



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

MAY/JUNE 2025 IYAR/SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5785

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 29, NO. 5 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98229 * bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

Israel Speaker Series: Sam Sokol from the *Times of Israel*

Sunday, June 22, 2025, 11:00 am
Zoom details to follow in the *Timbrel*

ISRAEL AFTER A YEAR AND A HALF OF WAR: WHAT'S NEXT?

A year and a half since Hamas's devastating attack on October 7, 2023, Israel stands at a crossroads. Driven by internal conflict and faced

with a battered but undefeated Hamas, the Jewish state is faced with unprecedented security and social challenges: from the postwar governance of Gaza to the revival of the judicial overhaul and the crisis over ultra-Orthodox enlistment. Listen to *Times of Israel* journalist Sam Sokol as he explains where we are, how we got here, and what's next.

Sam Sokol is the *Times of Israel*'s political correspondent. He was previously a reporter for the *Jerusalem Post*, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, and *Haaretz*. He is the author of *Putin's Hybrid War and the Jews* and the winner of the 2015 B'nai B'rith Word Center's award for excellence in Diaspora Reportage. Originally from New York, he lives in Beit Shemesh with his wife and seven children.



FROM THE RABBI

A Time To Count



Each spring, as the echoes of *Chad Gadya*, *Avadim Hayinu*, and other Passover songs fade and we journey to-

ward the holiday of Shavuot, the Jewish tradition calls us to pause and count. For 49 nights, we engage in *Sefirat HaOmer*, the Counting of the Omer — an ancient practice that invites both reflection and anticipation. While it may seem like a simple ritual — just counting days — the Omer contains layers of meaning that continue to speak to modern Jews in profound ways.

The Torah introduces the Omer in Leviticus 23:15-16: "You shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete. You must count until the day after the seventh week — fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the Eternal." The count begins on the second night of Passover and culminates on Shavuot, the festival marking the giving of the Torah. Originally, this period connected two agricultural milestones in the Land of Israel: the barley harvest at Passover and the wheat harvest at Shavuot. But over time, the focus shifted from a

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From the President...

Volunteering and Our Kitchen



With so much rapid change and uncertainty in the world and especially in our country, many are feeling anxious, unsettled and befuddled. Breaking news seemingly happens every hour and information is so readily available that metering the inputs can be one large challenge! It takes real effort and consciousness to not cave and go into a deep, dark depression!

When a new policy hits or a tariff percentage changes, I take a deep breath and focus on what I can affect, which is my engagement in my community and thus, something positive. I have found great satisfaction volunteering at CBI. Whether it is talking about future staffing, discussing the CBI Endowment or working with our Executive team on our strategic plan for the next few years, I find that doing something locally for a community I care deeply about is the perfect counter punch to all that feels chaotic. It is calming and grounding to be able to control my actions and focus on what is real and where I can see.

My engagement level vacillates between deep dives into policy improvements for our synagogue and a physical list of tactical tasks that I can check off. For several weeks, when I was feeling stressed by the situation in Israel and the broader Middle East, I walked into our main-level kitchen storage closet and started boxing up dishes from the kitchen and moving them to the lower-level storage. In doing so I was actively forming my own sense of what an organized kitchen might look like. Soon, I noticed, others were doing the same in other areas of the kitchen! I learned that I wasn't the only one who wanted to "do some-

thing physical" and make change happen. Our *Oneg* Queens, Joan Wayne and Sarah Witte, had been plotting and devising for some time a system to make each *oneg* an easy to follow "recipe for the organizers of the week" and wanted to move to a less wasteful model. Marta Brand was looking at the flow and equipment of the space to see what was needed to help us move more effectively and to declutter. Karen Sloss was using her institutional knowledge and background to fill in what was intended by the designers of the space. Soon we came together in a Kitchen Task Force and began meeting to put all the pieces together. Working together felt connective and focused. We were accomplishing tasks to better our facility, to help the congregation and to create a template for us all to follow, ease the strain on the building, and lower our costs. It is a great example of active and task-oriented volunteerism, and I highly recommend this form of therapy! Whether it is helping set up tables or prepare for high holidays or volunteer to read at Keshet, there are plenty of "one off" volunteer opportunities like this at CBI!

Here are some of the conclusions drawn to improve the kitchen:

- The kitchen is available for all to use for CBI events, and each congregant household is charged with hosting at least one *oneg* per calendar year. We all need to treat the space as we do our own kitchens, with care and respect as there is a lot of expensive equipment to protect. Ideally, all will leave the kitchen as clean and orderly as you find it.
- Labeling is coming to our shelves, and written instructions laminated onto equipment to help with use.
- CBI strives to produce minimum waste, so we have moved away

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CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard
Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar
Volume 29, Number 5
May/June 2025
Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz 5785

The *Shul Shofar* is the bulletin of Congregation Beth Israel. It is published bi-monthly and distributed to all congregation members. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$60/year. Advertising space (business card size) is available; contact the office.

Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the July/August issue is JUNE 11. Call the office for more information.

