



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

JULY/AUGUST 2025 TAMMUZ/AV/ELUL 5785

THE SHUL SHOFAR

VOL. 29, NO. 6 * Congregation Beth Israel * Bellingham, WA 98229 * bethisraelbellingham.org * (360) 733-8890

The Day Is Short and the Work Is Plentiful: Restarting CBI's Social Action Committee

BY DAVID SCHLITT

CBI is re-launching its Social Action Committee!

Grounded in Jewish values and shaped by YOU!



Let's show up for our neighbors, care for
our community, and work for justice.

Interested? Questions? Contact David Schlitt
(david.schlitt@bethisraelbellingham.org) and Alisa Sachs
(alisa.sachs@bethisraelbellingham.org)

On Sunday evening, June 8, a group of Beth Israel members gathered on Zoom to kick off the process of reviving CBI's Social Action Committee. David Schlitt and Alisa Sachs facilitated the meeting and were assisted in planning and outreach by former committee chair Linda Blackwell. Attendees were asked to briefly share what brought them to the meeting and, for many, the answer was that social justice and repairing the world — *tikkun olam* — were central to their practice of Judaism. People described feeling hungry to find opportunities for activism within a Jewish context during a challenging time. After

Continued on page 12

FROM THE RABBI

Torah *Lishma*



Just a few weeks ago, I had the great pleasure of emceeding our annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot — a joyful evening of Torah

learning and community connection. The tradition of staying up late (or all night!) to study Torah on Shavuot originates in the *Zohar*, the central text of Jewish mysticism. There, it describes how, generations ago, Jews would spend the night before Shavuot immersed in sacred study, spiritually preparing themselves to receive Torah anew — just as our ancestors did at Sinai. On Shavuot, we don't simply remember the giving of Torah, we re-experience it. We open our hearts to revelation and renew our commitment to learning.

This year, nine congregants each offered a ten-minute teaching on a Jewish topic that spoke to them. I shared about the fascinating world of American Jewish gangsters in the early twentieth century. Professor Sarah Zarrow explored surprising connections between Jews and kefir.

Cantor Sharona Feller delighted us with lesser-known Shavuot customs and foods. Cherryne Kravitz

Continued on page 6

INSIDE:



- **Faces in Our Community:** Dana and Luke Goodwin, page 8

- **Three Things CBI's Programming Committee Wants You To Know**, page 10

From the President...

Message from Our New President of the Board — Erin Cohen



I'm honored and excited to begin my role as President of Congregation Beth Israel.

My husband Steve and I moved here

from Raleigh, North Carolina in November 2021. We have two grown children — our son, Michael, lives in Seattle, and our daughter, Rachel, is in Denver. And then there's our sweet Golden Retriever, Bailey Belle, who keeps us on our toes and always makes us smile.

Some of my favorite things include walking with Bailey Belle, reading a good book, and playing mahjong with friends on Thursday nights at CBI. I'm also a Travel Advisor, and I truly love helping people plan meaningful vacations—whether it's with family, friends, or a solo adventure.

When we first moved, finding a synagogue community was one of our top priorities. We didn't know many people, but the first time I walked through the doors of CBI, toured the building, and met Rabbi Samuels, I knew we had found something special. The warmth and kindness I felt made me feel instantly at home.

Since then, I've been grateful to serve on the Membership, Program-

ming, and Governance Committees, and I've had the privilege of being on the Board since 2022, including the past two years as Vice President.

That welcoming feeling I experienced is exactly what I want others to feel, whether you've been here for years or you're visiting for the first time. My hope is that CBI feels like your Jewish home—a place to celebrate simchas, holidays, and life's meaningful moments, and a place to connect, learn, and grow together.

There are so many ways to get involved, from our walking group, knitting group, book club, men's group, and weekly mahjong games, to programs that have included musical performances, author talks, wine tastings, movie nights, guest speakers, and our visual arts series.

There's truly something for everyone.

I'd love to hear from you — whether you want to talk about CBI, share an idea, or simply grab a cup of coffee and connect. You can always reach me at erin.cohen@bethisraelbellingham.org. I'm really looking forward to getting to know you and continuing to build a strong, welcoming community together.

Warmly,
ERIN

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard
Bellingham, WA 98229

The Shul Shofar
Volume 29, Number 6
July/August 2025
Tammuz/Av/Elul 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 September/October issue is AUGUST 11. Call the office for more information.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Rabbi: **Joshua Samuels**
Keshet Codirectors: **Leah Bordman**
Victoria Mayers

Office Manager/
Bookkeeper: **Sarah Cobb**

Executive Board

President: **Erin Cohen**
Vice President: **Jane Relin**
Secretary: **Tamar Clarke**
Treasurer: **Karen Sloss**

Board Members

Steve Ban **Kevin Donner**
Jason Benhaim **James Finley**
Stuart Berman **Serge Lindner**
Isaac Blum **Terry Weiner**
Miriam Davids

Youth Rep: **Lucy Naiman**

Shofar Coeditors: **Nora Mazonson**
and Holly Redell-Witte

You can reach us at:
phone: (360) 733-8890
office@bethisraelbellingham.org

Visit our website at
bethisraelbellingham.org

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

May 18 was Mitzvah Day at Keshet, and it was a huge success. All our students took part in different projects designed to make the world a better place. Gan-K-first prepared homemade cookies and decorated gift bags, while some of our seventh graders wrote lovely greeting cards for our Care Committee recipients. Twelve bags were personally delivered by Keshet families and staff to their homes. Our elders expressed sincere appreciation and responded by thanking the kids for their efforts.

