



Har Shalom

P.O. BOX 3715, MISSOULA, MT 59806 HOTLINE 406.549.9595

WWW.HAR-SHALOM.ORG

STUDENT RABBI CALLIE SOUTHER • CSOUTHER@HUC.EDU

May–Jun '09

From Callie Souther, Har Shalom's student rabbi

I seem to have a mild obsession with the Jewish calendar and its ability to reflect and offer shape to our lives. I cannot resist a look at how the spring holidays propel us through the last remaining days of winter and into a new time, a new place, full of potential. So thank you, in advance, for humoring me.

After winter's hush, we burst forth into spring, our back-to-back holidays moving us through a pace of renewal, remembrance and redemption. We start off slowly, the month before Pesach, warming up to the idea of spring as the world around us shakes off the last remaining frost. With Passover, we relieve our people's birth as a nation moving from slavery to freedom; from persecution to self-determination. The ancient calendrical cycle puts Shavuot as our next major holiday, but recent (and not-so-recent) events have further shaped our identity as a people. Not ten days after our celebration of Passover, we commemorate our people's most recent tragic and impactful experience: the Holocaust. I offer you, this month, the poetic rendering of this experience in the words of Marge Percy, below, and urge that as we move forward into Spring, we remember our more recent experiences of persecution and redemption, and revel in the sweetness of our freedom, and continue the struggle against slavery, injustice and persecution in our own time.

Maggid, by Marge Percy

The courage to let go of the door, this handle.
The courage to shed the familiar walls whose very
Stains and leaks are comfortable as the little moles
Of the upper arm; stains that recall a feast,
A child's naughtiness, a loud blistering storm
That slapped the roof hard, pouring through.
The courage to abandon the graves
dug into the hill,
The small bones of children and the brittle bones
Of the old whose marrow hunger had stolen;
The courage to desert the tree planted and only
Begun to bear; the riverside where promises were
Shaped; the street where their empty pots
were broken.
The courage to leave the place whose
language you learned
As early as your own, whose customs however
Dangerous or demeaning, bind you like a halter
You have learned to pull inside, to move your load;
The land fertile with the blood spilled on it;
The road mapped and annotated for survival.
The courage to walk out of the pain that is known
Into the pain that cannot be imagined,
Maples, walking into the wilderness, going
Barefoot with a canteen into a desert;
Stuffed in the stinking hold of a rotting ship

Sailing off the map into dragons' mouths.
Catahy, India, Serbia, goldene medina,
Leaving bodies by the way like abandoned treasure.
So they waked out of Egypt.
So they bribed their way
Out of Russia under loaves of straw;
so they steamed
Out of the bloody smoking charnelhouse
of Europe
On overloaded freighters forbidden all ports
Out of pain into death or freedom or a different
Painful dignity, into squalor and politics.
We Jews are all born of wanderers, with shoes
Under our pillows and a memory of blood
that is ours
Raining down. We honor only those Jews
who changed
Tonight, those who chose the desert over bondage,
who walked into the strange and became strangers
and gave birth to children who could look down
on them standing on their shoulders for having
been slaves. We honor those who let go
of everything
but freedom, who ran, who revolted, who fought,
who became other by saving themselves.

Todah Rabah

To Danielle Wozniak and her committee, Ellie and Sol, for coordinating the Purim party with lots of help from Robin Abeshaus, Laurie Franklin, Elizabeth Howard, Adair Kanter, and Maeta Kaplan. To Dave Jolles and Steve Begleiter for calling the congregation together then capturing us on film. To Kate Soukonnikov for polishing up the synagogue for Callie's weekend in March and Kathy Good for taking care of it for the Seder in April. Once again the Passover "gang," pulls through with wonderful charoset and lovely Seder plates, so thank you Kathy Good, Carolyn Goren, Robin Abeshaus, and Bert Chessin. Thank you Maeta for organizing the Passover meal and Laurie in the office for staying on top of reservations. And one more thank you to Robin A., for her work repairing the Torah cover.

We extend a very happy, healthy birthday to:

- May
2 Haley Green
9 Deborah Natelson
12 Alice Byrne
12 Jessie Howard
16 Michael Hollin
18 Susanne Woyciechowicz
19 Jeb Rosen
19 Zeba Etminan-Rad
20 Dori Gilels
22 Matthew Miller
22 Alex F. Schuldberg
24 Arthur Stevens
24 Leslie Meyer
25 Arthur Gorov
26 Bob Jaffe
27 Logan Wilder
28 Richard Goldberg
28 Anne Getzenberg

(continued page 3)

Board of Directors **President:** Bert Chessin, 531-5193
Vice President: David Jolles, 549-3656
Secretary: Maeta Kaplan, 543-4322
Treasurer: Kate Soukonnikov, 549-0503

Members:
Barry Good, 541-0528 Sherry Kolenda, 251-7996
Larry Stahl, 493-6190 Toba Winston, 777-5541
Ty Brennan, 626- 4479

Send news, events, or letters to maetadan@hotmail.com. Newsletters publish semi-monthly..

