



Har Shalom

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STUDENT RABBI RACHEL ACKERMAN ACKERMAN.RACHEL@GMAIL.COM

Mar-Apr '08

From Rachael Ackerman, Har Shalom's student rabbi

As I sat with 25 rabbinical students in a house in Gbi Atabu, a small village in the West Volta Region in Ghana, one of our group leaders led us in a discussion about our "universe of obligation." Who are we obligated to help and under what circumstances are we obligated to help them? One of the students on my trip shared the following anecdote:

"I told a co-worker at the Sunday School where I work that I was going to Ghana as a rabbinical student delegate on a volunteer project through AJWS [American Jewish World Service]. She began yelling at me! 'How can you go to Africa while there are people in Sderot who need our help?!' she yelled."

This co-worker was furious that a Jewish organization was sending a group of rabbinical students to a community where there are no Jewish people while there are many Jews in our world who are in need of help.

After hearing this story I was confronted with a Talmudic text from tractate Bava Metzia which teaches that if we have money to lend to either a Jew or a non-Jew, the Jew takes precedence. Not only was I appalled by the co-worker's point of view that we are only responsible for those with our religious affiliation, but I felt embarrassed that Jewish tradition supported her opinion.

Was I right to be participating in a social justice project in Africa when there are Jews in other parts of the world who needed my help?

I was then confronted with another Talmudic text from tractate Gittin which notes that we are responsible sustaining the non-Jewish poor with the Jewish poor for the sake of peace.

What are we to make of these contradictory ideas?

Perhaps they are not as contradictory, but rather it is our great challenge in pursuing social justice to find a way to act on both sentiments.

We must always keep in mind that Judaism is not only a religion, but a peoplehood as well. As a people, Jews are responsible for one another because that is our community. In the same vein, while we are responsible for those Jews in our community who need help, so too are members of other communities responsible for helping the poor in their midst.

Reality trumps the ideal world, however, and we know all too well that not everyone is sustained by a community and that far too many people in this world are oppressed daily. For the sake of peace, or perhaps for the ideal of world peace, we must help the non-Jew as well as the Jew.

If we choose to believe that our universe of obligation is only toward those who share our faith, then we are naïve. While we must keep in mind that we are responsible for ourselves and our people, we must never forget times in our history when parts of the non-Jewish community did not hold the Jewish community in their universe of obligation.

The following poem is an adaptation of Pastor Martin Niemöller's words found on the New England Holocaust Memorial:

*They came first for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.
Then they came for me,
and by that time no one was left to speak up.*

Who will you hold in your universe of obligation and what will you do to help?

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

Send news, events, or letters to maetadan@hotmail.com. Newsletters publish after Board meetings.

Todah rabah

• Laurie Franklin for her extra effort on our Tu B'Shevat service and seder
Suzanne Aboulfadl for delicious soups on Tu B'Shevat • Amie Thurber for hosting Rachel in January • Miriam Richmond for donation of a television
Susan and Fred Reed for donation of a DVD player • Bari Burke and Tom Huff for donation of a piano • Jackie Cohen for organizing our efforts to meet the final wishes of our friend Marilyn Dayries • Robin Abeshaus, and her many helpers, for coordinating lunch following the services • Dave Jolles and crew for work arranging the sanctuary • Rhianna Dove and Sherry Kolenda for organizing Rosh Chodesh events • Rya Hawk for technology assistance • The newly formed "Passover Committee" for all you're ABOUT to do

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.

Adar 1

28 (3/5) David Kooris (Jeff Kooris' father)

Adar 11

2 (3/9) Frank Spector
(Ellen Silverglat's father)

3 (3/10) Ethel Cohen
(Jackie Cohen's mother)

3 (3/10) Albert Belsky
(Jill Belsky's father)

14 (3/21) Victor Tevah
(Anita Aronofskys father)

14 (3/21) William Rosenberg
(Ed Rosenberg's father)

Adar 11

27 (4/3) Dorothy R. Friedman
(Muriel Friedman's mother)

27 (4/3) Gabriel Jolles (David Jolles' father)

Nisan

21 (4/26) Edward Cohen
(Jackie Cohen's father)

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.