Meanwhile, the second/third and sixth graders decorated stones that are intended to beautify CBI's campus gardens. Our fourth graders worked directly with volunteer Miriam Schwartz. She demonstrated techniques for cleaning flower beds and monitored the weeding around the parking lot. Then our fifth graders took it upon themselves to find appropriate reading materials for younger readers, and they replaced the books from the shelves in the social hall library. After finishing that task, they promptly assembled 20 hygiene baggies for the Northwest Youth Services. Finally, our seventh graders assembled 20 additional hygiene bags for our homeless community. Keshet families took those bags to pass out when they came across a person in need. The kids all took their assignments seriously, and the day was a real success. See photos on page 9.

Our Keshet leadership team has determined that the volunteer reading program has been successful, and we will continue the program next year. If you think you might like to read preselected books to our Keshet students, watch for our SignUpGenius with availability and dates. This is a highlight for students and teachers who depend on community volunteers to fill in for their regular library times.

Keshet's admin team is already starting to plan for next year's teacher orientation and staff development

days. Part of our training will include a presentation by Safety and Security Committee leaders Dan Ohms and Tammy Dixon. They will discuss the new security action plan pamphlets that will soon be placed in every room at CBI. Plus, we will offer another CPR training class for Keshet staff and any CBI members needing their First Aid cards updated. If you know you will be needing a renewed First Aid card or CPR card, consider joining our CBI class. More updates will be available later.

Finally, it has become apparent that Keshet needs more parent support. Recruiting families to become more engaged will be a major priority next year. We will be requiring parents to select various volunteering opportunities from a checklist on the Keshet registration webpage. In addition, Keshet will be reinstalling the classroom lead parent system. Each grade will now have a lead parent who oversees making sure families are prepared for hosting their annual Family Shabbat *oneg*. Parent-class leaders will work in collaboration with the co-directors to assure that each Keshet-led Family Service has adequate support providing pescatarian-friendly potluck items for the *oneg*, setting up tables, clearing up after the meal, and cleaning the CBI kitchen. Interested parents will be able to notify the Keshet admin team on the online Keshet registration form. **Classroom parents and parent volunteers are a critical component to the operations of our Jewish educational program. We need your help to make our school not only successful but to guarantee that we operate at our fullest potential. Thank you for your support and response to this call for action.**

Please reach out to
Victoria.Mayers@bethisraelbellingham.org

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

Love Where You Live



Melissa Schapiro,
Realtor with



MELISSA.SCHAPIRO@EXPREALTY.COM
360.738.7182 MELISSASCHAPIRO.COM
2219 Rimland Dr., Suite 301 Bellingham WA 98226

Bat Mitzvah



Esther Rose Horton will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on July 5, 2025. She is the daughter of Ian Horton and Leah Kiviat and the sister of Chiara Horton. Esther is currently living with her family in Nelson, New Zealand. She is a nurturer by nature, and if she had her way, many of the creatures that have popped up around her New Zealand home including hedge-

hogs, mice, and possums — would now be her pets. For the time being, she has had to settle for fundraising for the local animal shelter by selling baked goods to her neighbors. She misses her Bellingham community, but is thriving down under: she started at Nelson Girls College this

year in Year 9 (eighth-grade-equivalent) where she is playing with the field hockey team and taking drum lessons. She is a diligent student, a proficient chef, and a staunch advocate for her own rights in a house of strong voices. Esther is thrilled to be returning to CBI this July to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with family and friends.

With great joy we invite you to celebrate Esther and this simcha!

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
Friday, July 4, 2025 at 6:15 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, July 5, 2025 at 10:00 am

If planning to attend Saturday service and Kiddush lunch, please RSVP: kiviatleah@gmail.com No gifts are necessary

Bat Mitzvah



Elly Tilland-Stafford will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Thursday, July 24 at 10 am, 2025. Elly is the daughter of Anika and Colleen Tilland-Stafford. She is a proud advocate for LGBT+ justice. Elly loves all animals and spending time with her dogs. She is a talented ceramics artist and excited to continue to keep pottery a vital part of her life.

As a skilled builder, Elly has put together her family's chicken coop and greenhouse.

We are proud of Elly's compassion and how she works to make sure her communities celebrate and include everyone.

The Tilland-Stafford family invites you to join us in this simcha:

Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 10:00 am
Whatcom Falls Park, Picnic Shelter
1700 Silver Beach Road

*This is a neurodivergent friendly family event!
We will have tables with clay, kinetic sand, board games, and Legos for everyone.*

Bat Mitzvah



Shoshana Jade Samuels will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on August 23, 2025. She is the daughter of Rabbi Joshua and Nicole Samuels and the younger sister of Eytan. Shoshana will be entering eighth grade at Fairhaven Middle School. For the last couple of years she has been assisting the rabbi with Tot Shabbat and has greatly enjoyed getting

to know the youngest members of our community. When she is not at CBI, you can usually find Shoshana hanging out with her friends and family or cuddling her dog Chloe. Shoshana also enjoys playing music on her piano and has

taken up cello and harp as well. During the summer months Shoshana enjoys swimming in the pool or lake and spending time at Camp Kalsman.

The Samuels family would love for you to join them in this simcha!

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE
Friday, August 22 at 7:30 pm

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE
Saturday, August 23 at 10:00 am

If you are planning to attend the Saturday morning service and kiddush lunch please RSVP to the Samuels family at samuelsbmitzvah@gmail.com

Congratulations to Our 2025 Graduates!