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.

A Synagogue for Missoula successfully launches fundraising campaign

With the renewal of spring, comes the renewal of our loan to make "A Synagogue for Missoula: Building a Jewish Community". Yes, thanks to your support we have successfully raised the first \$85,000 needed to renew the loan. This gives Har Shalom twelve months to reach our goal of \$350,000 to reduce the size of the mortgage on our wonderful building so that the congregation can assume an affordable long-term mortgage that we can live with for the next generation. Thank you for making this crucial first step a reality!

Now comes the hard work. We need to raise approximately \$35,000 a month for the next year. One way for you to help is to participate in the Jewish Geography project. We have created packets of materials that you can send to friends, family and business associates anywhere, to ask them for their help. Many Jewish folks may be surprised that there is a vibrant congregation here in Missoula and from this realization, and their connection with you, a donation could be forthcoming.

Packets are available at the synagogue, by dropping by any afternoon, by calling us at 549-0503, or by emailing info@har-shalom.org.

To make the mailing more effective, please include a cover letter and write 'Thank you' and your name on the contribution slip, so the office will know who generated the contact.

Importantly, if you have any contacts you would like the Campaign Committee members to reach out to, we are happy to do it. Please give us any names you feel may be helpful.

We have a firm, achievable plan for the coming year. We will accomplish this goal — with your help!

Capital Campaign Committee – A Synagogue for Missoula: Building Jewish Community
Sherry Kolenda, Campaign Chair 251-7996 • Bert Chessin, Har Shalom Pres. 531-5193
Dave Jolles, Har Shalom VP 728-3344 • Kate Soukonnikov, Har Shalom Treasurer 549-0503
Susan Cramer, 360-0596

Focus Group Update

Over the last month, Har Shalom member Amie Thurber facilitated a series of three focus groups with Har Shalom members. These sessions gathered critical insights from members to help inform the congregation's growth in the coming year and into the future. Nearly 20 people participated, sharing what aspects of congregation life are most fulfilling to them personally, what aspects they want further developed, and what organizational model might best support the needs of the congregation in the future. Recognizing the varied ways people connect with Har Shalom, there was a focus group directed towards secular Jews, Sunday School families, and people involved in worship activities.

The diversity of perspectives shared in the focus groups reflected the diversity of our congregation. However, some themes emerged. When asked what they loved most about the congregation that they want to see continue, many people talked about the building, and the importance of having a strong community presence and a physical home. Sunday school also got several mentions, as did various religious activities — especially holiday parties.

When asked to consider what they would like more of, secular social activities that build connections between members got lots of mention — with ideas ranging from a hiking group to a parents night. Another theme was inspirational leadership, with a focus on spiritual and/or scholarly themes rather than religious services.

Participants also brainstormed ways to utilize the building more — both to generate revenue but also to increase the vitality of this space. Many people spoke of fitness and wellness classes, with a lot of interest in yoga classes.

Finally, participants reflected on what organizational model will best meet our needs into the future. Callie will continue as our student Rabbi through summer 2010; at that point we will need to either continue with a new student rabbi or explore an alternate model to meet the administrative and spiritual needs of the congregation. There was a lot of good discussion about this that will continue over the coming year.

And while there was lots of wonderful input gathered, it's not too late to add your voice to the mix! You can complete this simple survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=fZQ6iNsdw_2fiOZdbQxcFmVg_3d_3d. No need to print or mail — it is all online! Please complete by May 31 to make sure your voice is heard.

Worship, Torah Study and Chevruta

Ritual Team

The Ritual Team (RT) opens its arms to anyone who wants to participate in leading services, learning new music, or maintaining our ritual objects. In May and June, the RT services will take place on Fri., May 1, and Fri., June 12. The RT will meet on Sun., June 7, at 10 a.m. to plan the June 12 service.

Torah Study

We will meet weekly in May and June, from 10 a.m. to noon, and study the parashat hashavua (weekly Torah portion), Haftarah and commentary. On Sat., May 9 only, we'll meet at 9 a.m., one hour before Ethan Howard's Bar Mitzvah.