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Printed by **Lewis Publishing Inc.** in
Lynden, WA

Beth Israel is a
member of:



From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning

Keshet Updates

BY VICTORIA MAYERS, KESHER CO-DIRECTOR

This year's Purim celebration and carnival was a huge success primarily because volunteers turned out in droves to bake Hamantaschen and help run the carnival. We want to thank Becki and Bruce Van Glubt who took it upon themselves to bake 15 dozen Hamantaschen for the festivities. We also want to sincerely thank all the bakers who took time out of their busy day to come out to CBI and bake 150 Hamantaschen for the Spiel. We had a great time, and I think we may start a Purim holiday tradition of baking in our new kitchen every year now.

Lindsey Genut and Gayle Kinney continue to work endlessly to make this Keshet fundraiser meaningful and productive. This year we were able to raise nearly \$23,000 for Keshet scholarship and programming needs. Our volunteers are such a much-needed and powerful resource for our programs. Finally, a huge shoutout to Sarah Cobb, who has gone above and beyond her job description to support all CBI programs and especially to assist with Keshet. We are very lucky to have her on our admin team.

Spring is here, and this is the perfect time of year to clean out those closets and garages. If you have used clothing, small household items, books, toys, or items that could be sold to Value Village, then please consider contributing to our annual drop off. More details will become available later. Thank you for your consideration.

Our MASSA grant cycle has come to an end. We submitted our final report to the Samis Foundation, and we are on their watch list if or when the organization allocates funding for early learning or other youth-focused programs. I want to thank Nicki Naiman and Katie Edelstein for working with me over this three-year grant cycle. Without their volunteering and ongoing support, our program could not have operated as successfully. It is the direct result of their professionalism that resulted in CBI earning additional funding for other Jewish youth programs. I am forever grateful.

Put this on your calendar, and don't miss out on the early-bird registration discount for Keshet next year: We will open registration starting on July 1, and an early-bird discount will be offered to anyone who registers before August!



Linda Read, Shana Fieger, Marta Brand, Celle Cardarelli, and Vicki Farkas baking hamantaschen.



Marc Weinstein, Gayle Cloud, and Gayle Kinney assemble Purim gift bags.



CBI Confirmation class helping prepare Purim gift bags.

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

Rosen Life Solutions

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Bar Mitzvah



Micah Uloth Parker will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 24, 2025. He is the son of Erin Uloth and Reid Parker, brother of Noah, and grandson of Iris and Kevin Parker.

Micah is in seventh grade at Whatcom Middle School. He's a smart, kind, funny, loyal friend, and a charismatic guy; people love to be around him. He loves reading, goofing off with his pals, and harassing his brother. He works hard and lives to compete. He's a board game shark, so challenge him at your risk. He can often be found playing some sort of sport: ultimate frisbee, lacrosse, running, basketball, wrestling, or skiing.

Micah is an active participant in Technology Student Association and is an anchor of the ultimate frisbee club.

The Uloth-Parker family invites you to join them in this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
Friday, May 23, 2025 at 7:30 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, May 24, 2025 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 reidparker@gmail.com
no gifts necessary

Bat Mitzvah



Elizabeth Imogen Leah Witte will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 31, 2025. She is the daughter and youngest child of Sarah and Todd Witte and the sister of Nathaniel, Jeremiah, and Gabriel. Elizabeth is in seventh grade at The Franklin Academy. She enjoys math and science at school, and studies Spanish and Mandarin on her own. She plays

volleyball and was a setter for her school volleyball team this year, earning the MVP and Leadership awards. In

her free time, Elizabeth likes babysitting, listening to music and hanging out with her friends.

She and her family hope you will join us for this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
Friday, May 30, 2025 at 7:30 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, May 31, 2024 at 10:00 am
If you are planning to attend the Saturday service and Kiddush lunch, please RSVP to sntwitte@yahoo.com



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Bat Mitzvah



Jade Eleena Terriss is about to have her Bat Mitzvah!

She is an avid nature lover, theater, art, and poetry enthusiast. She is finishing the eighth grade at Whatcom Hills Waldorf School and will be entering high school next year.

Daughter of Samantha Terriss and David Talamo.

With great joy we invite you to celebrate with us as Jade is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Friday, June 20 at 6:15 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Saturday, June 21 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 by June 1 to samanthaterriss@gmail.com

no gifts necessary

Bar Mitzvah



Aiden Ezra Shupack will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 28. He is the son of Andrea and Josh Shupack, and brother to Evan.

Ezra has been a part of the CBI community since we moved here when he was two years old. He loves being in nature, biking, playing guitar, skiing, running, writing poetry, and camping with

the Boy Scouts. Ezra has been homeschooled except for his year of public school in Israel, and attends classes at the Bellingham Family Partnership Program, where he

most enjoys friends, acting in school musicals, and writing.

We hope you will join us to celebrate Ezra and this simcha:

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Friday, June 27 Shabbat Shira service at 7:30 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Saturday, June 28, 2025 at 10:00 am

Kiddush lunch afterward in the Social Hall.

If you are planning to attend the Saturday service and Kiddush

Recruiting for *Oneg* Hosting

Oneg means pleasure, and it is certainly pleasant to share a nosh or a potluck meal with fellow congregants after a service. Congregants contribute to our community by taking turns providing for this special time together.

Joan and Sarah will be creating the *oneg* schedule for the year July 2025-June 2026 soon.

