermons since October 7, 2023 is that I rarely express compassion or concern for the Palestinians affected by the war. This is true. Like many of you, the attack on October 7 and the subsequent attacks against Israel and the global Jewish community have been almost too much to bear. The relentlessness of the hatred aimed our way is overwhelming. I have chosen to focus

From the President...

Appreciation and Recognition – CBI Volunteers



CBI relies on the spirit of volunteerism. Without our volunteer members stepping up to run our security and safety protocols, membership outreach,

finances, and facilities, to name a few, we would not be at all what we are to-day. We wouldn't have organized onegs for Friday night and Saturday morning services; we wouldn't have a series of educational and cultural programs full of speakers and music. Events like our Chanukah party and High Holy Day Break the Fast couldn't take place without volunteers.

Volunteering at CBI is rewarding and provides the positive feedback loop of helping.

It is easy to take for granted what our fellow volunteers do; the hours of donated time, the sacrifice of personal or family time to attend meetings — all in service of creating the best experience for our members and to perform the mitzvah of lending a hand to our spiritual center.

A couple of years ago, the Board of Directors proposed and approved a position description for a Volunteer Coordinator. You might think of this as the volunteer who would organize all the volunteers, linking skills and aptitudes of members with areas of need at CBI. This position would ensure we have adequate coverage and find fits for many who would like to step up, but are not sure how or where to donate their time. While we continue our search for the ultimate Volunteer Coordinator, we move forward delighted at the people who step up when they see a need.

I want to highlight a few very special member volunteers who give in ways that may not seem obvious, but without whose talents and energy we would be a vastly different organization.

Covid forced us to pivot and bring technology to the forefront so that we could stay connected when we couldn't gather in person for services, simchas, and programs. Imagine what 2020-2022 might have been like without Zoom? Technology literally brought us together, staving off feelings of isolation and allowing for participation in religious services and for congregants at home to witness B'nei Mitzvah. It might be easy to say, Jodi, I loaded Zoom on my computer, what's the big deal?

Rolling out a system for a space the size as our congregation is complicated. We wanted to ensure it meshed with the styles of the Rabbi and other bima leaders', and that our viewers have a nice visual and auditory experience. It took leadership, and David Goldman stepped forward. Not only did David decide what we needed equipmentwise, he self-funded much of the equipment that we had not budgeted for and created the audiovisual system we use for every current day gathering. David did so quietly and methodically, allowing even meetings in our Beit Midrash to take place remotely. The next time you are leading an event or a program, take a moment to think ahead and ask David or a member of the team if what you want is viable. Know that he gives hours of time each week to support our programs and clergy. We thank and appreciate that David and the whole AV team volunteer their time supplying a service we now take for granted and rely on greatly.

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CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar

Volume 29, Number 3 January/February 2025 Tevet/Shevat 5785

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From the Kesher Center for Jewish Learning

Updates from Kesher

BY VICTORIA MAYERS, KESHER CO-DIRECTOR

It is hard to imagine that this year's Kesher is nearly halfway over. We all thoroughly enjoyed the Chanukah party with the food, exciting dreidel and soup-tasting competitions, and the wonderful holiday songs performed by Kesher staff and students. Our Kesher admin team is currently laying out the best plans for our upcoming Purim carnival on March 16. Please keep an eye out for the volunteer and silent auction donation Signup Genius links. We need lots of volunteers to be able to host these magnificent events.

Upcoming Youth-led Shabbat

Please plan to attend Family Shabbat services on February 7, when our fourth and fifth graders will help lead, and on March 7 when our second- and third-grade classes will lead. There will be an arts and crafts table set up and a vegetarian potluck after the service.

Camp!

Camp Kalsman joined Kesher on November 17 and led a fun-filled Maccabiah Day (Color Wars). Even though it was a rainy day outside, the program adapted to accommodate, and students simply rotated stations until they ran out of time. Having the camp leaders join us at Kesher is always an exciting day for the kids.

We are now in the planning stages for our annual Shabbaton weekend retreat at Camp Kalsman. Mark your calendars because we have set the dates for April 18-19, 2025. Please plan to join us as we celebrate Shabbat together in this beautiful setting just outside Arlington. More details on this event will be available at a later date.

MASSA, JEMS, BAY Program Activities

The MASSA program had a field trip to Seattle on November 2. Students witnessed the Hindu Diwali Festival of Lights. They enjoyed an Indian lunch, watched dancing, wandered through the booths, and a few were brave enough to get henna tattoos on their hands. Students had already learned about the Indian Jewish community, known as the Bene Israel Jews, from their teacher Gaby Mayers, so they were excited to be immersed in this multicultural event.

While the Samis Grant that funds the MASSA program will come to an end in June 2025, there are still programs available for our CBI youth. The JEMS program is organized and facilitated by Kevin Donner.

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Kesher's music specialist Mikayla Goodkin sings to Gan class.



Hebrew specialist works on Hebrew pronunciation in fifth grade.



Kesher substitute teacher Marcy Probst enjoys snack time with K-1.

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



Jerome Rosen, M.Ed

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The Magic of Theodore Bikel – Centennial Celebration

Join us for an afternoon program with Aimee Ginsburg Bikel, the widow of the legendary Theodore Bikel and director of The Theodore Bikel Legacy Project, on what would have been his centennial year.

This exciting event is on Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 2:00 pm.

Aimee will share stories and lessons with video, music, and wonderful anecdotes from the life and legacy of this giant of Jewish culture, from Bikel's childhood in

Vienna through his magnificent 70-year career.

Although Theodore Bikel has been gone for nine years, his remarkable life and legacy, his contributions in the fields of music, drama, yiddishkeit, and tikkun olam, his age-old teachings, continue to influence and move us.

