

Har Shalom

P.O. Box 7581, MISSOULA, MT 59807 HOTLINE 406.549.9595
WWW.HAR-SHALOM.ORG
STUDENT RABBI CALLIE SOUTHER • 503-944-9030
CALLIE.SOUTHER@GMAIL.COM

Sept.–Oct. '08

The Spiral Towards Beginnings

by student rabbi Callie Souther

I have always loved that the start of the school year coincides with the Jewish New Year. My memories of childhood back-to-school excitement are always mingled with a memory of the taste of apples and honey, and memories of the sound of crisp dry leaves crunching underfoot mingled with the memories of my Cantor singing "L'Shana Tova". Rosh Hashanah is a particularly fitting time to begin a new endeavor. The image of the spiral is used in our tradition at this time of year, rather than that of a true circle, to represent the cycle of the year. The symbolism being that while each year we arrive back to the same place in the cycle, we are never at the exact same place in our lives as we were in year's before. We are forever striving to move upwards, reach higher, to do better. It is with this imagery in mind that I move into the next phase of my education, career and life as I prepare to join your community as student Rabbi this fall.

I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon where my family belonged to Congregation Beth Israel. I attended Scripps College in Claremont, California and I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics and International Relations in 2003. During the interim years between receiving my B.A. and entering the Hebrew Union College rabbinical school, I worked a variety of jobs within the Jewish community. I began my career with Hillel at Emory Univeristy and then at my alma mater, the Claremont Colleges, endeavoring to create meaningful Jewish experiences for the students of those campuses.

After six years away from the Northwest, I moved to Seattle to be Assistant Director of Education, then Youth Director at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. In addition to formal education responsibilities, I experienced the great joy of being the high school youth group advisor, and an advisor in the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) Northwest region. Seattle was where my inclination to take this life journey turned into a determination.

I was fearful of the longings for greenery, mountains and rivers that four years in Los Angeles would evoke. Imagine my elation when I learned that I would be spending one weekend a month for the next two years in western Montana! Particularly exciting for me is this opportunity to experience the Jewish community of Missoula – a town that I fell in love with when my father lived there ten years ago after a stint as a rancher just east of Bridger Bowl. I showed promise as a young angler then, but have since become out of practice; something I hope to correct over the course of the next two years. (I also love to read, bake, and walk other people's dogs).

I am very excited to be joining the Har Shalom community this fall. I look forward to my first visit in mid-September, and to welcoming the rapidly approaching New Year with you all.

Todah Rabah

Nothing would happen at Har Shalom if it were not for our dedicated volunteers. How can we begin to thank them? If someone has performed a mitzvah for Har Shalom be sure to let us know so we can mention their names below.

• Ed Brown and Carolyn Goren for hospitality to the Soul Train camp staff, Sheehan Rosen for coordinating the camp • Jack and Pat Cohen, Bert Chessin, Merce Litfin, Robin Abeshaus, Beth Jaffe, Joy Earls, Maeta Kaplan, Laurie Franklin and many more for assisting our friend Jackie Cohen with arrangements for her husband Mark Behan's funeral and reception • Carolyn Goren and Robin Abeshaus for collecting our contributions to the Missoula Food Bank • Laurie Franklin for arranging the donation of prayer books.

In Appreciation

To the following individuals who are supporting our congregation with their donations.

Memorials

Mark Behan: Jack & Patricia Cohen, Lee & Barbara Mellman-Davis, David Morey, Larry Stahl, Janet Tatz, Maeta Kaplan
Marilyn Dayries: Alice Byrne
Zangwill H. Freed: Joan Kuchel
Sylvia Robin: Lee & Barbara Mellman-Davis
Bea Semanoff: Joel & Esther Weltman

Donors Hank Butzel, Dr. Marshall and Tonia Bloom, Ty & Deborah Brennan, Barry & Kathy Good, Barbara Gross, Frankie Feinstein, Raphael Rosensweig, Maxine Stahl, Alla Leora Stevens, Lennard & Karen Wilson

Board **President:** Maeta Kaplan, 543-4322
of **Vice President:** David Jolles, 549-3656
Directors **Secretary:** Bert Chessin, 531-5193
Treasurer: Bob Jaffe, 406-728-1052
Barry Good, 541-0528
Larry Stahl, 493-6190
Ty Brennan, 626- 4479

Send news, events, or letters to 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.