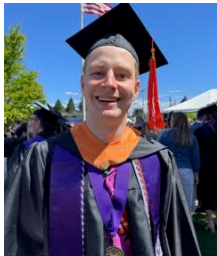


We are proud to announce that **Josie Ellis**, daughter of Mia and Todd Ellis, granddaughter of Emil and Tannia Hecht, and sister of Vivian and Audrey Ellis, is graduating from Sehome High School. She will be attending Chapman University in Orange, CA in the fall, majoring

in Liberal Studies/Elementary Education.

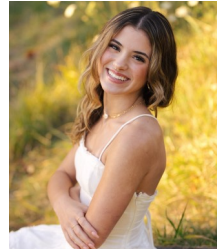


Talia Clarke graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman with a degree in Computer Science, a certificate in International Engineering, and a minor in Business. Her family is bursting with pride and excited to see what she does next!



Adin Sokol graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Portland Honors Program with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is currently pursuing lab experience with the goal of obtaining a graduate degree in biomedical engineering, with a focus

on medical therapeutics research and development.



Nali Lippman is graduating with honors from both Bellingham High School and Whatcom Community College — and she's off to New York City this fall! Nali will be starting her next adventure at Parsons School of Design, where she'll be studying Strategic Design and Management.

We're so proud of her and excited to see where her creativity, courage, and heart take her next.

Nali and her family want to give a big thank you to the CBI community, and to all the friends, teachers, and mentors who've cheered her on along the way. She's the daughter of Leah Lippman and Dieter Brandyberry, and the granddaughter of Marcia and Lou Lippman.

Alfei Todot / Many Thanks

BY BINNIE PERPER

Sylvia Williams initially demonstrated her sense of community, commitment and mutual support by serving on CBI's Board. She then joined, and still serves on, the Care Committee and was also its chair for a time. Lately she joined the Gardening Committee, donating supplies as well as her labor. She has also cheerfully helped for special events such as Bar Mitzvahs and the High Holy Days. Thanks so much, Sylvia, for strengthening our community!



ISRAEL'S NATURE NEEDS YOU NOW



www.natureisrael.org

© Yoav Perlman

“My Jewish Journey” Anthology

Storytelling by Beth Israel congregants has been happening for ten years at the annual Beit Café — successfully, we might add! 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 Cafe. 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.

We have begun to get submissions and hope for many more.

Be broad in your imagination and interpretation of the theme. While family histories have an important role to play, we are looking for more personal to you interpretations than simply charting factual history.

Since we want to include everyone, we are thinking of a youth section, so encourage your teenagers to write a

story — how becoming a B'nei Mitzvah made them think about being Jewish, for instance. Younger children might also have a story to tell or a picture to offer — maybe something they have talked about at Keshet. 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 — 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

Let us know your thoughts!

Write on!

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from page 1

led a grounding and beautiful guided Jewish meditation. Andrea Shupack sang original songs inspired by women in the Bible. Litav Langley reflected on sacred Jewish relationships.

Stu Berman — as always — shared a story that was both touching and humorous. Daniel Picus unpacked the deep meaning behind the Hebrew word for “soul.” And Miriam Buckman offered a thoughtful teaching on the concept of peace.

It was a tremendously enriching evening — learning *lishma*, for its own sake.

At one point during the evening, I paused and thought how lucky we are to have this. Our community, and the Jewish people more broadly, cherish learning — not as a burden, but as a joy and a spiritual calling.

The centrality of learning in Jewish life dates all the way back to the Torah. The Shema commands us: “*Veshinantam levanecha*” — “You shall teach these words to your children” (Deuteronomy 6:7). The Torah isn't just a sacred book — it's a sacred process: a living,

breathing tradition of study, questioning, arguing, and reinterpreting.

In Judaism, learning is itself a form of divine service. The Talmud even teaches *Talmud Torah k'neged kulam* — “The study of Torah is equal to all other *mitzvot*” (*Mishnah Peah* 1:1). That's a bold statement. It reminds us that learning isn't just a means to something holy — learning *is* the holy thing.

As we enter the summer months and think about how to spend our time, I encourage you to include some Jewish learning. Explore a book about our sacred texts. Browse Sefaria.org and dive into one of their many text studies. Meet a friend for coffee and discuss a Jewish thinker like Heschel, Buber, or Hartman. Or pick a moment in Jewish history to explore and share what you learn with someone else.

Be consistent. Be curious. And most of all, enjoy the journey.

If you'd like suggestions for texts, books, or topics, I'd love to help.

Wishing you a summer full of discovery and delight,

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

Pride Parade – Proud Support

For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Isaiah 56:7)

Join your Beth Israel family in marching to support the LGBTQ community at Bellingham's Pride Parade on Sunday, July 13. As is our custom, CBI will be marching as a community in solidarity behind a banner at the Pride parade. Let's show the greater Bellingham LGBTQ community that they have an ally in Congregation Beth Israel.

The parade starts at Cornwall Ave. & Maple St. and it will go through the middle of Downtown Bellingham ending at the Festival in Depot Market Square. A meeting place will be communicated via the *Timbrel* as we get closer to the day.

CBI will be marching behind the Sheriff's Department for added security.

Details about the Bellingham Pride's weekend events can be found on their website (prideinbellingham.org/2025-events).