As a stage actor, he was best known for Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof (he played the role over 2,000 times), and for creating the role of Captain von Trapp on





Broadway in *The Sound of Music* (the song "Edelweiss" was written for him personally). Bikel was also a distinguished, Oscar-nominated film actor, in such films as *My Fair Lady, The African Queen, The Russians Are Coming*, and the *Defiant Ones*. He acted in more than 30 major films. His last film, the documentary *In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem*, was made only a few years before he died, and was his tour de force.

But Bikel was perhaps best loved for his musical career. Co-founder of the Newport Folk Festival, he recorded 37 albums — more than 20 on the Elektra label. Considered one of the founding fathers of American folk music, he sang with Pete Seeger and the Weavers and was responsible for the establishment of world folk music, singing, and recording songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and Russian, bringing the love of Yiddish and Israeli songs into vogue with American listeners.

Bikel also was a tireless activist for human rights, for justice, and for peace, deeply involved in Jewish issues, as well as in the betterment of the lives of fellow workers.



Aimee Ginsburg Bikel is an award-winning journalist, author, poet, and public speaker. She has lived in Israel, India, and the United States, and her work has been published worldwide. She served as the senior Israeli India Correspondent for Israel's largest daily newspaper for more than a

decade and has extensive experience as a radio editor and host. She has spoken to audiences around the world about her work and life experiences and is currently on tour with her book, *The City of Light*. Her first volume of poetry, *Take Me with You*, will be published in 2025.





January/February 2025 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, Jan. 3	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family service	Friday, Jan. 31	Fifth Friday, Shabbat at home			
		Saturday, Feb. 1	11:00 am Renewal Service			
Saturday, Jan. 4	10:30 am Contemplative Services	Friday, Feb. 7	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service			
Friday, Jan. 10	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Saturday, Feb. 8	10:00 am Betsy Becker Bat Mitzvah			
Saturday, Jan. 11	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Vayechi)	Friday, Feb. 14	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service			
	10:30 am Saturday Shabbat	Saturday, Feb. 15	11:00 am Tot Shabbat			
	Service	Friday, Feb. 21	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat			
Friday, Jan. 17	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	1 11ddy, 1 Cb. 21	Service Service			
		Saturday, Feb. 22	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Mishpatim)			
Saturday, Jan. 18	11:00 am Tot Shabbat					
Friday, Jan. 24 Saturday, Jan. 25	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with leadership from		10:30 am Conservative Lay Led Minyan			
	the Shabbat Shira ensemble	Friday, Feb.28	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat			
	9:30 am Torah Study (Parashat Vaera)	,	Service, with leadership from the Shabbat Shira ensemble			
	10:30 am Conservative					

Ha'ara...Old Hebrew for Comment or Remark – Your Invitation To Share What's on Your Mind

BY HOLLY REDELL-WITTE

My family gathered at the dining table every night at 6:15 pm. My grandfather would have changed, by that time, from his business suit to his blue velvet "smoking jacket"; my Dad, whose job kept him on the road every day, still usually made the 6:15 start. My grandmother had been cooking the meal most of the afternoon; my mother and I set the table, my sister joining in when she was old enough.

Minyan Service

And we talked at that table. There was plenty of commentary about everything going on in our lives and in the world, opinions and news gleaned from the minimum of six newspapers delivered every day.

That idea of sharing conversation, comments, remarks is the inspiration for this new feature in *Shul Shofar*. More than just the report of the many activities and good works going on at Beth Israel, we think this might be a place for you to share a comment about what you're

reading, an interesting conversation you might have had at Synagogue, share your thoughts about our Synagogue community, express an opinion about the state of our world.

Think of it as a safe place to express a view or ask a question. The editorial team — Rabbi Samuels, Nora Mazonson, Holly Redell-Witte — will keep a good eye on submissions and edit if needed. We are mindful that some topics might be triggers for controversy and, while we are not opposed to differing opinions, of course, we do expect everyone will be respectful about expressing those opinions.

So consider this your invitation to share your comments. Please keep submissions to 300 words. We accept submissions up until the 11 of February, April, June, August, October, December.

Happy Choices, Busy Days: Cierra and Peter Burkill

BY MINDA RAE AMIRAN

The first thing to know about Cierra and Peter Burkill is that they're the loving parents of three handsome, bright, outgoing, and energetic sons. Benjamin is 5, Gabriel is 3, and Elliott is 2.

Anyone who has had children knows that two little ones require not twice as much care as one, but exponentially more. And then there are three.

When Benjamin was a toddler, Cierra and Peter were living in Boston, where Cierra worked in cancer research and Peter practiced as a family doctor. They had met in Baltimore: Cierra was a student at Goucher College there, and Peter had just finished his residency. It was a chance meeting in a friendly bar; neither of them was from Baltimore. Cierra was born in Peterborough, New Hampshire, and Peter was born in Durham, North Carolina. These improbable connections seem to be peculiarly American.

Cierra found a job in Boston shortly after they began dating, and because doctors can find work wherever they go, Peter followed her soon after. When Benjamin was born, both his parents were able to continue working. But when Cierra became pregnant with Gabriel, she realized not only that she might need to become a full-time mother, but that that was what she wanted to do. Her work had been absorbing, and she still loved it, yet she found that now she really wanted to give her full attention to their children, to be closely involved in their growth and development. Again, since Peter could find a position anywhere, they were able to ask themselves whether Boston was actually the place where they wanted to raise their family.

They had never been to Bellingham; they didn't know a soul here. However, searching through the internet and considering their love of mountains and the sea and community, they lighted on Bellingham as the place that most appealed to them. After all, Cierra had been named after a mountain range (the S changed to C to match her father's first initial), and her middle name is Willow. So almost four years ago, when she was eight weeks away from delivery, Cierra and Peter packed up everything and moved to Bellingham. Peter joined Bellingham Bay Family Medicine in the Family Care Network and Cierra began her new full-time occupation.