If you would prefer not to host an *oneg*/potluck, please let us know now. It is much easier to create a workable schedule with this information ahead of time. If you don't let us know, we will assume that you want to volunteer.

If there is a special date when you would like to host, please let us know either a specific date or which service/which month.

The options are:

- First Friday potluck
- Second Friday *oneg*
- Third Friday potluck
- Fourth Friday *oneg*
- Saturday Conservative minyan
- Saturday Reform minyan
- Tot Shabbat

Thank you for working with us to create community!

Joan Wayne jawayne2@gmail.com

Sarah Witte sntwitte@yahoo.com or text 360-296-3058

What Is *Feldmestn*, the Ashkenazi Women's Tradition of Measuring Burial Places?

Let's Learn Together with Scholar and Artist Maia Brown, May 4 at 2:00 pm

BY EMILY WEINER



When Maia Brown reached out to CBI, nobody on the Programming Committee had ever heard of *feldmestn* — the practice of measuring ancestors' burial places with candlewick, later dipped in wax and burnt as a memorial candle for the living and the dead. We were intrigued and doubly pleased that Humanities Washington had included Brown's participatory presentation about this recently resurfaced Ashkenazi women's tradition in their Speakers Bureau Program, which offers free presentations by cultural experts to venues around the state.

Brown has titled the event "Measuring Mourning; A Ritual for Loss." Questions she will pose include: How can this 200-year-old Eastern European Jewish tradition help us grapple with contemporary catastrophes, as well as old displacements, genocides, and assimilation? When we do not know where our people are buried, what do we measure?

Brown is a Seattle-based visual artist, Yiddish musician, writer, translator, and educator. She has a background in oral history and fine art, including a Watson Fellowship to study storytelling and advocacy in South Africa and the North of Ireland. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts at Goddard College. She is a dedicated student and teacher of her own tradition, as well as the many ways people have reached out to each other across communities.

Brown will share some of her own art practice and conclude with an open-ended maker space. Participants will

have an opportunity to work with materials, including wick, to measure and reflect.

CBI's only cost will be security, because Brown's presentation is fully funded by Humanities Washington, which has been receiving half its annual budget from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a federal agency. (The other 50 percent has come from corporations, foundations, individuals, and the state.)

Humanities Washington's federal funding is now threatened.

On April 2, letters from the Acting Chairman of the NEH immediately cancelled or rescinded hundreds of NEH grant contracts nationwide, including those of Humanities Washington and other Washington-based cultural organizations. Humanities Washington estimates that upwards of \$10 million in cultural funding in Washington alone is at stake, including for libraries, museums, and schools.

The NEH letter to Humanities Washington said, "Your grant no longer effectuates the agency's needs and priorities," and that "NEH is repurposing its funding allocations in a new direction in furtherance of the President's agenda."

CBI has been reassured that Humanities Washington is able to continue supporting scheduled events like ours, despite the uncertainty about future programming.

Humanities Washington has asked for assistance in spreading the word that "cuts to NEH mean people will lose services, people will lose jobs and, perhaps even more importantly, people will lose access to educational programs that enable them to think freely and creatively as well as access to cultural enrichment opportunities in even the smallest communities."

The "Measuring Mourning" program at CBI will embody the vision of Humanities Washington: "We envision a state where all people seek a deeper understanding of others, themselves, and the human experience, in order to discern and promote the common good." CBI is proud to be both a beneficiary of and a participant in this endeavor.



Men Growing Older, Wiser, and Giving Back

CBI is pleased to welcome a monthly gathering of discussion and camaraderie for middle-aged and older men in the community.

Join other men in a safe, open, and supportive space where participants can talk openly about themselves in relation to various topics. Jerome Rosen will facilitate the group by maintaining focus and bringing themes to talk about each time. Some examples might be: How Judaism has shaped your identity, being a Jewish partner, giving back, intimacy, and quieting the mind in world of noise.

Jerome Rosen is a retired couples and family therapist with over 40 years of experience. He has facilitated a variety of groups, and men's groups are his favorite.

The next group will be on Wednesday, May 14 from 12 to 1:30 pm. We meet in the synagogue's library (bring a bag lunch). This is the first anniversary of our group!

Please contact Jerome Rosen: benjam4r@gmail.com 360-914-0524.

The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- **Janet and Efron Esseiva** – Sedro Woolley
- **Dr. Yehuda and Kathi Fox** – Bellingham
- **Greg and Susan Harris** – Friday Harbor
- **Laurel Peak** – Bellingham, sons: **Emmett** (7), **Grover** (5)
- **Jacob Rosenblum and Tamar Lieb** – Ferndale, children: **Yonit** (10), **Noam** (6)

Leslie and Rick Adelstein are thrilled to announce the birth of their grandson, **Taavi Reuben Adelstein**, born on 03/17/25. He is the son of Amy and Ari Adelstein and brother to 2 ½ year old sister, Selah.

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from page 1

land-based observance to something more in the spiritual realm.

Rabbinic tradition layered spiritual meaning onto this agricultural count. The Omer became a time of mourning, commemorating the death of Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students, who, according to the Talmud, died due to a lack of respect for one another. This tragic backdrop encourages self-reflection. It is also one reason why, traditionally, Jewish couples do not get married during the Omer.