The 25th Hour a New Program at Har Shalom

“*Melaveh Malkah*” means to escort the Queen. On Shabbat, we welcome the Shabbat Queen in on Friday Night, and spend the entire day in her presence. There is also a traditional teaching that on Shabbat we receive an extra soul for the day, and on Saturday night, that soul departs from us. For those two reasons, we come together to celebrate the 25th hour of Shabba—to escort the bride out, and the week in, and to enliven our spirits with music, poetry, stories and art, so that they can be further strengthened and ready to face the coming week. Shabbat lasts for 25 hours, as opposed to our regular 24-hour day—in order to ensure that we really and truly experience the fullness of Shabbat. We will be coming together during that 25th hour (or an approximation thereof) to squeeze one last drop out of Shabbat. Come prepared to share a story, poem, musical piece, dance, piece of art—anything that will help us to celebrate this liminal period between Shabbat and the new week. We will officially usher out Shabbat at the end of our celebration with Havdallah. Program runs 7:30-8:30 pm, Saturday, September 13, bring a snack to share if you like.

Leadership Team

by Bert Chessin

I am looking forward to being part of the leadership team at Har Shalom. The congregation has incredible opportunities to shape both the short- and long-term future.

Several issues and areas of responsibility should receive the bulk of my attention. Broadly, I see my role as supporting and guiding efforts in ritual, education, and tikkun olam (repairing the world). This will be played out in several ways. First, we need to invigorate committee work through examining and redefining, if necessary, the values and mission of Har Shalom generally and the specific vision for each committee, such as ritual, spiritual leadership, religious school, adult education, social action, and cemetery (burial society) committees. Some of this has already been done or needs minor efforts. Other committees may need to be built nearly anew. Present and previous leaders in the community are a great resource for this important work, but we also have a great need to involve new members, people with ideas and experience and energy and time (understandably limited for so many of us). In keeping with our traditions of struggling and communicating with “G_d”, none of this is easy, but I will try to bring some my own Jewish background, experience, and vision to my role as co-leader of the HS board.

I have been involved in congregational leadership elsewhere and believe that I have a sensitivity to the history and present character of Missoula and the Missoula Jewish community. I am open to your thoughts, guidance and interests.

Weekly Services, Torah Study and the Ritual Team

From Laurie Franklin

We are small congregation, and every member (and potential member) is important to us! One way to be part of the “family” is to attend weekly services at Har Shalom. We hold Kabbalat Shabbat (receiving the Sabbath) services every Friday evening, and once a month, we hold Saturday morning services with Torah reading. Our services are friendly and inclusive, and once a month, are oriented towards families with young children. On weekends when our student rabbi is in town, we combine services with a potluck. (*See the calendar for service and potluck times. If you haven't attended services yet, you're missing some good stuff.* —editor)

Another way to become involved is to attend our regular Saturday Torah study session, from 10 am to noon. We are a self-led group. We read Torah, Haftarah, commentaries and explore the complex themes of Torah.

Finally, if you are yearning to understand the structure of the service, to learn how to lead services, and to engage in conserving and documenting our ritual objects, the Ritual Team is your opportunity! We meet twice monthly, plan one service a month as a group, learn new music, research the history of our Torah and ritual objects and engage in their preservation.

There is a place for you in the Ritual Team. Consider yourself invited and encouraged!

Tikkun Olam at Har Shalom

With the help of excellent contributions from the Har Shalom community, and a huge box of fabric from the Martha Ministry, we delivered 26 Personal Care Kits to the Missoula Food Bank on Aug. 5. Thank you all for the contributions that made this possible. We will continue to collect Personal Care items and non-perishable food items. Help feed the hungry; bring a can of food or box of cereal with you to Shabbat and/or High Holiday services. Tikkun Olam, one can of food at a time!