One of the first things they did as they settled in was to join Congregation Beth Israel. "Well, of course," Cierra said, "we had a bris in the immediate future." And as so many others have, they found a welcoming community here. Now Benjamin, Gabriel, and Elliott attend Kesher, the Burkills enjoy family services, and Cierra hosts a new parents' group on the second Wednesday of every month. Although Cierra is Jewish by birth, Peter was not born in a Jewish home. Many members of our congregation were raised in other religions, and while some have chosen formal conversion, some are comfortable practicing Judaism without the ceremony. However, Peter has chosen to convert formally and has been studying with Rabbi Samuels. By the time this profile is published, he may already have completed his studies. Cierra says it was never a question with them: Three Jewish sons needed a Jewish father.

Meanwhile, the Burkills have made many connections in their friendly Bellingham neighborhood. Some Jewish families live quite near them, and their children play together. Peter and Cierra love hiking and sailing, and both activities beckon. So, life-changing choices have worked happily for them: homemaking, moving to Bellingham, joining CBI. "We love it here," Cierra said.





Planning Ahead

Lots coming up so mark your calendars now and watch for additional information in the *Timbrel*.

L'CHAYIM AND BOTTOMS UP WITH RABBI SAMUELS Whiskey Tasting – Saturday, March 8, 7:00 pm

Did you know Rabbi Samuels is a whiskey afficionado? It started about 20 years ago, he said, when his father, then a member of a Scotch club, taught Rabbi and some of his friends a basic appreciation for Scotch whiskies. "I used to love it when he would share different bottles with me." Rabbi recalled.



On Saturday, March 8 at 7:00 pm, the CBI Programming Committee will present Whiskey Tasting with the Rabbi. At this event, Rabbi Samuels will be highlighting Scotch whisky, Irish whiskey, American bourbon, and rye. (NOTE:

for Scotch the correct spelling is "whisky," while for Irish and American spirits, it's spelled "whiskey"). We will taste several different spirits, and Rabbi will teach us how to prepare a specialty whiskey cocktail. We will also learn about the various grains — rye, barley, corn, and wheat — used to distill different whiskies.

Rabbi will also share with us fascinating facts about the history of Jews in the American whiskey industry, some of them unsavory involving Jewish gangsters and bootleggers.

When asked which type of whiskey is his favorite, Rabbi replied, "While I don't have an Irish bone in my body, I really do love Irish whiskies. We'll get into different brands and their flavor profiles at the tasting."

This workshop will be held in the Beit Midrash room and be limited to 18 participants. Ticket registration will be available through the *Timbrel* in January.

Cost: \$36 per person.

ZIONIST IDEAS

Instructor: Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Location: Beit Midrash Tuesdays 7:00-8:15 pm

8 Sessions: March 18, 25; April 1, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 20

In this course, students will deepen their knowledge of Zionism by exploring six different Zionist schools of thought: Political, Labor, Revisionist, Religious, Cultural, and Diaspora Zionism. Students will read Gil Troy's *The Zionist Ideas* which is a follow up to the widely respected *The Zionist Idea* by Arthur Hertzberg.

Cost: \$40 CBI members / \$72 non-members.

EREV PURIM – A WICKED SPIEL Thursday, March 13, 6:30 pm

Enjoy an evening of revelry that includes a Wicked Purim Spiel, Jewish food debate, Purim trivia, and a costume contest.

SPECIAL INVITATION FROM CANTOR SHARONA FELLER

Saturday, March 29, 8:30 am-8:30 pm

THE GIFT OF SHABBAT

A day for connection

A day to learn with and from each other

A day for study, song, laughter and prayer

A day to take a deeper dive into Shabbat and Pesach

A day to breathe

A day for you



We hope you will join us for a very special Shabbat with our Beth Israel Women's Community as we gather with women of all ages to experience

Our morning service will be in a casual, camp-style setting, weaving in poetry, Torah study, and song. After Kiddush lunch and *menucha*, rest (precious restorative time — one of the gifts of Shabbat), we will have breakout sessions including art, writing, text study, and movement. We end Shabbat with dinner and Havdalah and begin our new week by looking ahead to Pesach, exploring this holiday in a whole new way.

Watch the Synagogue website and the *Timbrel* for more information and registration. We encourage you to sign up as soon as possible!

Bring your mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, partners, cousins, friends.

We look forward to sharing this unique Shabbat with you — what Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel calls "an Island in Time."

Cost: \$50 members / \$75 non-members (includes meals and programming).

The Days of Creation Needlepoint Tapestries – A LONG Labor of Love *

BY HOLLY REDELL-WITTE

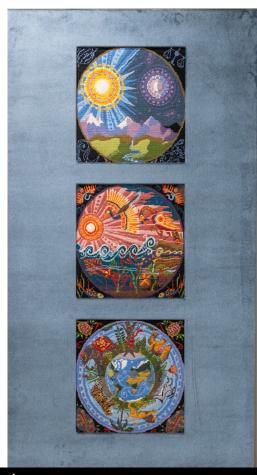
Roby Blecker is a woman of many talents. In addition to authoring several volumes of science fiction/fantasy, and historical romance, volunteering at CBI in many roles, and providing spiritual counsel, she has a mind brimming with theology.

In 2010, along with her many activities, she began what turned out to be a fourteen-year needlepoint project, stitching The Days of Creation, a six-panel series created by Alex Beattie and that now graces the bima of our synagogue. "I've been doing needlepoint since 1972," says Blecker, "buying kits from a needlepoint stencil service in Britain called Ehrman Tapestries. The second I saw Beattie's The Days of Creation, I knew I would have to needle it. They were the most beautiful needlepoint patterns I have ever seen."

The tapestries are vivid works of art. They are Beattie's interpretation of the beginning of the book of Genesis, depicting mysteries we may never unravel. The mystery and the inspiration drew Blecker in as she worked on the project. "From my point of view," she explained, "the fact that there is mystery tells us that each of us has a different path. There is not just one answer. It has to do with the difference between religion and spirituality. Mystery is much more part of spirituality, than it is part of the many religions practiced."