Chevruta Night!

A small but loyal group has been assembling weekly on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. to explore Talmud. We are reading "Talmud with Training Wheels" by Joel Lurie Grishaver, and experiencing first-hand the phenomenon of "eilu v'eilu" (these and these are the word of the living G!d), i.e., that discourse occurs when participants honor each others' ideas.

Summer Camp with Soul Train

Har Shalom will be hosting a two-week summer camp from August 10 through August 21. The Jewish camp experience is a great time for our kids, especially with the energetic, fun and memory-making staff from Israel. We are encouraging families all around Montana to sign up for our camp. Not all the details have been firmed up, but we will be looking for host families in Missoula. That way we can welcome kids from beyond commuting range — Kalispell, Great Falls, Helena, wherever. Maybe a campout for a night or two for the older kids? Registration information and more details will be forthcoming soon.

Changes in Leadership

After almost four years on the board, Maeta has decided to step aside and make way for new leadership. Since she will be studying overseas again for a good portion of the summer, rather than wait until the annual meeting in the fall, her last board activities will be during the month of May. Kate Soukonnikov will assume the duties of the secretary and Dave Jolles will serve as interim treasurer. Please contact Kate regarding newsletters and contact list questions, Dave regarding financial issues, and Bert for other concerns. As always, Laurie Franklin is your contact for questions on worship services and chevruta.

Our synagogue is more active than ever and this would be a great time for new people to step forward and consider joining the board or a committee and taking an active role in our congregation. Any of the current board members can fill you in on responsibilities and the rewards of serving our congregation.

Holidays in May: Lag B'Omer and Shavuot Party

May is a time of celebrations! Lag B'Omer marks the 33th day of "counting the omer" (lag means 33), a biblically described act of enumerating 49 days (seven weeks) beginning on the second day of Pesach (Passover) and culminating in Shavuot (Festival of Weeks) on the 50th day. Both Pesach and Shavuot are harvest festivals, the second day of Pesach marking the first harvest of barley, and Shavuot, the first harvest of wheat. The "omer" is a measure of grain, and each day between Pesach II and Shavuot is counted as one day of the omer. The counting of the omer connects Pesach, a holiday recalling the Exodus, with Shavuot, a holiday commemorating the gift of the Torah.

Lag B'Omer is a minor holiday, and there are several explanations for its origin, but it is most famous for the lighting of bonfires, said to represent the light of learning, which is still practiced in Israel in modern times. This year, Lag B'Omer falls on Tuesday May 12. We will celebrate with the regular monthly Har Shalom Board meeting at which we will burn all our minutes (ha, ha fooled ya!). We encourage our members to get together with friends and neighbors, fire up the barbecue, and enjoy the lengthening light of the mid-spring evenings.

JWest Initiative offers camp scholarships

January 2009 (New York, NY) – Following the resounding success of its JWest campership initiative last year, which enrolled more than 750 Jewish youths from the western U.S. in overnight Jewish camps, the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) will offer the program this year to families in the 13 Western states, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon; Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

Established by FJC through the generous support of the Jim Joseph Foundation, JWest provides financial incentives to Jewish pre-teens to attend overnight Jewish summer camp for the first time and establish a lifelong bond with their cultural and religious heritage.

Families who have never before sent their children to an overnight Jewish camp receive up to \$1,800 to enroll them in a camp program lasting at least three weeks. JWest campers who return for a second year will be eligible for a grant of up to \$1,000. Participants must be entering sixth, seventh or eighth grade in the fall after camp, and must not already be involved in immersive Jewish experiences, such as day school or yeshiva. FJC expects to enroll 1,500 children in Jewish summer camps through the program.

This year, FJC launched its own online registration system at www.onehappycamper.org to help families determine eligibility for JWest, and provide them with resources about the program. [Onehappycamper.org](http://www.onehappycamper.org) is also being used to process applicants for FJC's larger-scale Campership Incentive Program, currently available in almost 30 communities and camps across North America.

Research shows that Jewish camp alumni are 50% more likely to join a synagogue, 90% more likely to join a Jewish community center, and twice as likely to donate \$100 or more to their local federation than Jewish adults who never went to a Jewish camp.

The Foundation for Jewish Camp is the only public national organization dedicated to non-profit Jewish resident camps, advancing program and leadership excellence in camps and access to vibrant Jewish experiences for campers. The Foundation helps raise awareness and support for Jewish summer camps, highlighting their successful track record for building powerful Jewish commitment in young Jews, ensuring future Jewish continuity. FJC works with more than 150 camps, 70,000 campers, and 12,000 counselors across North America to further its mission. www.jewishcamp.org.