Retire the Debt Campaign – Answers to frequently asked financial questions

by Jackie Cohen, campaign chair

How much is our mortgage?

We owe \$890,000; most of it to the bank, the rest to the seller and to two Har Shalom members.

How are we paying our loans?

We are using \$150,000 of the money raised to make two years of interest payments to all our lenders. Our loan balloons, April, '09.

What is our goal?

To pay off \$890,000 and be debt-free, so we can concentrate our efforts in procuring consistent rabbinical presence and providing programs that appeal to the wide interests of our members and the Missoula community.

How will we achieve our goal?

So far 20 members have pledged \$133,000 over five years.

Members, their friends and family have contributed tens of thousands and continue contributing.

Approximately six foundations around Missoula and the country have given \$60,000, and more foundations are being solicited.

Members are making annual contributions to the building fund.

All building fund money stays in an interest-bearing account targeted toward reducing the principle.

How will we maintain a building, make repairs, pay utilities and all the daily operating expenses while also fund raising?

We have three income streams:

Garden City Montessori School with approximately 35 students renovated one-third of our building and pays rents.

The detached garage is rented out

Member dues

Congregation Har Shalom is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID 81-0452486.

Remember you can now make your donations online at <http://www.har-shalom.org/>

Passover at Home

by Maeta Kaplan

For many years Har Shalom has held a full Passover Seder and meal, typically serving over 100 people. This year, for the first time, the Seder will be in our own home! Rachel Ackerman will be here to conduct the service, which will be held the first Seder night, Saturday, April 19th. We plan to begin at 5:00 this year so as to accommodate the needs of our many families with small children. A traditional, catered, Passover meal will be served. We are definitely limited in space, and have deadlines to meet with the catering crew, so complete the enclosed form for details, and make your reservations today. In order to be sure we get everyone's reservation correct, we will NOT accept phone or email reservations. The form can be downloaded from the website, but please mail the form, with your payment to: Congregation Har Shalom, P.O. Box 7581, Missoula, MT 59807. We need a few more chairs, so please notice on the form there's an extra spot to indicate if you'd like to donate a chair permanently to the congregation. Every little bit helps. Finally, each year we receive requests for assistance paying for the Passover meal, there's place on the form to make an extra donation to pay for someone's meal. Your generosity is appreciated.

MAJCO Shabbaton in Bozeman: A weekend of Music and Rabbis, June 27–29

Beth Shalom of Bozeman is proud to host the annual Shabbaton in 2008 for the Montana Association of Jewish Communities (MAJCO). We look forward to renewing friendships and meeting with Jews from around the State. The Shabbaton will take place June 27–29 and will have options for kids.

Four Rabbis will take part in the weekend's activities. Beth Shalom's very own Rabbi Allen Secher will lead Erev Shabbat on Friday night. Rabbi David Fine, Regional Director of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), will lead the Saturday morning service and two workshops for all affiliations based on popular demand. Workshop possibilities include recruiting
(continued next page)

Aytidaynu News

by Sheehan Rosen

Winter has been a busy time for the children and we are looking forward to spring. Three of our B'nai Mitzvah students are working intensively with Rachel in preparation for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations within the next year. All of the school children are engaged in lively discussions and activities.. The Synagogue is really buzzing on our Sunday mornings! New families are always welcome. Contact Sheehan Rosen (642-6527) for more information or rosens@montana.com.

Be happy, it's Adar and Purim time!

Join us March 21 for the Har Shalom Purim Extravaganza! In the true tradition of silliness and mayhem, everyone is invited for a Purim party, costume parade, delicious hamantashen and lots of laughs. Dress up as your favorite character from the Purim story, or in any costume you like, bring your noisemakers, bring your friends, bring your children, and your children's friends. Here's the schedule:

5:00 p.m. – The synagogue will be open for grager and mask-making. Bring some snacks to share and help tide you over until dinner after services

6:00 p.m. – Brief Shabbat service and telling of the Purim story: lots of singing, and audience participation, suitable for the child in all of us!