Kabbalistic teachings took this even further. The mystics of the sixteenth century, especially those in the circle of Rabbi Isaac Luria in Tzfat, aligned each of the 49 days with a combination of two of the seven *sefirot* — divine

attributes such as *chesed* (loving-kindness), *bina* (understanding), and *tiferet* (beauty). Each day becomes an opportunity to work on a specific character trait, creating a ladder of spiritual growth that culminates on the day the Torah was given to us.

Many non-observant Jews are unaware of this ancient practice. If someone isn't regularly engaged with the synagogue, Jewish calendar, or traditional learning, the Omer can fly under the radar. Without context, it might seem like an arbitrary ritual — just "counting days" without a clear purpose. Additionally, since the original context of the Omer is deeply agricultural and Temple-based — two frameworks that are far removed from most of our lives today, counting this time doesn't naturally resonate with us in the way it may have with our ancestors.

Despite how archaic or irrelevant counting the Omer might feel to some, I would like to encourage you to try practicing this Jewish ritual this year. (By the time you get this, we'll already be nearly three weeks in.) In essence, the Omer is a journey from liberation to revelation. It is also not only about what happened in the past — it is about who we are becoming. And in a world that constantly pulls our attention outward, the quiet discipline of counting inward might be more relevant now than ever. May this Omer season be one of growth, reflection, and renewal for us all.

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Singing Together – An Interview with Samantha Sinai and Alex Jeffers

BY MINDA RAE AMIRAN

Samantha Sinai and Alex Jeffers met when they both joined the choir in their freshman year at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio.

Baldwin Wallace is known for its music programs, and Sam was double-majoring in cello performance and music therapy. Alex, who was majoring in radio broadcasting, was immediately attracted to Sam because he had been playing the guitar in rock ensembles and hoped for a role in music on the radio.

Meeting in the choir, the two have never parted, even though their lives have changed again and again. Sam came from a town near Detroit and had been studying cello since she was ten; Baldwin Wallace was a natural choice. Alex, who also played banjo, accordion, viola, and piano, came from Kent, Ohio, and most of his high school classmates went to the notorious Kent State University. Alex didn't want to attend such a large school, and he wanted to be away from home, but not too far away. Hence, Baldwin Wallace.

Once at Baldwin Wallace, however, Alex didn't find his broadcasting classes compelling. He had grown up backpacking in the Alleghenies and on the Appalachian Trail, and science attracted him. By the time he was fourteen, he was reading books on the environment and the outdoors. He forsook broadcasting and graduated in environmental sustainability instead. Sam had long thought about becoming a therapist, so music therapy seemed to combine both of her loves, and she took her degree in her two majors, as she had planned from the start.

Beyond earning the degree, music therapists must serve an internship, and Sam knew of a woman she wanted to study with who worked on Whidbey Island. Neither she nor Alex had ever lived in the West, but with hope and courage, they picked up and left their home area. Alex found a job with AmeriCorps training young people in job skills at The Commons Cafe while Sam completed her internship. But then what? The Island was beautiful, but there were no good jobs to be had, so at the end of their year's commitment Sam and Alex decided to travel home again, sightseeing on a route that took them through San Diego and the Southwest. Backpacking near San Diego, they had just reached the top of a mountain, when Alex, in this spectacular setting, proposed marriage.



Magnolia, Samantha, and Alex.

Back in Kent, the couple found jobs, and a year passed. But Sam missed making music and entered the graduate program in cello performance at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Alex got a job in environmental education there, yet he also wanted a graduate degree. For five or six years, the couple alternated working and studying, supporting one another through a Master of Music degree and two Master of Science degrees — in Urban and Regional Planning and Water Resources Management. During the last part of Sam's degree study, she created a music therapy program for a children's hospital in Madison. It was wonderful for her to see how music brought lethargic children back to animated life.

Alex and Sam both loved Madison. It was a small city full of art and music, good food and outdoor fun, and they made many friends. Sam says Alex is a person who lets things happen, going with the flow of life; he might have stayed in Madison. Alex says Sam is more driven by vision. She had felt immensely attached to nature on

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See the photo captions on the insert

My Hillel Journey – and My Invitation to You To Participate

BY DENA PETERSEN

In my father's religious faith, I was often in trouble in my daily catechism class for asking "Why?" The usual answer, "If you truly believe, you will not question." End of discussion.

In 1965, now age 16, I made my first Jewish friend and was a guest at my first Jewish service at a Girl Scout encampment in Idaho. The rabbi, in T-shirt, cutoffs and a kippah, spoke about how it was OK to dialogue with G-d, to question and even argue as holy acts reaching toward understanding and the divine. It was OK to ask "WHY?"

When I entered college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I called up Rabbi Maurice Pomerantz and said I wanted to convert. He put me in touch with the small (20-30 students) Hillel group on campus. While he was available for study, we mostly organized things for ourselves, having no staff and no dedicated Hillel space. I remember group-led Friday night services and candle-lighting, finding a way to get hold of matzoh for Passover, making latkes. I was always welcomed as an equal, my motives never questioned. I belonged.