Building News

by Dave Jolles

Looking back on our first year in our new home, I'm happy to report that the building has proven to be a wonderful investment in our congregation. No buyer's remorse whatsoever! We have a strong relationship with our tenants, The Garden City Montessori School, and collaborate with them on improvements inside and outside the building. We've made tremendous progress utilizing and maintaining the space; there's still much to do. We need volunteers to take on:

- 1.) Lawn maintenance including mowing, fertilizing, weeding and watering. (Ideally, several families could share these duties during the spring, summer and fall months.)
- 2.) And/or coordinate snow removal for the upcoming winter season.
- 3.) Maintain the interior space including periodic cleaning, vacuuming and carpet shampooing.
- 4.) Help develop our “back forty,” including designing and securing bids for sprinkler systems, grading and asphalt removal as well as determining what parts of the work can be performed by our own Har Shalom “sweat equity.”

With everyone's time, energy and imagination I know we can “get 'er done!”

NOTE from Maeta: Up to now Dave's been doing most of the above on his own. While he's generous with his time and eminently capable, it's time to shift to a more realistic and cooperative approach to building maintenance. Please contact him at 549-3656 if you can lend a hand. Also, when you complete the annual membership update form let us know how you can contribute to the ongoing process of keeping our House of Worship a home for all of us.

New Year, New Leadership

by Maeta Kaplan

The New Year is upon us again, after what for me was an absolutely glorious summer. As you know I traveled in Japan and Korea, followed by two weeks in Oregon where I visited family and friends and had a chance to meet Callie, our new student rabbi. We visited over a cup of coffee and have lots of email exchange since then. I know it's going to be a wonderful year for our congregation.

As fall begins to arrive, I look back over a year of amazing growth for our congregation, and once again I am struck by the hard work of a core group of truly dedicated congregants. This building has given us so much, but there are so many opportunities to give back to the congregation. Now more than ever we can see the needs of Har Shalom and are reaching out to everyone to step forward and do their part to keep our congregation as vibrant and active as we have become.

Heading into this year there will be some changes in the leadership of our congregation. Laurie Franklin will continue as the real glue that holds together our Ritual team and makes it possible for us to have weekly services, Torah study and to observe so many of the critical events in the Jewish calendar. Erin Craney, with Sheehan's guidance, is taking over as coordinator for Atidaynu, our children's religious education program, and Barry Good is moving forward with plans for Adult Education. Each of them has an article inside with details about what's ahead.

I have decided to move over to the position of secretary for the Board of Directors and Bert Chessin and Dave Jolles are willing to serve as co-chairs for the coming year. They've divided the responsibilities of the President's position along lines that seem to make a lot of sense for our nearly-all-volunteer congregation. Bert will work primarily on ritual, education, rabbi, membership, Tikkun Olam and social activities, while Dave will handle financial, facility, administrative and tenant functions. As secretary, I'll continue to handle some of the general communication tasks including the newsletter, board communication, press contacts and work with Laurie on the weekly emails and updates. All of us will pitch in on policy development; work with the retire-the-debt campaign and building committee involvement.

This shared structure opens the door for some new board members and I encourage anyone who might be willing to serve to contact an existing board member for information. At the annual meeting on September 7th, we'll vote in the new members and officers so please plan to attend.

A year ago I asked what you might do for our congregation and I ask the same question today. All of us on the board are reaching out to all of you, join us, join a committee, join a class, but do join us in making Har Shalom all we want it to be.

Sept. 7, 11 a.m.: Har Shalom Annual Meeting

Our congregation's meeting will be at the synagogue, 3035 South Russell. A potluck brunch begins at 10 a.m. with discussion scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bagels and cream cheese will be provided. Come share your ideas for the coming year and let your voice be heard. What would you like to see more of at the synagogue? How can we as a community grow together? We'll also have financial reports presented and Board positions to validate.

Atidaynu: Our Future

We are very happy to announce that Erin Craney has agreed to take on coordinating Har Shalom's children's education program this year. Todah rabah! Sheehan will coordinate Bar Mitzvah preparations.