As a practical matter, the tapestries are each done using the basketweave stitch, a basic needlepoint technique. Blecker explained that it was the art that needed to be the standout, not the stitching or the use of fancy techniques. The deep, rich tones of the colors in the





The Days of Creation / Photos by Jason Ruvelson.

yarns, all of which are supplied with the kits, add to the depth of each artwork. "Alex Beattie is the artist," she says. "I am the artisan."

Blecker knew as soon as she started working on the second in the series, the creation of the seas and the sky, that she wanted to share her work. At that time, Congregation Beth Israel hadn't yet begun construction on the gracious building that now houses our Synagogue. Blecker, who needed dedication and tenacity over the next fourteen years to complete the panels, had faith, however, that the place would present itself to her, and exactly that happened.

Once the decision was made to hang the tapestries at Beth Israel, the question of how needed to be solved. The solution came through Fourth Corner Frames & Gallery on Holly Street in Bellingham (Framr4u@gmail.com)

























Hawaiian cooking class.
 and 3. Maccabiah Day at Kesher.
 Seventh-grade B'nei Mitzvah night.
 Mia Ellis and daughter Audrey at the seventh-grade B'nei Mitzvah night.
 Shoshana Samuels reading books to Oren, Ben, and Elliot at Tot Shabbat.
 Nicole and Rabbi Samuels at the Chanukah party.
 Scene from the Chanukah party.
 The Great Dreidel Spin-Off."
 Ugly Chanukah attire contest.
 Latke queens: Sarah Cobb and Orly Ravitsky.
 Serge Lindner, Deborah Oksenberg, and Alisa Sachs at the Chanukah party.

Call for Volunteers! Audio Visual Support for CBI Events

BY DAVID GOLDMAN

If you've read the President's Letter in this issue of The Shul Shofar, you already have an idea of what the Audio-Visual Committee members are able to accomplish for Congregation Beth Israel. This AV equipment was set up in 2021 and has been run by three volunteers from the congregation: David Goldman, Kevin Donner, and Tammy Dixon. We have purchased and installed sound and video equipment necessary to run religious services and other programs and events at the synagogue. This equipment was designed and set up so that a team of volunteers can run and maintain it with minimal training. Our goal is to have a team of volunteers large enough to run and maintain the audio and visual equipment for the growing number of programs and events at the synagogue, including religious services, lectures, meetings, movie nights, and musical programs.

We have equipment capable of live video broadcasts of religious services and other events over the internet via Zoom, making these events accessible to those who cannot attend in person. We set up assisted listening devices for attendees with hearing impairments. We also installed a projector in the sanctuary that can be used during lectures for slide presentations or movies. The sound system is flexible and can support our programs in the Sanctuary, social hall, and outside on the patio.

Over the past four years, these AV support volunteers have been running all the Zoom broadcasts of Shabbat services on Friday nights, the Saturday morning B'nai Mitzvah services, and services for the High Holy Days.

We have set up the sound equipment for the lectures, meetings, and special events like movie nights and the Passover Seder. We have also volunteered to help set up events when the synagogue space is rented out for meetings and other events that need AV support. Although our volunteers can handle most of the programs, some musical events require the hiring of professional sound engineers because of the complexity of adjusting sound for public performances with multiple professional singers and musicians.

We need to expand the AV support team with more adult and teen volunteers to cover the growing number of programs and events held at the synagogue. Anyone who is comfortable operating a laptop computer and has participated in a Zoom meeting would be capable of running the Zoom Shabbat service with one lesson, and a couple of training sessions running Zoom Shabbat services with a mentor. For adults who are comfortable with computers, and enjoy learning about sound and video equipment, this can be a fun way to volunteer and help fellow congregants. For teens this is also an amazing opportunity to work with the equipment that is used to produce rock concerts, music recordings, and videos. And for AV volunteers who want to develop more technical expertise, there is great satisfaction in fixing technical problems, improving and expanding the services provided by this equipment, and finding ways to make the AV equipment even easier to run and maintain. Please contact the synagogue office or David Goldman if you have an interest in joining the Audio-Visual support team.

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from Page 1

my comments on the support of my Jewish family, here and abroad, especially while a war is still raging. But I hear some of you, and I understand where you are coming from.

Expressing compassion for the innocent Palestinians who are caught in the middle of this horrific war is surely not outside the boundaries of our sensibilities. I am certain that many want to live in peace with their neighbors and detest what Hamas has done to their people and land. My heart goes out to them as their lives have been as completely upended as have the lives our Jewish family members in Israel. Whatever the numbers of the wounded, killed, or displaced may be, and they are high no matter whose statistics you look at, we must realize that suf-

fering is not a competitive sport, and their suffering is just as painful as our own. The devastation of land, homes, and families is just so heartbreaking.

I have no idea how Israel should engage in this war against forces that want nothing other than her complete demise, as well as our own. I am not a military strategist, after all. But, regardless of my total support for Israel to defend itself against such maniacal forces, I am sickened at the widespread humanitarian disaster taking place in Palestinian villages and cities. How can one not be? My compassion, or *rachamim*, for the innocent Palestinians does not negate my love for Israel or my strong Zionist beliefs. In fact, what I have come to remember is that to feel compassion for others in their time of pain is part of what it means to be a Jew.

The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- Michelle & Joseph Anderson Bellingham, sons: Elias (18), Jacob (23), daughter IIa (13)
- Tamar Cohen-Hillel & Jonathan Hillel Bellingham, daughters: Ella (5 months),
 Maya (2)
- Shana Feiger & Walker Lilllard-Nelson Bellingham
- Ben Fred Bellingham
- Emma & Matthew Hawthorne Bellingham, sons: Haven (10) and Jonah (12)
- Adam House Bellingham
- Shana Mayerson-Lloyd Eastsound
- Anne Pollack & Bob Kuenzel Bellingham
- Deborah & Marc Renner Bellingham
- Laurie Riskin Deming
- Theodora Skolnik & Henry Springall –
 Bellingham, daughter, Mischa (5 months)
- Jacob Slosberg & Amy Frye Bow, daughter,
 Ayla Joy (4) and son, Leo (7)
- Tzipporah Snyder Bellingham
- Steven Spigelman Bellingham



David Goldman and Linda Blackwell announce the birth of their grandchild, **Everly Mae Goldman**. She was born 10/5/2024 to proud parents Joe Goldman and Katie Long of Ferndale.