Anniversaries

Jul 01	Dashka and Jacob Garretson	#18	Aug 11	Deborah Oksenberg and Serge Lindner	#23
Jul 02	Orly and Oleg Ravitsky	#19	Aug 12	Kathleen and Larry Bell	#46
Jul 03	Robin and Bert Curtis	#54	Aug 13	Tamar and Shawn Clarke	#25
Jul 03	Andrea and Josh Shupack	#20	Aug 14	Kevin Donner and Angie Lee	#21
Jul 06	Rebecca and Tom Oliver	#28	Aug 15	Isaac and Wendy Blum	#27
Jul 07	Meredith and Yaniv Attar	#18	Aug 15	Henry Curme and Karen Bailor	#10
Jul 07	Gayle and Matt Kinney	#18	Aug 15	Ray Wolpow and Diane Leigh	#24
Jul 09	Mark B. and Helen Packer	#30	Aug 16	Mark and Teresa Sommers	#23
Jul 09	Gregg Orlik and Howard Fuller	#17	Aug 17	Margaret Bikman and Jay Saxton	#50
Jul 09	Vermeda Fred and Rodney Shainbom	#8	Aug 18	Jessie Weinreb Benedict and Jeffrey Benedict Weinreb	#7
Jul 09	Meghan Galvin and Cody Fay	#14	Aug 20	Litav Langley and Lindsay Wells	#20
Jul 11	Cierra and Peter Burkill	#5	Aug 20	Ken and Regan Levinson	#19
Jul 12	Gary and Trisha Adelstein	#38	Aug 21	Gayle Gordon-Martin and Stephen Martin	#38
Jul 13	Sara Geballe and Steve James	#17	Aug 21	Alexis and Brian Gentry	#26
Jul 18	Christoph and Geraldine Reitz	#33	Aug 24	Kayla Schott-Bresler and Ian McCurdy	#12
Jul 21	David and Katie Edelstein	#52	Aug 25	Shelley and Jay Wolfman	#55
Jul 21	Andrew Schwarz and Leslie Garrison	#12	Aug 25	Warren and Marybeth Taranow	#29
Jul 30	Orly Ziv-Maxim and Tom Maxim	#29	Aug 26	Miriam and Greg Schwartz	#24
Aug 01	Alyson and Brooke Kassen	#15	Aug 27	Emil and Tannia Hecht	#56
Aug 01	Jerry Witler and Mary Knight	#15	Aug 27	Daniel and Sharona Feller	#47
Aug 02	Sylvia and John Williams	#11	Aug 29	Avram and Corinne Hecht	#13
Aug 04	Joshua Greenberg and Anita Meyer	#29	Aug 29	Steve and Janis Ban	#49
Aug 04	Inka von Sternenfels and Susan Gause	#2	Aug 30	Leah Kiviat and Ian Horton	#17
Aug 06	Dan Ohms and Janine Shaw	#25			
Aug 09	Miah and John LaMont	#10			

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.

The Courage of Many Beginnings: Dana and Luke Goodwin

BY MINDA RAE AMIRAN

Dana Zemel and Luke Goodwin met in New York by chance. Dana moved into the building in Brooklyn where Luke was living, and it was love at first sight.

Dana, who was born in Chicago but grew up in Bellingham, had gone to New York looking for interesting work after earning a BA in Human Geography from the University of Washington and an MA in Gastronomy from the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy. Luke was born and raised in Gainesville, FL and was working as a school counselor in New York.

I could write that they married and lived happily ever after — with sons Levi, 9, and Herschel, 7 — but such a summary scarcely begins to reveal their many creative interests, their many changes of direction, and their remarkable families.

Dana's father, Stuart, grew up in Chicago, and was a trader on its famous Commodity Exchange, but when Dana was still a child, he and her mother, Cinda, began to look for a way of life and a community better aligned with their values. Stuart's cousin and CBI member Henry Zemel recommended Bellingham. Driving up Chuckanut from Bow, they fell in love with the area. In a way, Dana repeated this trajectory by leaving lucrative HR work with large corporations in the East in favor of starting her own business working with small, local companies in Bellingham.

Luke's grandfather, a jeweler, was an immigrant who moved from Winston Salem, NC to Orlando where he started a department store and was a founding member of a synagogue. Luke, who was close to his grandfather, learned a lot about Judaism from him. Luke's father married a Catholic and chose to use her family name in a time when it was easier to move in the business world with a neutral name.

Luke was drawn to New York for college, where he earned a BA in Liberal Arts, followed by an MA in Philosophy and Religion, and a further MA in Mental Health Counseling from NYU.

His work as a counselor led him to study for a PhD in Clinical Psychology at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University. (He says he has been in school all his life.) By then, the young couple were parents, and Dana had to find new



Dana and Luke Goodwin.

work and child care first in Pittsburgh, and then again in Charlotte, NC, where Luke had his residency.

Luke's doctoral research was a study of Black men's experience of encounters with the police. He found that Black men don't simply react to that encounter in isolation, but in connection with all their other experiences and problems as Black people in this country. He puts great emphasis on experience as the subject of his research — not simply emotions or thoughts but the whole living mesh — what it's like when you're in the middle of it. He created the term "experientially excessive" to describe what happens when the experience you're having isn't isolated from certain other experiences you've had. Luke's concern with this deep level of understanding also informs his family life and his encounters with other people.

