



# Har Shalom

P.O. Box 7581, MISSOULA, MT 59807 HOTLINE 406.549.9595

WWW.HAR-SHALOM.ORG

STUDENT RABBI RACHEL ACKERMAN ACKERMAN.RACHEL@GMAIL.COM

Jan., Feb. '08

## SCHOOL NEWS

### ATIDAYNU: Our Future

Har Shalom's children's education program. Contact Sheehan Rosen at 642-6527 or [rosens@montana.com](mailto:rosens@montana.com)

### Todah rabah

- Janet Tatz for the High Holy Days Torah cover, reading table cover and several photographs of foods prepared at a Hadassah cooking school.
- Liz Jaffe, for a table cover.
- Beth Jaffe for framed artwork in the entryway.
- Chanukah Party thanks to: Atidaynu Religious School parents for the organization, Bert and Sonia Chessin, their friend Tom, and Paul Rosen for the marvelous live music, everyone who contributed food.
- Congratulations to guest Deborah Sears, the 2007 Latke Queen. Bert Chessin and Fran Aytes for pitching in on cleaning chores.
- Suzanne Aboulfadl, Alice and Charlie Byrne for hospitality during Rachel's December visit.
- Pat Cohen for snow removal and for organizing Har Shalom day at the Missoula Food Bank.
- Miriam Richmond for contribution of a television (we'd still LOVE a DVD/VCR so we can start up a film series).
- All those who made financial contributions to our operating funds and towards retiring the debt on our building.

### From Rachael Ackerman, Har Shalom's student rabbi

Recently I went down to San Diego, CA where I had the privilege of spending five days learning, singing, eating, and praying with five-thousand Reform Jews from around North America and beyond at the Union of Reform Judaism's (URJ) Biennial.

While I learned a great deal from this program, perhaps the greatest lesson that I took away was an unintended one.

I was apprehensive as I stepped off of a bus to attend my first workshop called "Organizing for Justice." I stepped off the bus with a group of people who, for the most part, I had never met. I stuck by my friend as we walked onto the church property where I had expected to go into a room, hear about the organization and what we can do in our own communities to work toward ending injustices, and then board the bus again to return to the convention center.

Rather than merely walking into the church, however, I was welcomed with open arms into a community. As we walked down the path into the church, the host group lined the walkway. Every single person we walked by gave us a warm welcome, accompanied by smiles, handshakes, and even hugs and kisses. We were individually thanked numerous times for coming to meet with them. We all wore name tags, so everyone could greet one another on a first name basis.

The gestures were simple, yet what this community did through *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming the visitors, had an incredible impact. Being able to know the names of everyone without having met them, being greeted by smiles as I walked into an unfamiliar scenario, and being thanked merely for my attendance to their program instantly made me feel at ease with the community. I was able to engage in open dialogue, feeling comfortable conversing with people I had just met twenty minutes before.

I have to wonder what the power of some of these gestures would be if applied to Har Shalom. I have found Har Shalom to be an incredibly warm and welcoming place. I wonder, however, how someone feels when they attend a program for the first time and do not know which room to go into. I wonder what it is like to come to service, either a little late or for the first time, and to be unsure as to whether one should pick-up a *siddur*, a newsletter, a prayer sheet, or a combination thereof. I wonder what it is like to enter into the synagogue when you do not know anyone's name and even after being introduced to everyone you still need to remember which name goes with which person.

What a difference it might make if we had someone stand at the entrance to the sanctuary to welcome people into services. What a difference it might make if we all wore nametags to all of our programs. What if we were to infuse our already welcoming community with small gestures of *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming the visitors, so that each and every person would instantly feel part of the community, irregardless of whether or not someone an individual is passing through town or is a long-time Missoula resident? How can *hachnasat orchim* make everyone in our community feel at home?

*B'Shalom,  
Rachel Ackerman*

*And this note from Maeta:* Thanks Rachel for getting us thinking. Look for nametags on the table, but even more importantly look for ways that you can be a part of an unofficial welcoming committee for Har Shalom. Can you make a few phone calls, or arrange to meet someone at an event? It's up to us, to help US grow.

<b>Board</b>	<b>President:</b> Maeta Kaplan, 543-4322	Barry Good, 541-0528
<b>of</b>	<b>Vice President:</b> David Jolles, 549-3656	Larry Stahl, 493-6190
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Secretary:</b> Bert Chessin, 531-5193	
	<b>Treasurer:</b> Bob Jaffe, 406-728-1052	

Send news, events, or letters to [maetadan@hotmail.com](mailto:maetadan@hotmail.com). Newsletters publish after Board meetings.