Later I moved to finish my degree at Boston University. Though now working full-time to support finishing college, I once again joined Hillel. This time it was much larger and led by a Lubavitcher Hasidic rabbi. Every Friday evening about 200 of us would squeeze into what was a relatively small building on campus. Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox services were held in smaller rooms and then we joined as one in the largest room for final prayers and singing. I remember once again always

being welcomed, attending a Passover Seder with horseradish medallions so strong that you could not help but have tears pouring down your face. At a Purim celebration, I watched as Rabbi Pollack became a little "versnipsky" and danced with all of us, a handkerchief between his hand the hand of the woman next to him. For a class project, I interviewed him about so-called "victimless" crimes such as gambling and prostitution, and subjects like homosexuality, etc. They were touchy subjects in the 1970s but the discussion was not uncomfortable. As always with Rabbi Pollack, it was an open dialogue.

As for the years between 1973 and now, I have participated in Jewish life wherever I have lived. My proudest memory is using my years of study and experiences with Hillel to lead Friday night services at every Girl Scout camp where I served on the staff. I led campers in singing *L'Cha Dodi* and *Shalom Aleichem*. I taught them that G-d wants them to be themselves using the teachings of Martin Buber. I made sure we ended every service dancing *Hava Nagila* or *Mayim* in the camp field. I helped make Judaism joyous to them. Attendance usually doubled by the second Friday as they brought their new friends, Jewish and non-Jewish. I shared with them the gift that Judaism has been to me.

In 2019, my spouse, Ann, and I received a brochure from Hillel of WWU. They needed a funder for a part-time Program Manager costing \$1,500 for the year. Ann and I stepped up. I was asked to join the Community Board, but declined as I was dealing with serious health issues.

Then, in May, 2024, at a donor recognition event, I met the vibrant students of Hillel of WWU for the first time. I was asked to join the Board and this time, though the health issues remain, I felt I was stable enough to say "yes."

Hillel was a formative part of my life when I was on the cusp of adulthood. I am honored to support the important role Hillel of WWU plays for today's Jewish students during troubling times. If you have knowledge and/or skills you can lend as a committee or Community Board member, please reach out. If you are able to provide financial support, small, large or sustainable, please reach out. Even more importantly, if you should meet one of WWU's young Hillel students, embrace them with listening and conversation; invite them to share Shabbat dinner with you and your family. Those students are our future.

Alfei Todot / Many Thanks

Joan Wayne

Since she and Marv joined Beth Israel in 1974, Joan has volunteered on at least five committees (some for 20+ years), coordinated *onegs*, taught Sunday school, supplied the kitchen, and served on the Board in various offices. She has been one of the volunteer anchors that has made our community so strong over the years. "Thank you, Joan" hardly seems adequate!

Nora Mazonson and Holly Redell-Witte, co-editors of the *Shul Shofar* send their gratitude to everyone who contributes to the *Shul Shofar*.

Birthdays

MAY 2025

5/01 Emily Falk
 5/01 Andrew King
 5/02 Sophie Fay (13th)
 5/02 Noam Rosenlieb (7th)
 5/02 Richard Trank
 5/03 Leonard (Lenny) Halpern (18th)
 5/03 Louis Hunter
 5/03 Avigail Ravitsky (11th)
 5/04 Roberta Jaffe
 5/04 Sydney Wolfson (19th)
 5/05 Richard Adelstein
 5/05 Michael Braunstein
 5/05 Alex Ellis
 5/05 Maya Hillel (3rd)
 5/05 Oleg Ravitsky
 5/05 Felix Leo Schlitt Zarrow (2nd)
 5/05 Russell Sheinkopf
 5/05 Seth Weinreb Benedict (5th)
 5/06 Gary Adelstein
 5/06 Evangeline Ester Cambo (2nd)
 5/07 Avram Eisner
 5/07 Steven Foss
 5/07 Paul Richmond
 5/08 Bonnie Cavell
 5/08 Greg Schwartz
 5/08 Corey Welch
 5/10 Andy Kaplowitz
 5/10 Nathan Kronenberg (8th)
 5/11 AJ Ingberman
 5/12 Warren Cornwall
 5/13 Joseph Anderson
 5/13 Tim Baker
 5/13 David Cohn
 5/13 Adam Greenberg
 5/14 Laura Wall
 5/15 Anne-Marie Misko-Kennedy
 5/16 Lyla Simmie Attar (8th)
 5/16 Natalie Hava Ravitsky (17th)
 5/16 Ruth San Pietro
 5/17 Lindsey Genut
 5/17 Suzanne Fischel Kite

5/18 Kendra Bradford
 5/18 Adelle John
 5/19 Howard Fuller
 5/19 Kathy Grossman
 5/20 Helen Franklin
 5/20 John Siegfried
 5/20 Emily Weiner
 5/21 Meredith Attar
 5/21 Cindy Friedman
 5/21 Ann Suloway
 5/22 Danny Finkelstein
 5/22 Shana Mayerson-Lloyd
 5/23 Isaac Blum
 5/23 Alexis Gentry
 5/23 Serge Lindner
 5/23 Ezra Carter Price (20th)
 5/23 Holly Witte
 5/24 Harriet Fine
 5/24 Jeffrey Holtzman
 5/24 Stephen Martin
 5/24 Becki Van Glubt
 5/25 Alan Barney
 5/25 Rena Blauner
 5/25 Ellen Blick (14th)
 5/26 Stephen Spigelman
 5/26 Cassandra Wolfson
 5/27 Fay Farkas
 5/29 Aline Wanne
 5/30 Theodore (Teddy) Ingberman (22nd)
 5/31 Todd Witte