Dana's interest in food would seem to belong to a totally different path than Luke's, but actually their strengths converge. A course in college piqued her interest in gastronomy, and in graduate school she specialized

Continued on page 12



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

1. Outgoing and serving 2025 CBI Board members. 2. Stu Berman sharing a story at the Tikkun Leil Shavuot event. 3. All Keshet photo. 4. Confirmation students Orion Dixon, Elijah Wolfson, Evan Konikoff, and Aniel Wells-Langley. 5. Confirmation parents embracing after the service. 6. Keshet picnic egg toss. 7. Seventh grade writing cards on Mitzvah Day. 8. Fifth grade assembled 20 hygiene bags for Northwest Youth Services. 9. Gan and K-first grade made cookies and gift bags for our CBI elders. 10. Second/third and sixth graders painted decorative rocks to be placed around CBI gardens. 11. Seventh grade making hygiene kits on Mitzvah Day. 12. Fourth grade learning about plants and proper weeding skills from volunteer Miriam Schwartz.

Three Things CBI's Programming Committee Wants You To Know

First, we offer a wide variety of events throughout the year and make it easy to find out about them. Read the weekly *Timbrel*, the bi-monthly *Shul Shofar*, or check the posters at the synagogue. Listen to *bima* announcements; and, visit the website for information about public events as many of our events are open to the public. Most of our events are free and you can always bring a friend.

Second, we want to hear from you. What are your program ideas? What did you think about a program that you attended? Do you have questions about programming? Committee Co-chairs Emily Weiner (Emily.Weiner@bethisraelbellingham.org) and Melissa Schapiro (Melissa.Schapiro@bethisraelbellingham.org) are easy to reach.

Third, it's easy to get involved. Want to help with one task for an event? Want to do more? Not sure, but want to try something? Are you a CBI member artist interested in exhibiting? Just let us know.

Here's a recap of programs we held during the last fiscal year (July 2024-June 2025):

- Two visual art exhibits in the social hall with accompanying talks (current exhibit is up through August)

- Music concert
- Wine and whiskey tastings
- Cooking class
- A variety of talks, lectures, and demonstrations, including *Women and Torah*, *The Life of Theodore Bikel*, *Purim During the Spanish Inquisition*, current issues in Israel, and a mourning/candle-making ritual from Eastern Europe
- Summer outdoor experience
- Field trip to see a musical at the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle
- Movie and Chinese food on December 25
- Beit Cafe – an evening of storytelling by our congregants

We hope you were able to join us for some of these.

This next year we'll have new visual art exhibits and talks, a wine tasting and a cooking class, Beit Café, and December 25 Chinese Food and Movie night. New events will also include an author talk about Jewish spirituality, documentaries, and much more.

Join us!

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

BY HOLLY 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 fund raiser — 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 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 support requests for help

through our Meal Train, this would be a great way to increase the impact of your gift. Some gift cards are also available — Gift cards to Lands End, for instance land a whopping 17% profit to CBI!

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 a full list of participating merchants, check the CBI website: bethisraelbellingham.org/scrip/

Happy shopping!

Birthdays

JULY 2025

7/01 Sue Guenter-Schlesinger
 7/02 Meg Jacobson
 7/02 Reva Quam
 7/03 Brooke Kassen
 7/03 Jaxon Mann (19th)
 7/04 Sharona Feller
 7/04 Mark MacDonald
 7/05 David Goldman
 7/05 Julie Hunter
 7/05 Jaelle Flora Oliver (19th)
 7/05 Ayla Isabel Oliver (19th)
 7/06 Dan Raas
 7/06 Josh Shupack
 7/07 Michelle Beller-Siegfried
 7/07 Rabbi Joshua Samuels
 7/08 Miriam Becker (5th)
 7/08 Larry Bell
 7/08 Daniel Ingberman
 7/09 Lindsey Adelstein
 7/10 Stevie Coleman
 7/10 Nali Lippman (18th)
 7/11 Max Naiman (15th)
 7/12 Litav Langley
 7/12 Avrom "Avi" Lindner
 7/12 Iris Parker
 7/12 Mark Sommers
 7/14 Olivia Probst (21st)
 7/14 Shelley Wolfman
 7/15 Michelle Banks
 7/15 Margaret Hanley
 7/15 Rick Levine
 7/15 Evan William Shupack (10th)
 7/17 Jay Saxton
 7/18 Isaac Meister
 7/18 Ruth Shuster
 7/18 Mischa Springall (1st)
 7/19 Lior Somers (17th)

7/20 Leah Kiviat
 7/20 Nicky Naiman
 7/20 Isaac Orloff (21st)
 7/20 Melissa Schapiro
 7/21 Anna Blick
 7/22 Miles Bryant
 7/23 David Robinson
 7/23 Lindsay Wells
 7/24 Lucita Galbraith (11th)
 7/24 Jeff Popp
 7/26 Avi Charles Edwin Cohen (9th)
 7/26 Ella Hillel (1st)
 7/26 Julia Shayna Kassen (13th)
 7/26 Jonas Kennedy (22nd)
 7/27 Cody Fay
 7/27 Aspen Kinney (14th)
 7/27 Jesse Naiman
 7/27 Rebekah Sommers (18th)
 7/28 Audrey Ellis (12th)
 7/28 James Finley
 7/29 David Edelstein
 7/29 Evan Matthew Konikoff (16th)