7:00 p.m. – Vegetarian Potluck, bring a dish or beverage of choice to share. Of course we want lots of hamatashen so let Maeta know if that's what you can bring. We already have lots of other cookies and a delicious noodle kugel ready to serve.

In keeping with the tradition of Shaloch Manes (sending out portions), we will collect donations of children's books to donate to the Joseph Residence.

MAJCO Shabbaton *(continued)*

volunteers, recruiting & maintaining membership, finance, developing leaders, URJ resources, effective committee work in small congregations, and others. Please let us know your needs. Rabbi Mike Comins, founder of TorahTrek and author of *A Wild Faith: Jewish Ways into Wilderness, Wilderness Ways into Judaism*, will lead a TorahTrek on Saturday afternoon. Finally, Rabbi Chaim Bruk of Chabad and his wife Chavie will host a lunch on Sunday.

Mark your calendars. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate and pray together. Stay tuned for more details. If you would like to help organize and plan the Shabbaton, please email Aaron Weissman (aaron@weissman.com) or Josh Burnim (joshburnim@gmail.com).

Har Shalom thanks you

Har Shalom is only as strong as its volunteers and financial supporters. We want to take this mid-year moment to thank the many individuals and foundations who are supporting our congregation. Please remember that we are a volunteer organization. If we have inadvertently left a name off the list take a moment to get in touch and we'll correct our error right away, and know that our appreciation is no less heartfelt.

Our "double donors," who support both our general activities through memberships, contributions, and our Retire the Debt Campaign

Jill Belsky & Stephen Siebert
Lance & Fern Boyd
Ty & Deborah Brennan
Alice Byrne
Jackie Cohen
Marilyn Dayries
Johanna Doty
Joy & Mark Earls
Eric Feeley
Arnold Finklin
Laurie M. Franklin, Sandy & Owen Ross
Barry & Kathy Good
Arthur M. Gorov
Jim & Linda Gray
Elizabeth Howard & Stan Nashel
Bob & Beth Jaffe
Maeta Kaplan
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Paul & Sheehan Rosen
Ed Rosenberg & Trina Valencich
Mark Sanz, MD
Paul and Maxine Stahl
Janet Tatz & David Morey
Dr. & Mrs. Lennard Wilson
Toba M. Winston

The following individuals and foundations who have supported our "Retire the Debt" campaign

Patricia and Jeffrey Aresty
Richard & Sharon Auerbach
Ed Brown
Alan & Liz Jaffe
Fredri & Sybil Jakob
Joan Jolles
Miriam Kurinsky
Liatis Foundation
Frank Magid
Mel & Phyllis Pollack
Fred & Susan Reed
Edward Reiss
David Schulberg & Shan Guisinger
Herbert Shulman

And all of the following who support our activities and programs with their general donations and memberships:

Suzanne Aboufaddl
Anita & David Aronofsky
Yuval & Zeiv Avniel
Richard & Illana Barrett
Cory Benjamin-Davis
Michael & Jenny Bloom
Staci Bloomberg
Bert Chessin & Carol Ekiss
J Douglas Coffin
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Harry & Lois Goldman
Heidi Goldman
Jordan Golinkoff
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Masnick, George & Reisa Kahn
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Ellen & Michael Silverglat
Lawrence Stahl
Amy & Neil Steiner
Sarah Alla Stevens
Irving Tatz
Nathan Taub
Amie Thurber
Charles Vergeront
Roger Williams
Gary & Lynne Willstein
Dr. & Mrs. Lennard Wilson
Kathy Witkowsky
Susanne Woyciechowicz
Bob Zingmark & Merce Litfin

The following donations have been received in honor or memory of family and friends:
Douglas Coffin in memory of Muriel Hyman