Our first Atidaynu meeting will be Sunday, September 14, 10 a.m., at the synagogue. Though it will not be a regular class-schedule day, everyone will have an opportunity to meet student rabbi Callie and the teachers, go over the new schedule, and finish registration. Past Atidaynu families will receive a letter with a registration form prior to the first class. New families may request a form from Erin. We still need a couple of teachers, especially for Hebrew. The curriculum is very user-friendly; prior teaching experience is not necessary. Contact Erin if you are interested in enrolling or teaching (406/590-4396 or erin_craney@hotmail.com).

Workshop/retreat with guest Rabbi Gershon Winkler

Visiting Rabbi Gershon Winkler will hold a workshop at Har Shalom, September 19-20. The workshop includes and follows Friday's Shabbat service, resumes Saturday morning, and continues through the day. There is a fee for the workshop, but all are welcome to attend Friday Shabbat services; a vegetarian potluck follows. For information and to register, contact Marlene Hutchins at artdogz@msn.com (email is preferred; or call 721-2425) before Sept. 12.

Adult Education

by Barry Good

Welcome to the Adult Education News. Flash! Prayer Book Hebrew for Adults 2 will be offered this year. The course will review Prayer Book Hebrew for Adults 1 and continue with grammar and translation (let's learn roots and conjugate verbs together!). Flash! A congregational adult education discussion group will be assembled. The first discussion will be used to clarify (or muddy) our thoughts on Judaism (and where did that word come from anyway). Come! Let us compare and contrast Liberal, Conservative, and Orthodox Judaism (or should Judaism be plural). Let's discuss authentic Judaism and explore authenticity. Let's look at Jewish concepts and ideas about/of G-d (and who or what do I worship anyway, if I worship at all). All will have a fun time. Guaranteed! Dates and times to be decided and announced at High Holiday Services. Final flash! Outreach and/or conversion studies are on hold until our new student rabbi arrives. More information will be coming. Stay tuned.

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.

ELUL

- 17 (8/31) Ann Goldberg
(Richard Goldberg's mother)
- 26 (9/26) Jack Witkowsky
(Kathleen Witkowsky's father)

TISHREI

- 3 (10/02) Bernard Robin
(Melinda Robin's father)
- 5 (10/04) William Sanz
(Mark Sanz's father)
- 12 (10/11) Eva Stahl
(Larry Stahl's grandmother)
- 13 (10/12) Charles Stahl
(Larry Stahl's grandfather)
- 20 (10/19) Dorothy Bloom (Michael and Zachary Bloom's Grandmother /Great-grandmother)
- 24 (10/23) Francis B. Rosenzweig
(Frank Rosenzweig's father)
- 26 (10/27) Leroy Bloomberg M.D.
(Staci Bloomberg's father)

CHESHVAN

- 1 (10/30) Joseph Goldberg (Richard Goldberg's father)

2008 EVENT CALENDAR

* indicates activity led by student rabbi Callie Souther. Note time/details below for our weekly Friday evening Shabbat services and Saturday morning Torah study. Snacks are provided before our Shabbat service; if you arrive early you are invited to have a nosh with us.

September

Tuesday, 9/2 – 7-9 p.m. – Rosh Chodesh, Jewish Women's Group
 Friday, 9/5 – 6 p.m. – Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush
 Saturday, 9/6 – 10 a.m. – Torah Study
 Sunday, 9/7 – Har Shalom Annual Meeting
 10 a.m. – Potluck Brunch, bagels and cream cheese provided
 11 a.m. -1p.m. – Meeting, election of board members and officers, review annual budget, focused interest area discussions
 Tuesday, 9/9 – 6 - 8 p.m. – Har Shalom Board of Directors meeting
 *Friday, 9/12 – 6 p.m. – Shabbat Service, Vegetarian Potluck follows ±7:15
 * Saturday, 9/13 – 9 a.m. – Torah Study • 10 a.m. – Torah Service
 Noon – Brown Bag lunch with Callie, topic “Creating Shabbat”
 7:30 p.m. – “The 25th Hour” songs, stories, casual socializing and Havdallah (see article)
 *Sunday, 9/14 – 10 a.m. -12:30 – Atidaynu Religious School
 Friday, 9/19 – 6 p.m. – Shabbat service with visiting Rabbi Gershon Winkler, begin weekend retreat through Saturday (see article)
 7:15 p.m. – Vegetarian Potluck
 Saturday, 9/20 – Retreat with visiting Rabbi Winkler
 10 a.m. Torah Study
 Sunday, 9/21 – 10 a.m. – Ritual Team meeting, final details for High Holy Day services
 Friday, 9/26 – 5:30 p.m. – Vegetarian Potluck • 6:30 Family Shabbat Service
 Saturday, 9/27 – 10 a.m. Torah Study