Scrip – Try It – Especially If You Don't Carry Cash Any More!

BY HOLLY REDELL-WITTE

If you're like most of us, you barely have to carry cash any more...you probably transact business on your phone or with a card. Beth Israel is right here with you at the forefront of technology with the **scrip program**. It is also our longest-running fundraiser — so thank you!

The best thing about the scrip program is that it costs the user nothing, while the synagogue benefits! When you buy a gift card through the program, 4-5% of your purchase comes directly to Beth Israel. So if you buy a \$200 card every month, as I do, \$10.00 gets deposited to our account; that's \$120 a year.

Remember the great song from The Pajama Game in which workers want a modest raise – "Seven and a half cents doesn't mean a heckuva lot"...until you add it up! This is a great example...imagine 100 people times \$120/year...now we're talking about real money!

Joan Wayne runs this program for us. You probably already shop at one of the places she makes available. The most popular cards are: Haggen/Safeway, Fred Meyer, The Food Co-op, and Starbucks.

If you've never tried it — why not now! If you give gift cards or support requests for help through our Meal Train, this would be a great way to increase the impact of your gift. It's easy to pay for the cards, too, with a check, credit card, or Zelle.

And then, when you've used up your card, bring it to the synagogue and drop it in the recycle container.

For more information, and to set up your monthly purchase, contact Joan Wayne, jawayne2@gmail.com

Anniversaries

Jan. 01	Ella & Alan Barney	#12
Jan. 06	David Goldman & Linda Blackwell	#41
Jan. 08	Lindsey & Jordan Genut	#16
Jan. 27	Jacob Slosberg & Amy Frye	#8
Feb. 04	Catherine & Mark Zitzer	# 41
Feb. 14	Shana Feiger & Walker Lillard	#5
Feb. 15	Annika & Colleen Tilland-Stafford	#10
Feb. 17	Carol & David Robinson	#45
Feb. 17	Rob & Kathy Grossman	#19

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.

Play piano and/or sing





Gayle Cloud, MT-BC
Piano and/or vocal lessons
for children or adults

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 2

Several years ago, just after we had moved into 751 San Juan Blvd., we abruptly found ourselves without a point person who knew how the building functioned. We had no structure in place for the maintenance of the beautiful new space we were inhabiting, and no one was in charge of the operation. We quickly needed oversight for the security, safety, and operation of our space. Josh Greenberg, who at the time was a member of the CBI Board, stepped forward. Josh, among other things, formed a Kitchen Task Force, a Maintenance Committee, a Grounds Committee, and a Technology Committee, recruiting volunteers for each area and creating a working Super-Committee called FMMC (Facilities, Maintenance and Management Committee.) Thank you, Josh, for stepping in and leading this group when CBI most needed it.

I could spend pages exalting the work of each member who serves on CBI committees, and I wish I could mention every single dedicated volunteer.

The next time you see David or Josh or any of our committee chairs or the quiet angels who help behind the scenes, please take a moment to offer a note of acknowledgement and appreciation. Encourage members who haven't yet experienced the pleasure of volunteering at CBI to give me a call to find a place to help. Step up yourself and ask how you can get involved. Experiencing the joy and gratification of volunteering at CBI is a gift that gives back, and I hope you all can find a way to participate and grow our synagogue together to even new heights.

JODI LITT PRESIDENT

CBI To Host "The Giving Tree" on Tu Bishvat – February 12-13

Samantha Terris and her young daughter, Jade, CBI members, spearheaded the organization *Kids Art for Climate Justice* to help reforest the earth. Their art project, The Giving Tree, is a collaborative sculpture that empowers kids to make a difference in saving our planet.

CBI kids were involved in creating the sculpture, one of them summing it up best by saying, "My heart is bestowed in the earth." Kids contribute their art. They, and many adults, contribute money to help plant trees. Every dollar raised plants a tree, and CBI will be recognized for the money raised during Tu Bishvat.

Please go to kidsartforclimatejustice.com/the-giving-tree-project to learn more about the project, get involved, or to donate.







UPDATES FROM KESHER

Continued from Page 3

If you have a middle-school student who would like to join a fun Jewish youth club, please contact Kevin at jems.together@gmail.com

The BAY program is currently facilitated by Leah Bordman, and it is available for teens in high school. If your teenager wants to get involved and have a great time with their friends, please contact Leah at leah.bordman@bethisraelbellingham.org She will inform you when activities are occurring.

Security Training

On November 3 Dan Ohms, Tammy Dixon, and our security guard Craig Nolan provided security updates, fire drill, lockdown, and intruder policy awareness training for our Kesher teachers. In addition to a thorough explanation about best practices during different emergency situations, each classroom teacher received a backpack filled with emergency supplies that will remain with the teacher for use in the event of any emergency. Board member and Security Committee co-chair Tammy Dixon will be offering our staff a de-escalation training on January 12.

Special Fund Donations

BUILDING SECURITY FUND

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

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Jill and David Elkayam Danny and Marla Finkelstein Richard and Idalina Trank Henry Zemel

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

Rachel Stein and Sivan Wells -Langley Bat Mitzvahs **From:** *Karen Sloss*

CARE COMMITTEE

IN MEMORY OF:

Nancy Lloyd

From: Lynne and Mark MacDonald Bonnie Stone

ENDOWMENT FUND

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Jason and Carly Benhaim Ann Buzaitis and Dena Petersen Joel and Jessica Cohen Bev Harrington Jeff and Wendy Holtzman Ira Kaufman Bruce and Becki Van Glubt Howard Sharfstein and Mary Francell-Sharfstein

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Samuels, Leah Bordman, and Mikayla Goodkin in preparing Sivan for her Bat Mitzvah. And with deep gratitude to our Beth Israel community on the occasion of Litav's mother's death

From: Litav Langley, Lindsey Wells, and Family

IN HONOR OF:

Julie Siegfried's new car **From:** Andy Kaplowitz Jessica Petrak's ketubah

signing

From: Cindy and Jonathan Petrak

IN MEMORY OF:

Nancy Lloyd

From: Jane and Renée Relin Mary Somerville

IN HONOR OF:

Sivan Wells Langley & Brenda Miller on their Bat Mitzvahs. Mazel tov! From: Patrick Crane

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Karen Sloss

GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN APPRECIATION:

Thanks for your good work!