*The Har Shalom newsletter is written and edited entirely by volunteer members of the congregation. You'll see a variety of writing styles, probably catch a few errors and sadly sometimes find some omissions. The purpose of the newsletter to keep you informed. With that in mind, your articles and suggestions are always welcome. Deadline for the following month is the 15th. We are DESPERATELY seeking folks to help gather articles. If you've always had a yen to wear a press pass, now's your chance. No fancy computer skills are needed. Contact Maeta for more info.*

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## Make 2008 your year to get involved

by Maeta Kaplan

I often think how lucky we are as Jews to get not one, but two dates we can consider the New Year. We welcomed Rosh Hashanah together with ritual and prayer. Now we welcome the secular New Year with our own personal rites of time passing. Maybe you went to First Night activities, or joined friends around a bonfire. Whatever your means of celebration and demarcation, let me ask you to consider one more. Is this the year you make a mid-year renewal of your commitment to Judaism and to Har Shalom?

In her column this month, Rachel reminds us of how important it is to provide a welcoming environment to friends and visitors alike. I want to follow-up with her idea and invite you to come in to the synagogue and experience that welcome for yourself. Ever since we moved in to the building, our worship services and our programs have grown. But truthfully, our active participants remain a relatively small, but dedicated crowd. That surge of attendance from the High Holidays seems to fade quickly, rather like the New Year's resolutions we tend to make during this, our second New Year.

So what would you like to see, what will draw you to our open door? We recognize that we are a tremendously diverse group. Our levels of observance and daily practice, our education and backgrounds, and the degree to which our Judaism infuses our lives are as varied as the Missoula we all love. We can never be the perfect place for every person. We do try however to be a place for each of you. So whether it's services, education opportunities, social action, children's programs or social events, we want to see you, to welcome you to our home.

Currently we are seeking new leadership and participation in several ongoing committees. Perhaps this is the place you can put just a few hours a month. If you'd like to get involved in any of the following, please contact Maeta at [maetadan@hotmail.com](mailto:maetadan@hotmail.com).

**Mitzvah Committee** – This spot has been open all year and we're feeling it. We need someone to coordinate the willing volunteers who provide support when a congregant is ill, or in need. It takes a few phone calls and an ear to the ground.

**Membership Committee** – This group of "worker bees" wants you to get involved by making phone calls to members, helping with mailings and generally providing that welcoming outreach.

**Adult Education** – Many ideas seeking leadership. Would you be willing to coordinate a film series, or promote a few classes for adults?

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## Tikkun Olam project

by Pat Cohen

Members of Har Shalom have begun volunteering at the Food Bank when they need extra people. The Food Bank asked for our assistance three times at the end of December (21st, 24th, 28th) and there was a good response. On December 24th, eight members gathered to sort donated food for stocking and bag food for the clients. It was a busy but enjoyable day. I would like to thank Robin Abeshaus, Hank Butzel, Tanya Cohen, Jack Cohen, Larry Stahl, Maxine and Paul Stahl, Amie Thurber and Lauren Varney.

The Food Bank appreciated our work in December and has asked if we can have three of our members work the 10:00 to 1:00 shift every Friday, beginning January 11th. If you are interested call or email Pat Cohen (543-4409, [cohenpc@aol.com](mailto:cohenpc@aol.com)). For now I will be filling out the calendar for January and February, and I'll put you on my contact list. I'm trying to have at least three people work together so it's a good way to get to know each other.

The Tikkun Olam committee will meet Thursday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. Contact Pat or Suzanne Aboufadel (549-0555, [aboufadel@marsweb.com](mailto:aboufadel@marsweb.com)) for additional information.

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## Torah Trek

Rabbi Mike Comins, founder of Torah Trek and author of Wild Faith, spoke at Har Shalom last summer. A few of us are very interested in bringing him to Montana for a week-end retreat. His present schedule would allow him to come July 19 – 20. This would be a spiritual retreat for adults (and, he says, motivated teenagers). A brief description from his website is included, along with a link to one of his articles, "Wilderness Spirituality." We

*(continued next page)*

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## Another way to give

Now it's easier than ever to make a donation to our operating or building fund. Thanks to Bob Jaffe there's an easy link from our website [www.har-shalom.org](http://www.har-shalom.org) for making secure on-line contributions.

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## Aytidaynu News

by Sheehan Rosen

Our children's education programs have been a lot of fun so far and we are looking forward to great winter sessions. Several children moved up to new levels in Hebrew and there are a number who are waiting in the wings. Congratulations to all of you and thanks

to the parents for encouraging Hebrew learning at home!