6/08 Chris Balton
 6/08 Cherryne Kravitz
 6/08 Janet Seltzer
 6/10 Oren Prosper Benhaim (3rd)
 6/10 Jason Goldberg
 6/10 James Prickett
 6/11 Diane Garmo
 6/11 Marcy Probst
 6/11 Natalie Schram
 6/11 Aiden Shupack (13th)
 6/11 Adin Sokol
 6/12 Ansel Hecht
 6/12 Henry Zemel
 6/13 Leslie Shankman
 6/14 Willa Wren Levinson (11th)
 6/15 Diane Leigh
 6/16 Stuart Zemel
 6/17 Valerie Randolph
 6/17 Todd Shuster
 6/19 Dana Goodwin
 6/19 Rena Ziegler
 6/21 Sheila Sondik
 6/21 Samantha Terriss
 6/21 Inka Von Sternenfels
 6/22 Milo Levinson
 6/24 Ellie Adelfang
 6/24 Jill Elkayam
 6/25 Mike Brennan
 6/25 Abigail Falk (6th)
 6/25 Susan Gause
 6/25 Julia Schwartz (23rd)
 6/25 Tracy Diller
 6/26 Todd Ellis
 6/26 Clairra Garretson (13th)
 6/26 Jane Hammerstrom
 6/26 Jeremiah (Remy) Witte (18th)
 6/26 Nathaniel (Nate) Witte (18th)
 6/27 Sid Wanne
 6/29 Nicole Samuels
 6/30 Vivian Ellis (14th)

JUNE 2025

6/01 Lyra Olivia Curme (3rd)
 6/01 Steve Spitzer
 6/03 Hans-Rudolf Guenter-Schlesinger
 6/04 Belle Shalom
 6/05 Samuel Comstock (15th)
 6/05 Lorena Filgueira
 6/05 Paxton Gentry (11th)
 6/05 Brian Gentry
 6/06 Kelsey Thomas

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Upcoming Events at CBI

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

June 1, 2025, 8:00 pm

Shavuot is one of the original three major festivals in the Jewish tradition. It celebrates the giving of the Torah on Sinai. In honor of this gift, it's customary to spend part of the holiday studying from our sacred texts. Developed by the sixteenth-century mystics in Tzfat, a Tikkun Leil Shavuot is an all-night study session. At Beth Israel, however, we'll start at 8:00 pm.

If you are interested in leading a 10-minute Jewish teaching, please contact Rabbi Samuels.

Some previous topics include: Jewish humor in the Talmud; How LGBTQ+ Jews have reinvented Jewish rituals; Stories and Symbols; The Book of Ruth through the eyes of Yiddish poets; Judaism and the Environment; Seinfeld; Jewish paper cutting; the Kaddish; and so much more.

Confirmation Shabbat Service

Friday, June 6, 2025, 6:15 pm

Every year we honor those students in our community who "graduate" from Keshet in a Confirmation service. These outgoing second-year students have been studying social justice issues through a Jewish lens for the past two years. Some have even traveled to Washington, D.C. with Rabbi Samuels and lobbied their elected officials on specific issues that resonated deeply with them. Please consider joining us to hear from our students: Orion Dixon, Elijah Wolfson, Aniel Wells-Langley, and Evan Konikoff. Mazel tov to each of them.

Israel Speaker Series:

Sam Sokol

Sunday, June 22, 2025, 11:00 am

See page 1 for more info.

Rabbi Joshua Weinberg

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 7:00 pm

Zoom details to follow in the *Timbrel*



Rabbi Joshua Weinberg will speak with our community about the causes and outcomes of the judicial overhaul saga and how it relates to Reform and Progressive Judaism in Israel.

Rabbi Josh Weinberg serves as the Vice President of the URJ for Israel and Reform

Zionism and is the Executive Director of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He was ordained from the HUC-JIR Israeli Rabbinic Program in Jerusalem, and is currently living in New York. Josh previously served as the Director of the Israel program for the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and as a faculty member of NFTY-EIE High School in Israel teaching Jewish History. Josh is a reserve officer in the IDF spokesperson's unit, has hiked the Israel Trail, and came on Aliyah to Israel in 2003.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from page 2

from plastic and paper plates, cups and cutlery replacing it with our own dishes and utensils. These can all be washed in our super-efficient dishwasher.

- We aim to recycle anything possible — recycle bins in the social hall clearly label what goes where, and we separate compostables from garbage in the kitchen by using two separate bins.
- Members' intentions are honorable when they choose to leave behind a half-used bottle of juice or half a stick of butter, but please do not leave open food leftovers in the fridge, freezer, or kitchen! Someone else will just have to toss it.
- CBI maintains a firm kosher-style vegetarian/pescatarian policy. That means no meat or meat products, including chicken broth in soups or stews.

No shellfish, pork products or meat in any form are permitted. If in doubt, please check with the *Oneg* Committee.

When you next host an *oneg*, you will receive instructions about a cart system in use to transport back and forth to the social hall as well as signage to help guide the flow and adhere to the above-mentioned aims.