From: Cassandra and

Laura Wolfson

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Karen Sloss

GENERAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

My beloved sister, Nancy Lloyd.

From: Barbie McCarthy

Jack Fisher

From: Joan and Marv Wayne

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Samuels and the Adult Ed Programs

From: Shannon McCarty and Tony Kurtz

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Alexis and Brian Gentry Richard and Idalina Trank

JEMS YOUTH FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dean Pollack, Z"L and his commitment to Jewish youth and culture

From: Gaby and Victoria Mayers

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Dean Pollack

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

In memory of my mother, Lee Shapiro, and the community which has sustained me through this hard time From: Miriam Schwartz In memory of Nancy Lloyd

From: Karen Sloss

IN HONOR OF:

Brenda Miller's Bat Mitzvah **From:** *Karen Sloss*

Rabbi Samuels and Andrea Shupack

From: Richard Widerkehr

IN APPRECIATION OF:

The beautiful wall hangings done by Roby Blecker **From:** Sylvia Williams

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Gary and Trisha Adelstein Steve and Debbie Adelstein Mike and Jamie Altman Kathleen and Larry Bell Jason and Carly Benhaim Erin and Steve Cohen Miriam Davids and David Feingold Susan Katz Jerome Rosen Karen Sloss Marc Weinstein Holly and Charles Witte

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Nathan W. Kronenberg. **From:** *Jeff Kronenberg*

IN GRATITUDE FOR:

Life and health after our car accident.

From: Gaby and Victoria Mayers

CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Patrick Crane
Bob and Cindy Friedman
Mark and Judy Konikoff
Jane and Renée Relin
Karen Sloss





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Birthdays

JANL	JARY 2025	1/21	Arturo Flores Pritchett (7th)	2/11	Ella Barney
1/1	Elias Anderson (19th)	1/21	Alyson Kassen	2/11	Shalem Blum (20th)
1/1	Jeaninne Kahan	1/22	Stuart Berman	2/11	Leo Banks Strich (7th)
1/1	Binnie Perper	1/23	Joshua Greenberg	2/14	Bob Goldman
1/1	Alison Zak	1/23	Mikaela Kaiser	2/15	Gloria Lebowitz
1/2	Rachel Bjarnason	1/23	David Nemens	2/16	Leviah Landau
1/2	Cierra Burkill	1/23	Maya Stein (12th)	2/17	Dan Ohms
1/2	Bella Gentry (19th)	1/25	Marc Weinstein	2/18	Tom Oliver
1/3	Keren Gott	1/26	Leo David Cohen (12th)	2/18	Sarah Zarrow
1/3	Tahlia Somers (18th)	1/26	Nate LaMont (4th)	2/20	Don Fenbert
1/4	Julia Ban	1/26	Mitch Press	2/20	Susan Schneider
1/4	Linda Blackwell		Geraldine Reitz	2/20	Elijah Wolfson (16th)
1/4	Elijah Fay (17th)	1/27	Leo Slosberg (8th)	2/21	Gregg Orlik
1/4	Wolf Pomerantz (13th)	1/28	Angie Lee	2/21	Kristin Sykes-David
1/6	Rachel Goldberg	1/29	Avinoam Baruch Bokser (6th)	2/22	Frank Corey
1/6	Isaac Konikoff	1/30	Wendy Blum	2/22	Teva Corey-DuBow (18th)
1/6	Tom Maxim	1/30	Gib Morrow	2/22	Corinne Hecht
1/8	Max Becker (3rd)			2/22	Naomi Math (5th)
1/8	Judy Diamond	FEBF	RUARY 2025	2/22	Karen Sloss
1/8	Victoria Mayers	2/1	Bill Freeman	2/22	Jeannette Stephens
1/9	Helen Feiger	2/2	Ruben Blick (7th)	2/24	Todd Haskell
1/10	Lou Lippman	2/3	Adina Diamond (8th)	2/24	Robert Meltzer
1/11	John Schapiro	2/4	Bonnie Zell	2/25	Nancy Auerbach
1/12	Talia Clarke (21st)	2/5	Matthew Kinney	2/25	Avi Brennan (18th)
1/14	Leslie Hamilton	2/5	Jordan Ebbeling (14th)	2/25	Genny Cohn
1/15	Diana Dixon (11th)	2/5	Elizabeth Snyder	2/26	Alex Jeffers
1/15	Audrey LaPlante (16th)	2/6	Stephanie Machlin	2/26	Robin Kodner
1/15	Nora Mazonson	2/6	Laura Wolfson	2/26	Orly Ziv-Maxim
1/15	Kathi Paluch	2/7	Elan Maxim	2/27	Herschel Goodwin (8th)
1/16	Maya Cornwall (22nd)	2/8	Samantha Schwartz (20th)	2/27	Ken Levinson
1/17	David Elkayam	2/8	Ben Fred	2/27	Teresa Sommers
1/17	Jodi Litt	2/9	Steven Schram	2/28	Nicholas Swisher
1/18	Miriam Buckman	2/10	Bob Friedman		
1/18	Dashka Garretson	2/10	Laurie Riskin		

THE DAYS OF CREATION NEEDLEPOINT TAPESTRIES

Continued from Page 8

Owner Sheri Wright, with 50 years of experience, was excited to have this challenge. "It was a unique piece, given that we weren't using any frame, we were using fabric, and it was oversize. I've done framing of rugs and big pieces but I'd never done this type of presentation." Following the plan from the Synagogue Interior Design Committee, she explained that there were several special needs to be met: there would be no glass; the tapestries would "float" in the fabric; they had to be removable for cleaning; she had to find a way to secure them so they would not warp; and, stainless steel pins would have to be used to hold the art in place and avoid rusting into the fabric. She also had to pay attention to how the fabric – a gorgeous blue velour – would be cut so that when it was petted by people, the nap wouldn't create distracting impressions. Once the details were worked

out, Wright hand-wrapped the fabric around the mounting mats.