I admit to being a bit out of the loop because I am also teaching, but I was very excited to learn of adult Hebrew classes that will be held during religious school. This is a great opportunity to learn and further support our children's learning.

Everyone enjoyed a very lively Chanukah party with games of dreidel, singing and lots of latkes. Thanks again to the many parents and community members who helped organize this event. The kids had a great time celebrating together.

I have had several inquiries about religious school in the last few weeks. Yes, we still have room; please contact me with questions or to enroll: Sheehan Rosen 642-6527 or [rosens@montana.com](mailto:rosens@montana.com).

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## Mary Kay offer from congregant Candy Miller for members of Har Shalom:

Purchase any item from my Mary Kay website ([www.marykay.com/candymiller1](http://www.marykay.com/candymiller1)), and I will donate 20% of my profit to HS. If a person schedules a complimentary facial and purchases then, I will donate 30% of my profit to HS. Share a facial with at least 3 other women and I will donate 50% of my profit. *Fundraiser runs through January.*

would be camping overnight in an as yet undesignated location, doing day hikes from the campground, and sharing responsibilities for meal preparation, which would bring the cost of this down to \$75 to \$100 per person. Rabbi Comins has served as visiting rabbi in Bozeman, and we hope (and suspect) that some people from there would also like to participate. The maximum number of people for such a retreat would be 25; the more that sign up, the lower the price. Additional information is available at [www.torahtrek.com/writings-wildspirit.htm](http://www.torahtrek.com/writings-wildspirit.htm)

Right now, we're circulating this information to see how many people might be interested. We are not asking for a firm commitment, just an indication of interest (though you might indicate highly likely or only possibly) and which dates would work best for you. He is already setting up his summer schedule (see [www.torahtrek.com](http://www.torahtrek.com) for other opportunities), and needs to have some indication from us of how likely we are to want a retreat in Montana. Although we know it's difficult to plan this far ahead, Mike needs a fairly strong indication of commitment in order to set aside one of these weekends. Please respond to Suzanne Aboulfadl at [aboulfadl@marsweb.com](mailto:aboulfadl@marsweb.com) or 549.0555 if you are interested.

## LIFELINE, our answering machine

by Jackie Cohen

A recent message on Har Shalom's answering machine reminded me to highlight one of our critical services. The last week of November, a woman called Har Shalom and left a message politely asking if someone from our synagogue could come to a local funeral home, sit with a grieving mother and recite Jewish prayers at the viewing of the mother's deceased 16-year-old son. The Jewish mother was estranged from her son and lived on the east coast, but asked this woman, a relative, to find someone in Missoula's Jewish community to provide the comfort of Jewish blessings.

I sent an e-mail to our ritual committee members, and Laurie Franklin responded. The following day, Laurie left work early and spent some time with the mother reciting Kaddish at the funeral home.

People call about everything; wanting to reconnect with their heritage, asking for naming ceremonies, a bris, kosher food, and of course the schedule of events. We usually get deluged around the High Holy Days and Passover. Some investigate conversion; others want a Jewish connection for their young children. UM journalism students want to do stories, other organizations ask us to participate in community events. Local people call with questions about Jewish customs. Last spring, the Garden City Montessori school representatives called seeking space.

Volunteers have always maintained our answering machine. Currently Fran Aytes updates the announcements, and she and I rotate monthly responsibility for responding daily to messages. We message takers don't have all the answers. We do our best, maybe call or e-mail someone who can answer a question, or refer it to another source. We may contact Rachel for assistance. We DO NOT divulge members' phone numbers.

I've often thought we should keep a log of our messages and write a book. Some are humorous, some, like the above, tragic, some bizarre, but most are people seeking information they don't think they can get anywhere else. No matter the request, we treat them all respectfully, using the telephone link to create a favorable first impression of Har Shalom.

Give us a call, or better yet, volunteer as message taker of the month. 549-9595.