We are excited for the kitchen, its use policies, and traffic flow to be taking hold. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please let me know.

Also, if this article inspires you to step up and give some time and energy to CBI whether ongoing or for a particular task, let me know. I would love to spread the good feeling I receive by virtue of helping our community Jewish home.

JODI LITT
PRESIDENT

May/June 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, May 2	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service Teacher Appreciation Service	Friday, Jun. 6	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service led by Confirmation Class
Saturday, May 3	11:00 am Renewal Service	Saturday, Jun. 7	11:00 am Renewal Service
Friday, May 9	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Friday, Jun. 13	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 10	8:30 am-8:30 pm Women's Retreat	Saturday, Jun. 14	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashut Behalotecha</i>)
Friday, May 16	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service		10:30 am Saturday Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 17	11:00 am Tot Shabbat	Friday, Jun. 20	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Friday, May 23	7:30 pm Shabbat Shira	Saturday, Jun. 21	10:00 am Jade Terris Bat Mitzvah
Saturday, May 24	10:00 am Micah Parker Bar Mitzvah	Friday, Jun. 27	7:30 pm Shabbat Shira
Friday, May 30	7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Saturday, Jun. 28	10:00 am Ezra Shupack Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, May 31	10:00 am Elizabeth Witte Bat Mitzvah		

FACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Continued from page 8

Whidbey Island and dreamed of coming back — in actual, repeated dreams. So their lives took yet another turn.

Gathering information about our area, they lit on Bellingham as the best place to try to settle. Alex had become interested in land trusts in graduate school. When he saw a job opening at the Whatcom Land Trust, he applied and was hired. Starting as an inspector of Trust properties — a job that acquainted him with the entire County — he now manages all acquisitions for the Trust in Whatcom County.

Sam had to start cold, trying to find students and work where she knew nobody. She thought about practicing music therapy, but the Covid epidemic was just beginning. So she looked to meet musicians, talked with people at Quist Violins, and posted notices in the Food Co-op and the Bellingham Library. Soon she had students. Then a cellist who was to play the Kol Nidre for Yom Kippur services at CBI had a previous commitment and recommended that Sam take his place. Actually, Sam had a webpage with a video of herself playing the Kol Nidre as part of her Master of Music graduation concert; Andrea Shupack

found it and sent it to Rabbi Samuels, so they knew what a gift they had in hand. Now Sam is principal cellist of the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra, helps run the Bellingham House Concerts, and plays in concerts of the Bellingham Chamber Music Society. She also continues to teach private students.

As their lives seemed to be settling at last, Sam and Alex felt they were ready to welcome a child. Magnolia is now almost two years old. She was given her name in a Shabbat ceremony at CBI. Sam is Jewish, but Alex was raised as a Catholic, and Sam wasn't sure that CBI would welcome them. When Miriam Schwartz told her, "We love interfaith couples!" she was relieved and happy. Alex says, "It feels good as a family to be part of a spiritual community."

Magnolia might say the same. Recently she surprised her parents by reciting the start of the Sabbath prayer over the wine. With music a constant in her home, Magnolia also attends dress rehearsals of the Bellingham Symphony, and calls her doll her student. Remarkably, she has begun to sing along with her parents when they sing songs to her.

Singing together: It's a family expression of love.

Special Fund Donations

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

The birth of our newest grandchild, Taavi Reuben Adelstein.

From: *Leslie and Rick Adelstein*

CARE COMMITTEE

IN HONOR OF:

Liam Bolton. In gratitude for the Purim treats.

From: *Lisa and Chris Balton*

ENDOWMENT FUND

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

Bruce and Becki Van Glubt

Paul Blum and Allison Zak

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

With heartfelt gratitude, we want to thank Rabbi Samuels and Leah Bordman, as well as Andrea Shupack, Miriam Buckman, and Nicole Samuels, whose dedication, wisdom, and kindness guided Betsy Becker on her journey to becoming a Bat Mitzvah. We are forever grateful for the roles each played in this milestone.

From: *The Becker Family*

IN HONOR OF:

Melissa Schapiro and Sarah Cobb and others whose names I've forgotten who welcomed me to shul on 8 Adar. I'll be back!

From: *David Hoffman*

GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

Steven and Vicky Garfinkle

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Betsy Becker's Bat Mitzvah

From: *Joan and Marv Wayne*

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Andrea Shupack for bringing wonderful music to the CBI community

From: *Idalina Trank*

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Alan Roohvarg

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

My dear uncle, Abraham Judah.

From: *Victoria and Gabriel Mayers*

IN HONOR OF

The Yahrzeits of my beloved brothers, Martin and Manly Spigelman.

From: *Stepen Spigelman*

SECURITY

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Arundell Pritchett and Art Flores

"My Jewish Journey" Anthology

Beit Café — storytelling by Beth Israel congregants has been happening for ten years. The last two years, we proposed a theme of My Jewish Journey, which proved to be fruitful, educating, and entertaining. So many wonderful stories emerged, and the evening brought people together in a special way.

The idea of publishing an anthology of our stories surfaced after the last Beit Café. We are inviting everyone in the congregation to participate by sending us a story to include in the anthology we are calling MY JEWISH JOURNEY, a theme that can have many interpretations. Be broad in your imagination, of course, and send us what feels right to you. While family histories have an important role to play, we are looking for more personal to you interpretations than simply charting factual history.