The result is a majestic and inviting presentation. Roby and Rabbi Samuels understood immediately the invitation that the tapestries offer people to step up onto the *bima*, stand next to the Ark containing the sacred Torahs, and interact with each other in conversation.

Judaism has a history as a teaching religion, a place to explore and question. "I don't look at the beginning of Genesis as an historical account," says Rabbi Samuels, "or any of our sacred literature as history. They are teaching texts. When I read a passage or a story, my first question is what do our teachers want us to take away from this. Our creation story is OUR creation story; it's not an account that we want everyone to believe. Rather, we grapple with and figure out the metaphorical meanings of each day."

The Days of Creation tapestries at Congregation Beth Israel will surely inspire anyone who sees them.

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, January 3					
Lynn Shuster	1/4	Victorie Haislip	2/3	Derrek Jeremy Adelstein	2/21
Dorothea Zimmerman	1/5	Willie Kluger Pollock	2/3	David Shain	2/21
Sherwood Jacobson	1/5	Hally Vernon	2/4	Friday, February 21	
William Aron Dorfman	1/5	Hannah Jacobson	2/5	Phil H. Miller	2/22
Ben Gordon	1/5	Reisa Thal	2/5	Ninfa Short	2/22
Nathaniel Jacob Hirsh	1/5	Jerome Selznick	2/5	Nelson Beller	2/22
Richard Bloomfield	1/5	Mary Bayer Koplowitz	2/5	Debbie Haskell	2/23
Florence Weintraub	1/6	David Kaplowitz	2/6	Urve Moyer	2/23
Martin Katz	1/6	David Fine	2/6	Paul Sondik	2/24
Benjamin David Glazer	1/6	Eleanor Scharff	2/6	Rita Gordon	2/25
Louis Lebowitz	1/7	(Arabelle) Chaya Schlanger	2/6	Burton Sklar	2/26
Barry Zell	1/7	Steven R. Rivkin	2/6	William Freeman	2/26
Mary Vermeda Paschetag	1/8	William Schwartz	2/6	Robert Dixon	2/27
Lois Looney	1/9	Roy Athol Thomas	2/7	Elinor Pravda	2/27
Brian House	1/10	Friday, February 7		Gloria Perper	2/27
Friday, January 10		Joel K. Rubenstein	2/8	Rochelle Blum	2/28
Cecile R. Gordon	1/11	Harold Earl Perper	2/8	Michel Oksenberg	2/28
George Garmo	1/12	Lillian Mauer Pravda	2/9	Friday, February 28	
Miriam Cohen	1/12	Morris Faber	2/9	Judith T. Sklar	3/1
Ivan Senzon	1/12	Jean Beverly Blank	2/9	Mel Adelstein	3/1
Haskell David	1/13	Florence D. Shain	2/10	Clarence Weiner	3/1
Simon Rosen	1/13	Muriel Smith	2/12	Steve Sokol	3/1
Pearl Turovitz	1/14	Albert Lebovich	2/13	Gene Adelstein	3/1
Stanley Litt	1/17	Frieda Blank	2/13	Linda Kaplowitz Copeland	3/1
•		Harold Katz	2/14	Robert Fife	3/2
Friday, January 18		Celia Zak	2/14	Beth R. Curtis	3/2
Catherine Venturino	1/18	Friday, February 14		Benjamin Solomon	3/2
Dorothy Mazel Spiro	1/18	Lou Fine	2/15	David Ragosin	3/2
Irwin Wapner	1/20	Leona Chorney Sondik	2/15	Howard Little	3/3
Lawrence Weintraub	1/20	Dr. Herzl Spiro	2/15	Jessie Edinger	3/4
Ben Thal	1/20	Judy Holtzman	2/17	Luise Wikes	3/4
Irving Lackowitz	1/21	Mishra Stephen Suloway	2/17	Betty Goldberger	3/4
Arnold Loober	1/21	Robert Baker	2/19	Wesley Forman	3/6
Aimee Lewis	1/21	Meyer Wolpow	2/19	Sadie Gordon Schiller	3/6
Aaron Sanger	1/22	Mark Luster	2/20	Fred Fragner	3/7
Anna Winefield Fox	1/22	aiii Edotoi	_,_0		5, 1
Lillian Stiglitz Heller	1/23				
Jack Diamond	1/24		n Me	moriam	
Rette Levv	1/24				

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

Friday, January 24

Herman "Hy" Brownstein

Barney Cohn

Sandor Garfinkle 1/25
Jack Siegel 1/25
Harry V. Welch, Jr 1/29
Shirley Spiegel Jacobson 1/30
Daniel Weis 1/30
Marion Glassman 1/30

1/24

1/24

Friday, January 31

Chuck Collins 2/1
Morris Kalman Patinkin 2/1
Harry Suslow 2/2
Alvis E. Swindell 2/2

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

We mourn the loss of CBI congregant **Dr. Jack B. Fisher**, who died at 81 years of age on the evening of October 19, 2024, with his wife of 51 years, Karen, and their daughters Shira and Naomi by his side in Ferndale, Washington, after living with Parkinson's Disease since his diagnosis in 2016. In addition to his wife and daughters, he is survived by his sister, Sarann Donegan, his nieces Darcie Buri & Kerrie Steffan, his grand-nephew, Avi Buri, and his grand-nieces Elena Buri, Isabel Buri, and Lila Steffan.