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

Student rabbi appointments: Call or e-mail student rabbi Callie Souther, 503-944-9030, callie.souther@gmail.com

HIGH HOLIDAY DAYS BEGIN. All services with * include student rabbi Callie Souther

*Monday, 9/29 – 7 p.m. – Erev Rosh Hashanah services, New Year social hour to follow
 *Tuesday, 9/30 – 9 a.m. – Rosh Hashanah Children's Service, a shorter service geared to youngsters; families welcome at either or both. 10 a.m. Rosh Hashanah morning service, followed by Tashlich early afternoon (location TBA)

October

Friday, 10/3 – 6 p.m. – Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush
 Saturday, 10/4 – 10 a.m. – Torah Study
 Sunday, 10/5 – 10 a.m. – Ritual Team
 *Wednesday, 10/8 – 7 p.m. – Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre service
 *Thursday, 10/9 – 9 a.m. – Yom Kippur; Children's Service a shorter service geared to youngsters, families are welcome at either or both. 10 a.m. – Yom Kippur services begin and continue through the day. The following times are approximate; services will not begin earlier:
 Yizkor 5:30 p.m. • Neilah 6:30 p.m. • Havdallah 7:45p.m.
 • Break-the-fast after Havdallah, \$8/person, at approx. 8 p.m.
 *Friday, 10/10 – 6 pm Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush No Potluck
 *Saturday, 10/11 – 10 a.m. Torah Study
 *Sunday, 10/12 – 10 a.m. – Atidaynu Religious School/Build the Succah
 Tuesday, 10/14 – 6 - 8 p.m. Har Shalom Board of Directors Meeting
 Friday, 10/17 – 6 p.m. Lay-led Shabbat service and Sukkot Celebration
 7:15 p.m. –Kiddush in the Succah weather permitting
 Saturday 10/18 – 10 a.m. Torah Study
 Tuesday, 10/21 – 7 p.m. Ma'ariv and Yizkor service
 Friday, 10/24 – 5:30 p.m. Veg. Potluck • 6:30 p.m. Shabbat, Simchat Torah
 Sat. 10/25 - 10 a.m. Torah Study
 Friday, 10/31 - 6 p.m. Lay-led Shabbat service • 7:15 p.m. – Veg. Potluck

We extend a very happy and healthy birthday to:

September:

3 Erin Craney
 3 Scott Miller
 3 Jennifer Nickisch
 6 Max Masnick
 8 Gary Porter
 8 Sheehan Rosen
 9 Marshall Bloom
 10 Lynda Gorov

10 Trudy Pratt
 15 Laura Winston
 18 Mark Sanz
 18 Muriel Friedman
 21 Gary Willstein
 20 Edward Rosenberg
 21 Gary Willstein
 22 Beth Jaffe
 23 Barbara Gross
 25 Sarah Sanz
 25 Naomi Byrne
 27 David Schulberg

27 Elijah Marshall
 Schwartz
 29 Amanda Gabster
 (Carolyn Goren's daughter)

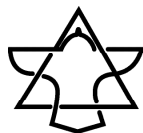
October Birthdays:

4 Brian Mattes
 7 Justin Glass
 7 Jesse Bloom
 9 Charles Byrne
 9 Adair Kanter
 11 Jackie Cohen

16 Staci Bloomberg
 16 David Rosenberg
 23 P'rez-li Vischniac
 26 Paul Rosen
 26 Malia Silverman
 29 Zachary Isaac Bloom
 29 Joshua Sanz



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



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