We want to include everyone: we are thinking of a youth section, so encourage your teenagers to write a story. Younger children might have a story to tell or a picture to offer. We can include those in our children's chapter.

We are also hoping that the artists in our congregation will join by illustrating the stories once we have the roster.

Aim for between 600 and 1500 words, or 3-12 pages, double spaced. Please give your story a title.

We want to include every story. We might lend an editing hand to whatever you send us and will work collaboratively with you.

We know this will take time to assemble — we are thinking it might take as long as a year to the finished product. The deadline to send us your story is October 1.

Please include your name and story title in the subject line of an email and send stories to:

Holly.witte@bethisraelbellingham.org

Nora.mazonson@bethisraelbellingham.org

anthology@bethisraelbellingham.org

Let us know your thoughts!

Write on!

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, May 2

Etta Fine	5/03
ErmaFlora Haughawout Boothby	5/03
Elayne B. Weiner	5/4
Sharon Gordon Greer	5/4
Mary Widerkehr	5/4
Jeanne Schwartz	5/5
Esther Siegel	5/7
Judith Teir Kasser	5/7
Felicia Keller	5/8
Sergio Shwadsky	5/8
Raymond Marzullo	5/9
Lloyd Saxton	5/9
Benjamin Ostry	5/9
Lucie Weis	5/9

Friday, May 9

Lois M. Welch	5/10
Barbara Vaughan	5/10
Sally Warshay	5/11
Marilyn Robinson Beegle	5/11
Nancy Kaufman	5/11
Louis Adelstein	5/12
Fred Spector	5/12
Evelyn Roberts	5/12
Goldie Kassen	5/13
Alan Raas	5/13
Saul S. Spiro	5/13
Frances (Faigie) Morrill Schlitt	5/13
Sydell Zemel	5/15
Alan Stone	5/15

Friday, May 16

Florence Marcus	5/17
Margaret Horwitz	5/17
Louis Suloway	5/17
Emanuel Jacobson	5/19
Esther Kahn	5/19
Irwin Suloway	5/20
Maia Haykin	5/20
Lloyd Relin	5/21
Rachel DeVries	5/21
Sam Eilenberg	5/23
Arnold Zolotrow	5/23

Friday, May 23

Rose Thal	5/24
Rose Block	5/25
Audrey May King	5/25
David Robinson	5/26
Nan Lopresti	5/26
Irene Rosenfeld	5/26
William Stone	5/26
Walter Miller	5/29
Harold Boehi	5/30
Dottie Berelson	5/30

Friday, May 30

Noemi Ban	5/31
Ethel Sandford	5/31
Pam Wendt	5/31
Esther Friedman	6/01
Louise Hecht	6/02
Henry W. Fenbert	6/03
Annette Curtis	6/03
Otto Furth	6/03
Reva Beck	6/04
Belle Kaplan Shapiro	6/05
Samuel Beck	6/05
Dorothy Katz	6/06
Monroe Abrams	6/06
David Archie Bauman	6/06

Friday, June 6

Abraham Feingold	6/07
Rosalind Kantor	6/08
Marc Lieb	6/08
Laurence Sharfstein	6/08
Audrey Jaffe	6/09
Howard Terriss	6/09
Nathan Kronenberg	6/10
Marion Selznick	6/10
Rose Beck	6/10
David Ohms	6/12
William Robinson	6/12
Frances Glazer Garmo	6/12
Miriam Shepard	6/12
Marcia M. Morris Yust	6/12

Friday, June 13

Jack Glazer	6/14
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Edward R. Glazer	6/15
Stanley Schlanger	6/15
Harold Rosenberg	6/15
Rose Rebecca Glazer	6/16
Vincent Romito	6/16
Stanley Friedman	6/16
Bill Lewis	6/17
Gloria Abrams	6/19
Marcella Schapiro	6/19
Sadie Rosen	6/19
Bebe Bala Bender Wolff	6/20

Friday, June 20

Perry Davids	6/21
Garry Fleming	6/21
Irving Edward Shapiro	6/21
Paul Zemel	6/22
Edith Corman	6/22
Howard Kennedy	6/22
Mark Raymond Witter	6/23
Elaine Meadows	6/24
Rasela Catz	6/24
Arthur Thal	6/25
Ann Dechter	6/25
Sol Harris Lewis	6/25
Libby Witte	6/25
Lawrence Witte	6/25
Harold "Bud" Blank	6/26

Friday, June 27

Joanne Cohen	6/28
Ida Ostry	6/28
Benjamin Heller	6/30
Chase Jimmy	7/01
Elaine Lev Beller	7/01
Alice Lebanksy	7/01
Nathan Lassman	7/02
Faye Goldberg-Miller	7/02
Beatrice (Bea) Moss	7/02
Morris R. Hecht	7/03
Irving Nemens	7/03
Doris Zemel	7/03
Calvin Lyle Moyer	7/03
Cora Quiggle	7/03
William Beck	7/04

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Unsolved Jewish Mysteries with Jason Harris, host of the *Jew Oughta Know* podcast

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 7:00 pm

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Israeli life.*



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