Litav Langley's mother, **Judith Kushner Langley**, died peacefully at the Whatcom Hospice House on Thanksgiving Day; she was 82. Judy is survived by her beloved husband of 48 years, Jim Langley; her children Litav and Jonathan; daughters-in-law Lindsay Wells and Katie Dunsmoor; and grandchildren Jonathan Earl (Jack), Aniel Dazze, Sivan Hale, Ellis Nora Kay, and Orilev Ahren.

THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel

751 San Juan Boulevard Bellingham, WA 98229

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SAVE THE DATE!

Passover 2025Community Seder April 13

Save the date for the 2025 Community Seder on the second night of Passover, Sunday April 13.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful holiday experience with you and your family.

Check the website and *Timbrel* in January for more information on registration.



Numbers Game Jason Benhaim

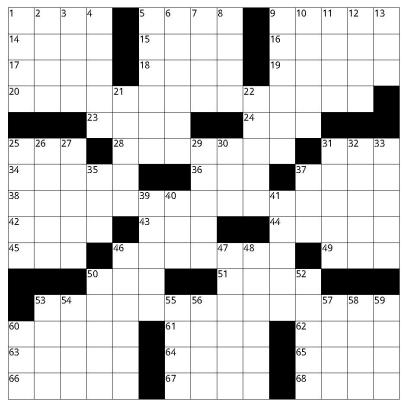
ACROSS

- 1 Late baseball Giant Willie ___
- 5 The Golden State, familiarly
- 9 Electrical issue
- 14 Lacking slack
- 15 Take ___ view of (regard skeptically)
- 16 Shorthand for 2023's Best Picture winner
- 17 Pop duo Tegan and
- 18 Molly's formal name
- 19 Wonderland cake instructions
- 20 Length of a lunar leap year
- 23 Make
- 24 French word on either side of -à-
- 25 Ballpoint brand
- 28 Pickle
- 31 Fairy queen mentioned in 'Romeo and Juliet'
- 34 "Don't be ___!"
- 36 ___ Chi
- 37 Bat mitzvah, e.g.
- 38 Sinai souvenir
- 42 Pics from a parlor
- 43 Proverb ending?
- 44 ___ a time (singly)
- 45 Jr. and sr.
- 46 Massachusetts college town
- 49 Ph.D. holders
- 50 Half of hex
- 51 Big name in elevators
- 53 Prescribed Passover pourings

- 60 Hobbit who asks Gollum, "What have I got in my pocket?"
- 61 Signature Seattle forecast
- 62 Many a monarch's familial desire
- 63 Bowling venue
- 64 Foil alternative in fencing
- 65 Tuckered out
- 66 Digestif whose name means "bitter" in Italian
- 67 Snobs put them on
- 68 Salty septet

DOWN

- 1 Local volcano ___ Helens
- 2 Sound of sinking into a hot tub
- 3 First name of the first man in space
- 4 Fixed gaze
- 5 The Radcliffe ___, Oxford's iconic circular library
- 6 Figure on either side of +
- 7 Outline
- 8 Muslim prayer leader
- 9 Movie night veto
- 10 Qualifying races
- 11 Solemn vow
- 12 Butts
- 13 Low digit
- 21 Hasbro's "game of unspeakable fun"
- 22 Humpty
 Dumpty-esque
- 25 Nuts
- 26 "Rumor has it..."
- 27 Small change



- 29 Hackneyed
- 30 Neverland leader
- 31 Dug for
- 32 Bellingham Symphony Orchestra conductor Yaniv
- 33 Outperforms
- 35 Some colas
- 37 Stimpy's sidekick
- 39 Shapeshifting 'Dungeons & Dragons' monster
- 40 ___-jongg
- 41 Recurring theme
- 46 Southwestern aulch
- 47 More optimistic

- 48 Fairhaven establishment Throw
- Brewery 50 Jerusalem
- artichoke, e.g. 52 Cleans, as a deck
- 53 Patina
- 54 Earthenware pot
- 55 Nitrogenous end product of protein breakdown in mammals
- 56 Spanish daddy
- 57 "Got it"
- 58 Hurricane tracking org.
- 59 Treebeard's
- arboreal kin
- 60 "Hey, ewe!"

Beit Cafe: Stories About Jewish Journeys

Sunday February 16 6:30 pm
At the Mount Baker Theatre Encore Room

We are our stories
A Special Evening with CBI Storytellers

MCs Rabbi Samuels and Holly Witte

Music with Andrea Shupack

Free and open to all members and their guests

Food and cash bar

Contact the office or Andrea Shupack if you are interested in telling a story at this year's annual Beit Cafe





tinyurl.com/cbijaynahani

Storytelling Workshop with Holly Witte & Andrea Shupack

Sunday, January 26 11:00 am-12:30 pm at CBI in the Beit Midrash

If you love stories, are curious about what it takes to tell one, think you have a story, wish you had a story, or want to delve deeper into this craft, then this workshop is for you! All are welcome; no experience necessary. If you might want to tell a story at the Beit Cafe on February 16, you are strongly encouraged to attend.

The Beit Cafe story theme this year is once again "Jewish Journeys." Stories of significant moments or events that have shaped your trajectory, whether you are Jewish, or you have been impacted by your connection to Judaism.

Please contact Andrea at andreashupack@gmail.com if you would like to participate in the workshop and/or the Beit Cafe.

Holly Witte has been writing professionally since the 1970s. She currently writes for *WhatcomTalk*, and appears in monthly Open Mics at Village Books. She has won the Seattle version of The Moth storytelling three times. She has led workshops in memoir writing and presentation in Seattle and Bellingham.

Andrea Shupack studied and trained as a Jewish storyteller for years with some of the leading Jewish tellers in the US. She is ordained as a *Maggidah* (Jewish Storyteller and teacher of Torah through story). She has written and performed personal stories, as well as traditional Jewish stories at conferences and synagogues.

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