AUGUST 2025

8/01 Mary Francell-Sharfstein
 8/01 Diana Lindner
 8/01 Jesse Math
 8/01 Nora Seltz (15th)
 8/01 Idalina Trank
 8/01 Gabriella Jae Genut (10th)
 8/02 Ayla Joy Slosberg (5th)
 8/02 Nicole Tzipporah Snyder
 8/04 Amitai Shalev Bokser (10th)
 8/06 Gilead Goldman (10th)
 8/06 Arona K. Henderson
 8/09 Henry Curme
 8/09 Jacob Evan Morrill Zarrow (5th)
 8/10 Joan Wayne

8/10 Patty Yust
 8/11 Nick Greif
 8/12 Victoria Garfinkle
 8/12 Paul Sarvasy
 8/12 David Smith
 8/13 Mara Donner (12th)
 8/13 Noni Schultheiss
 8/14 Patrick Crane
 8/16 Gina Ebbeling
 8/16 Miah LaMont
 8/17 Avi Hecht
 8/19 Noah Parker (16th)
 8/20 Gayle Cloud
 8/20 Jerry Eisner
 8/20 Jordan Genut
 8/20 Toby LaPlante (15th)
 8/21 Marla Finkelstein
 8/21 Janine Shaw
 8/22 Maeve Nora Hammerstrom (7th)
 8/22 Wendy Holtzman
 8/22 Andrea Shupack
 8/23 Chloe Nahani Braunstein (13th)
 8/23 Rachael Stanley
 8/24 Flora Booker (21st)
 8/24 Leyna Fay Math (2nd)
 8/24 Donna Solomon
 8/25 Solomon Falk
 8/25 David Feingold
 8/25 Vermeda Fred
 8/26 Jacob Lebovich (23rd)
 8/26 Sylvia Williams
 8/27 Amy Frye
 8/27 Jesse Benjamin Simon (13th)
 8/28 Wendy Miller
 8/29 Colleen Tilland-Stafford
 8/30 Terrah Short
 8/31 Raelyn Kaplan
 8/31 Zev Kronenberg

The
Curated
 TRAVEL COLLECTION®

Parent Company of Ears of Experience

919-280-7824

Steven Cohen
 TRAVEL CONCIERGE

scohen@curatedtravelcollection.com
 www.magicaldestinationsbysteve.com



THOMAS LUTZ
 FURNITURE

Designer and Builder of CBI's Ark



www.thomaslutzfurniture.com | 360.220.5324

RESTARTING CBI'S SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Continued from page 1

this, David shared a word of Torah from Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, as a way of grounding our discussion and setting an intention for the work of the committee in the year ahead. According to Rabbi Greenberg, the Talmud understands the concept of *b'tselem Elokim* (creation in the Divine image) as meaning that every human being is born with “three fundamental dignities”: infinite value, equality, and uniqueness.

The new Social Action Committee will continue the work of previous iterations of the committee (with gratitude to committee founders and leaders Debbie Raas [z”l] and Linda Hirsh), supporting ongoing projects such as Mitzvah Day and the High Holy Days food drive. In addition, we are proposing a theme for 2025-2026 around which to focus our efforts: immigrant support.

As Jews, we bear a particular obligation toward our immigrant neighbors, as it is written in Exodus 23:9: “You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt.” We invited Sharon Camblin, coordinator of Whatcom Faith Community Immigrant Support (WFCIS), to speak at our kick-off meeting, to share more about the work that WFCIS is doing to assist local families impacted by raids and deportations. This past spring WFCIS set up an emergency pantry that safely distributes fresh food and supplies (such as diapers and art supplies) to vulnerable families. Sharon provided updates on their work so far and described where they hope to go from here, transitioning from an emergency response to a more permanent operation. This excerpt from a recent WFCIS newsletter gives a good sense of the values compelling them — and us — to action:

We are learning from families the number of men from the Mt. Baker Roofing ICE raid that have been deported already. More men have court dates in the next week. The challenges for those left behind and dealing with family separation are huge. Please keep in your prayers the people WFCIS is serving:

- *The single father with an eight-year-old who smiles when there are yogurt cups as a nighttime snack,*
- *The family member who arrived in Mexico with none of their personal belongings including their phone and money,*
- *The young mother with an infant and a three-year-old who has been asked to leave her rental home even before her husband's hearing,*
- *The grandmother who has had two sons deported and seeks help for her daughter-in-law's and grandchildren,*
- *AND all those living in fear anywhere in Whatcom County.*

Over the summer, members of the proposed Social Action Committee will be planning for the year ahead, revising our charter and mission statement, and preparing to go before the Board of Directors to seek approval for the revived committee and its acting leadership. Interested in getting involved and helping to shape the new Social Action Committee — or just want to stay in the loop to learn about *tikkun olam* opportunities? It's not too late to reach out! There are ways to get involved at whatever level of commitment you have time for. “The day is short, and the work is plentiful,” as it says in *Pirkei Avot*. “It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.”

Please contact Acting Co-Chairs David Schlitt (david.schlitt@bethisraelbellingham.org) and Alisa Sachs (alisa.sachs@bethisraelbellingham.org) for more information.

FACES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Continued from page 8

in hospitality and retail. She started working in a famous Italian grocery store in New York, with no thought of a career in personnel management, but her strong people skills were noticed, and she was offered a job in Human Resources. From there, her career in HR flourished, enabling her to support Luke's goals throughout their moves: Her work was always in demand. There was always the challenge of new beginnings.

Dana and Luke kept thinking about Bellingham as the place where they wanted to be and to raise their children, having lived here in 2016 before their stays in Pittsburgh and Charlotte. In 2022 they seized an opportunity to buy a house here. Dana left her corporate work this year in favor of assisting local businesses, mainly those in the

food and beverage industry, tying up her interests. Luke is studying to pass his licensure examination and hopes to open his own office later this summer offering telehealth and on-site services.