## We extend a very happy and healthy birthday to:

### January

- 5 Michael Silverglat
- 6 Bei Ruetten
- 12 Jareth Darling
- 13 Michael Parrish
- 14 Shan Gusinger
- 14 David Jolles
- 19 Sarah Natelson
- 21 Gail Wilder
- 26 Sarah Willstein
- 27 Jeff Gabster  
(Carolyn Goren's son)
- 29 Max Jakob

### February

- 2 George Weisz
- 3 Kevin McAuliffe
- 3 Sydney Sweitzer
- 3 Trina Valencich
- 5 Arnold Finklin
- 11 David Aronofsky
- 13 Ben Rosenzweig
- 14 Jill Belsky
- 15 Leah Schnall
- 22 Clarence Emil Beltz  
(Dori Gilels son)
- 25 Lynne Willstein
- 28 Manuela Aronofsky

*If your birthday is missing from this list, or a Yahrzeit of a family member is missing from the next list, it is because we do not have your info. If you wish a birthday greeting or a Yahrzeit remembered, please send us the info and we will be more than happy to include it in the newsletter. Call or email Beth Jaffe at 728-1052 or [beth@cedarmountainsoftware.com](mailto:beth@cedarmountainsoftware.com)*



### Yahrzeits

*The Yahrzeit is the anniversary of a loved one's death according to the Hebrew calendar. The civil date varies from year to year. The Hebrew date is listed first, followed by the current year's civil date in parentheses. Yahrzeit candles should be lit the evening before the date specified. This is because the Jewish day actually begins at sundown on the previous night.*

### TEVET

- 24 (1/02) Leonard Moon (Julie Moon's husband, Bei Ruetten's father; Madison and Julia Ruetten's grandfather)
- 24 (1/02) Clemence Klein (Lance Klein's father)
- 28 (1/06) Beatrice Nashel (Elizabeth Howard's grandmother)

### SHEVAT

- 17 (1/24) George Shulman (Joy Earls' father)
- 21 (1/28) Lillian Shapiro Tuchinsky (Toba and Laura Winston's mother/grandmother)

### ADAR

- 2 (2/08) Michael Hendricks (Z'Eva Singer's husband)
- 3 (2/09) Ethel Cohen (Adar 3) (Jackie Cohen's mother)
- 5 (2/11) Peter Weil (Susanne Woyciechowicz's uncle)
- 21 (2/27) Carl Breitner (John Breitner's father)

# 2008 EVENT CALENDAR

## —JANUARY—

Sunday, 1/13

- 10 a.m. – 12:30 Atidaynu Religious School
- 10 a.m. – 11:00 am Adult Hebrew
- 11:15 a.m. – Adult education informal discussion
- 4 p.m. Ritual Team Meeting

Thursday, 1/17 – 7 p.m. Tikkun Olam

Committee, discuss “Greening Har Shalom,” and other ideas

Friday 1/18 – 6 p.m. Lay-led Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)

Tuesday, 1/22 – Tu B’shevat

Friday, 1/25 -6 p.m. Lay-led Family-centered Shabbat Service/ Tu B’Shevat Seder. Bring fresh or dried fruit or nuts to share; soup, salad and challah will be provided. RSVP Laurie Franklin at rossfranklin@msn.com

Sunday 1/27 – 4 p.m. Ritual Team Meeting

## —FEBRUARY—

Saturdays, 2/2, \*2/9, 2/16 and 2/23 – 10 a.m. Torah Study (see notes for 2/9)

Friday, 2/1 - 6 p.m. Lay-led Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)

Sunday, 2/3 - 4 p.m. Ritual Team Meeting

\* Friday 2/8

- 6 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rachel
- 7:15 p.m. Vegetarian potluck

All events, unless otherwise noted, are at Congregation Har Shalom, 3035 S. Russell

*\*★* Indicates activity led by student rabbi Rachel Ackerman

student rabbi appointments:

Call or e-mail student rabbi Rachel Ackerman: ackerman.rachel@gmail.com • 310-429-5419

\* Saturday 2/9

- 9 a.m. Saturday morning Torah Service with Rachel
- 10 a.m. – Torah Study
- Evening - Tentatively planned: a panel on the interface of faith and science to coincide with Evolution Weekend. Watch email and the website for details

Sunday 2/10

- 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Atidaynu Religious School
- 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Adult Hebrew
- 4 p.m. Ritual Team Meeting

Monday 2/11 – 7 – 9 p.m. Rosh Chodesh, Jewish Women’s Group

Tuesday 2/12 – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Har Shalom Board Meeting

Friday 2/15 – 6 p.m. Lay-led Shabbat Service, Kiddush (no potluck)

Friday 2/22 – 6 p.m. Lay-led Family-centered Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)

Sunday 2/24 – 4 p.m. Ritual Team Meeting

\* Friday 2/29

- 6 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rachel
- 7:15 p.m. Vegetarian potluck

## —MARCH—

\* Saturday 3/1 – 10:00 a.m. Torah Study

*\*★* Indicates activity led by student rabbi Rachel Ackerman



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