We extend a very happy and healthy birthday to:

March

- 3 Ben Lotto
- 3 Paul Stahl
- 4 Matt Semanoff
- 5 Leah Wilder
- 6 Marium Etmnan-Rad
- 7 Laurie Franklin
- 9 Benjamin Willstein
- 9 Tyler Steinebach
- 14 Kate Sells
- 15 Jake Meyer
- 16 Rachel Morgan-Curet
- 19 Amie Thurber
- 24 Zachariah Jaffe
- 26 Anita Aronofsky
- 31 Suzanne Bennish



April

- 7 Mary Morris
- 9 Shelly Meyer
- 11 Hannah Willstein
- 11 Sharon Tholt
- 11 Alex Kast
- 13 Judith Ann Silverglat
- 17 Mia Jakob
- 18 Eli Rosen
- 19 Merce Litfin Zingmark
- 19 Jessica Weltman
- 22 Ariel Barrett
- 24 Aaron Green
- 25 Maxine Stahl
- 28 Micah Jaffe
- 30 Robin Hollin
- 30 Margaret Kress



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

Contributors to the Marilyn Dayries Memorial Fund in appreciation of her many years on the Har Shalom board and membership committee. Her cheerful spirit, even in difficult times, was an inspiration.
Toba Winston
Jackie Cohen
Maeta Kaplan

If you'd like to add your name to the donor list, or make an additional contribution, please send your donations to the P.O. Box or donate online.

2007-08 EVENT CALENDAR

March

*Events with * denote they include student*
Rabbi Rachel Ackerman

Saturdays: *3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 –
10 a.m. Torah Study
Sundays: 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30 –
10 a.m. Adult Beginning Hebrew
Friday, 3/7 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)
Monday, 3/10 – 7-9 p.m. Rosh Chodesh
Tuesday, 3/11 – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Har Shalom Board Meeting
*Friday, 3/14 –
6 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rachel
7:15 Vegetarian potluck
*Saturday, 3/15 –
9 a.m. Torah Service
10 a.m. Torah Study
12:15 Brown Bag lunch with Rachel, topic TBA
*Sunday, 3/16 –
10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Atidaynu Religious School
10 a.m. Adult Hebrew
11:15 Adult Discussion group.
Tikkun Olam committee members will lead a discussion on
“Greening the Synagogue.” A general discussion and planning
for future topics will follow.
Friday, 3/14 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)
Thursday, 3/20 – 7 p.m. Tikkun Olam committee meeting
Friday, 3/21 –
5 p.m. Pre-service snacks and grager making, costume pieces
available if you need them
6 p.m. Family-Friendly Shabbat Service and telling of the
Purim Story
7:15 Vegetarian Potluck, with hamantashen, and Purim
Celebration (see article)

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

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

Friday, 3/28 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service
followed by Kiddush (no potluck)
Sunday 3/30 –
10 a.m. Adult Hebrew
11:15 a.m. Ritual Team Meeting

April

*Events with * denote they include student*

Rabbi Rachel Ackerman

Saturdays: 4/5, 4/12,* 4/19, 4/26 – 10 a.m. Torah Study
Sundays: 4/6, 4/13, 4/27 (no class 4/20) –
10 a.m. Adult Beginning Hebrew
Friday, 4/4 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)
Monday, 4/7 – 7-9 p.m. Rosh Chodesh Nisan
Tuesday, 4/8 – 6:30-8:30 p.m. Har Shalom Board Meeting
Friday, 4/11 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)
Thursday, 4/17 – 7 p.m. Tikkun Olam committee
*Friday, 4/18 –
6 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rachel
7:15 Vegetarian potluck
*Saturday, 4/19 –
9 a.m. Torah Service
10 a.m. Torah Study
5 p.m. Har Shalom Passover Seder (see article, reservation form)
Sunday, 4/20 –
10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Atidaynu Religious School
10 a.m. Adult Hebrew
11:15 Adult Discussion group
Friday, 4/25 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)



Har Shalom

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