In true family fashion, Levi and Herschel have taken their various new beginnings in stride, now enjoying Lowell School and Keshet. Both are very social and have made many friends. Levi loves drawing and Legos, while Herschel loves soccer and Legos, and is “the family comedian.”

Dana and Luke are grateful for the warm welcome they've received at CBI, renewing their connection to Judaism, with its emphasis on history and ties to the past. Many changes of direction have made the family strong and resilient. Now they are prepared and pleased to put down roots that will last.

July/August 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, Jul. 4	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service	Friday, Aug. 1	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service
Saturday, Jul. 5	10:00 am Esther Horton Bat Mitzvah	Saturday, Aug. 2	10:30 am Contemplative Service
Friday, Jul. 11	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Friday, Aug. 8	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, Jul. 12	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Balak</i>) 10:30 am Saturday Shabbat	Saturday, Aug. 9	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Vaetchanan</i>) 10:30 am Reform Service
Friday, Jul. 18	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Friday, Aug. 15	6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, Jul. 19	11:00 am Tot Shabbat	Saturday, Aug. 16	11:00 am Tot Shabbat
Friday, Jul. 25	7:30 pm Shabbat Shira	Friday, Aug. 22	7:30 pm Shabbat Shira
Saturday, Jul. 26	9:30 am Torah Study (<i>Parashat Pinchas</i>) 10:30 am Conservative Lay Led Minyan	Saturday, Aug. 23	10:00 am Shoshana Samuels Bat Mitzvah
		Friday, Aug. 29	Shabbat at Home-No Services at CBI
		Friday, Aug. 30	No Services at CBI



Jerome Rosen, M.Ed

Rosen Life Solutions

benjam4r@gmail.com • 360-914-0524



**NORA
MAZONSON**

YOUR REALTOR SERVING
SKAGIT, WHATCOM, ISLAND, AND
NORTH SNOHOMISH COUNTIES

HABLO ESPAÑOL

CENTURY 21
North Homes Realty, Inc.

360.739.4335
nora@noramazonson.com

Play piano and/or sing



Gayle Cloud, MT-BC

Piano and/or vocal lessons
for children or adults

gaylecloudmusic@gmail.com
917-345-3144

www.cloudmusictherapy.com
Located close to synagogue

25%
of your first
purchase will go
to Congregation
Beth Israel ♥



JOY of Pilates & Fitness
YOU'RE LIKE
REALLY STRONG
Yours in Good Health!

#360-224-1433
www.joyofpilates.net
info@joyofpilates.net

Special Fund Donations

CAMP/YOUTH ACTIVITIES

IN HONOR OF:

Micah Parker, Elizabeth Witte, Jade Terriss, and Ezra Shupack becoming B'nei Mitzvahs. Mazel Tov!
From: Karen Sloss

CARE COMMITTEE

IN HONOR OF:

Cora Boothby, Corrine Gimbel Levine, Else Sokol, Joan Wayne, and Teresa Sommers for their help with the Meal Train while Ann recovered from surgery.
From: Ann Buzaitis and Dena Petersen

ENDOWMENT FUND

Yahrzeit

In loving memory of Nancy Jo Kaufman
From: Ira Kaufman

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Bruce and Becki Van Glubt

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:

*Shoshana Samuels' 13th Birthday.
 *Happy Mother's Day to Nicole Samuels.
 *Happy 20th wedding anniversary, Rabbi and Nicole Samuels.
From: Fran Levy

IN HONOR OF:

Micah Parker and Elizabeth Witte becoming B'nei Mitzvahs. Mazel Tov!
From: Rita and Steve Spitzer

Chag Sameiach on this 8th day of Pesach. May you cross many seas towards freedom!

From: Rabbi Jonathan Klein

*Micah Parker becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
 *Elizabeth Witte becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
 *Jade Terriss becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
 *Ezra Shupack becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
 *Esther Horton becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
 *Elly Tilland-Stafford becoming a Bat Mitzvah.
 *Shoshana Samuels becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

*Wolf Pomerantz becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

From: Patrick Crane

Thank you, Rabbi Samuels, for everything you did for Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah.

From: Todd and Sarah Witte

GARTNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

Emil Hecht
 David Strich and Michelle Banks

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Celebrating Karen Sloss being honored with the Eternal Light Leadership Award.

From: David Schiltt

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM:

Fred and Myrna Loceff
 Idalina and Richard Trank

NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Rick and Leslie Adelstein's 50th wedding anniversary and their new grandson.
From: Sylvia Williams

Karen Sloss receiving the Eternal Light Leadership Award.

From: Linda Blackwell and David Goldman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Leah Bordman and all her help in preparing Elizabeth for her Bat Mitzvah.

From: Todd and Sarah Witte

In honor of Micah Parker becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

From: Lorna and Murray Rosenberg

SECURITY

IN HONOR OF:

Security for keeping us all safe during the bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

From: Todd and Sarah Witte

The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- **Suzy Armus** – Bellingham
- **Katie Erikson** – Oak Harbor, children: **Chase** (17), **Meadow** (13)
- **Doris Irons** – Bellingham
- **Noah Israel** and **Denise Hillard** – Bellingham
- **Sarah Lertzman** and **James MacVittie** – Ferndale, children: **Glen** (13), **Mela** (9)
- **Bri Rubin** – Everson



PERSONAL TOUCH
TRAVEL DESIGN

ERIN COHEN
TRAVEL AGENT

919-280-6419

erin@personaltouchtraveldesign.com
 www.personaltouchtraveldesign.com

Building memories one vacation at a time

an independent affiliate of  A VIRTUOSO agency

Yahrzeits

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

Friday, July 4

Jacob Schlitt	7/05
Virginia Hunter	7/05
Jaron Baker	7/06
Naftalie Mottel Jaffe	7/06
Sue Groper	7/06
Lisa Furth	7/07
Eric O. Sonneman	7/08
Gary Snyder	7/09
Sara Devery	7/10
Sandy Thompson	7/11
Stanley Sklar	7/11

Friday, July 11

Albert Shankman	7/12
Donald L. Somerville	7/12
Myer Horwitz	7/12
Willa Faye Singleton	7/14
Edward Witte	7/15
Bernice Shear	7/16
Betty Smith	7/16
Kathleen Clendenen	7/16
May Meyers	7/16
Earnest Ban	7/17
Hugo M. Fisher	7/17
Edward "John" Booth	7/18
Hannah Samuels	7/18
Robert B. Hanley	7/18

Friday, July 18

Harold Korn	7/19
Leah Shapiro	7/20
Walter Mayers	7/21
Jack Meyers	7/22
Barry Paluch	7/23
Edward Francell	7/23
Ronald Walt	7/24
Anita (Fragner) Cornell	7/25
Berte Fischel	7/25
Leaine (Lee) Farkas	7/25

Friday, July 25

Alan Mazonson	7/26
Gail Siskind Sternlicht	7/26
Charles Cohen	7/28
Steven Cohen	7/28
Annie Schwartz	7/29
Dottie Leonard	7/29
Philip Kahn	7/29
Rose Marks	7/29
Charles William Hospadura	7/30
Martha Rosenthal	7/30
Abraham Kassen	7/31
Alfred Steinmetz	8/01
David Frantz	8/01
Josefina Pombo de Rubiano	8/01

Friday, August 4

Michael Golden	8/04
Robert (Bob) Whitney	8/04

Goldie Dorfman	8/05
Harriet Miles Bryant	8/05
Jacob Berger	8/06
Kaufman Katz	8/06
William Fox	8/06
Daniel Kushner	8/08
Fred (Fritz) London	8/08
Janet Miller	8/08

Friday, August 8

Marvin Tartak	8/09
Shulamis "Shu" Fishbein	8/09
Rose (Levine) Nemens	8/11
Patsy Faye Whitney	8/12
Simon Sokol	8/12
Thelma Marzullo	8/12
Tom Lopresti	8/13
Shirley Zell	8/15

Friday, August 15

Bernard M. "Bun" Jaffe	8/16
Harold A. Schwartz	8/17
Norbert Cohen	8/17
Benjamin von Sternenfels	8/19
Jack Wilson	8/19
Rose Z. Blecker	8/19
Betty Bloomfield	8/20
Josef Zimmerman	8/20
Melanie Smith	8/20
Abraham Luster	8/21
Arthur J. Miller	8/21
Joseph Feiger	8/21
Ethan Coane	8/22
Stanley Holtzman	8/22

Friday, August 22

Mary Ann Perper	8/23
Sheldon Miller	8/23
Jack Mask	8/24
Laura Weinstein Bell	8/24
Jose Pereira Assuncao	8/25
Wally Moritz	8/25
Natalie Gubb	8/27
Keith Baker	8/29
Lenore Lackowitz	8/29

Friday, August 29

Dinah Godfrey	8/31
Sadie Adelstein-Meyerson	8/31
Phyllis Kronenberg	9/01
Rebecca Shapira de Lindner	9/01
William (Billy) B. Davids	9/01
Nancy Zisook	9/02
Nathan Ragosin	9/02
Robert Siegfried	9/02
Trudy B. Somerville	9/03
Leonard Katz	9/04
Louis Thal	9/04
Ruth Machlin	9/05
Shirley Simmons	9/05

A	T	S	E		S	N	A	S		S	E	E	P	E	
S	I	C	S		S	E	R	A		S	E	L	D	A	L
O	N	R	O		E	M	A	G		S	E	L	O	I	O
S	I	A	N		L		M	O		B	O	T	S	T	M
Y	E	V	Y		O		T	A	B	A	S	Y	A	R	X
N	E	R	B		S	A	A			N	I	S	T	A	E
O	A	G			V	O	T	E	Z	A	M		S	T	L
T	C	E	I		R	D		S	A	L		S	O	S	O
S	A	N	A		N	S	D	A	R		S	E	C	A	R
S	T	A	R		R	E	L	N		M	O	L	A	H	S
A	E	T	E		H	T	L	I	P	S		L	L	A	T
M	I	A	H		C	L		E	K	A	T	E	O	L	A
A	P	E	T		S		Y	A	S	I		T	N	E	B

THE SHUL SHOFAR

Congregation Beth Israel

751 San Juan Boulevard

Bellingham, WA 98229

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLINGHAM, WA
PERMIT NO. 180

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Kesher Annual Swim Party!

August 17, 2025, 9:30-11:30 am

The entire Beth Israel Kesher community is invited to Kesher's annual summer swim party on August 17 at the Bayside Swimming Club from 9:30 to 11:30 am. We will have the whole pool to ourselves.

Bring a dish to share and enjoy a pleasant visit with friends new and old.