Birthdays (cont'd from page 1)

— June

- 1 Leland Earls
- 1 Larke G. Schuldberg
- 1 Lauren Varney
- 2 Courtney Lotto
- 5 Sigrun Kuetner
- 6 Kathryn Witkowsky
- 10 Isaac Brooks Smith (Melinda Robin's son)
- 11 Miriam Kurinsky
- 17 Max Siebert
- 21 Josh Hollin
- 25 Joy Earls
- 25 Ethan Howard
- 26 Hannah Maile Smith
- 29 Michael Vergeront (Heather Licht's son)
- 30 Ed Brown



If you wish a birthday greeting or a Yahrzeit remembered, and it is not listed, please send us the info and we will include it in the newsletter. Contact Beth Jaffe at 728-1052 or 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.

— Iyaar

- 17 (05/11) Meyer Tuchinsky (Toba and Laura Winston's father/grandfather)

— Sivan

- 18 (06/10) Gloria Belsky (Jill Belsky's mother)
- 18 (06/10) Belle Zamosky (Roslyn Chaitoff's mother)
- 19 (06/11) Al Rosenthal
- 22 (06/14) Dora Frankel Gross (Barb Gross' mother)

— Tamuz

- 1 (06/23) Hermine Summer (John Breiter's mother)
- 8 (06/30) May Eisenstadt (Keegan Eisenstadt's grandmother)

2007-08 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 please have a nosh with us.*

May

Friday 5/1 – 6 p.m., Ritual Team Shabbat Service & Kiddush (no potluck)
Saturday 5/2 – 10 a.m. - noon, Torah Study
Wednesday 5/6 – 6-7 p.m. Adult Prayer Book Hebrew, 7:30-9 p.m., Chevruta Night
*Friday 5/8 – Note special times
5:30 p.m., Vegetarian potluck
7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service with student rabbi Callie Souther (her last service until fall), oneg to follow in honor of Ethan Howard.
*Saturday 5/9 –
9:00 a.m., Torah Study
*10:00 a.m. – Ethan Howard is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, all are welcome
*Sunday 5/10 – 10 a.m. - noon, Atidaynu religious school.
Final meeting for the year includes Consecration
Tuesday 5/12 – 6-8 p.m., Har Shalom Board of Directors meeting (campaign meeting precedes at 5)
Wednesday 5/13 –
6-7 p.m. Adult Prayer Book Hebrew
7:30-9 p.m., Chevruta Night
Friday 5/15 - 6 p.m., Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush
Saturday 5/16 – 10 a.m. – noon, Torah Study
Wednesday, 5/20 –
6-7 p.m. Adult Prayer Book Hebrew
7:30-9 p.m., Chevruta Night
Friday 5/22 –
5:30 p.m., Vegetarian Potluck
6:30 p.m. Family Service
Saturday 5/23 – 10 a.m. – noon, Torah Study

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

Student rabbi appointments: email Callie Souther:
csouther@huc.edu

Wednesday 5/27 –

6-7 p.m. Adult Prayer Book Hebrew
7:30-9 p.m., Chevruta Night

Friday 5/29 –

6 p.m., Shabbat service
7:30, Tikkun Leil, celebration of Shavuot, dairy emphasis for

vegetarian potluck, celebration and study.

Saturday 5/30 – 10 a.m. – noon, Torah Study

June

Wednesday 6/3 –

6-7 p.m. Adult Prayer Book Hebrew
7:30-9 p.m., Chevruta Night

Friday 6/5 – 6 p.m., Shabbat Service & Kiddush (no potluck)

Saturday 6/6 – 10 a.m. – noon, Torah Study

Sunday 6/7 – 10 a.m., Ritual team service planning meeting

Tuesday 6/9 – 6-8 p.m., Har Shalom Board of Directors meeting (campaign meeting precedes at 5)

Wednesday 6/10 –

6-7 p.m. Adult Prayer Book Hebrew
7:30-9 p.m., Chevruta Night

Friday 6/12 – 6 p.m., Ritual Team Shabbat Service & Kiddush (no potluck)

Saturday 6/13 – 10 a.m. – noon, Torah Study

Wednesday 6/17 –

6-7 p.m. Adult Prayer Book Hebrew
7:30-9 p.m., Chevruta Night

Friday 6/19 –

5:30 p.m., Vegetarian Potluck
6:30 p.m. Family Service

Saturday 6/20 –

9-10 a.m. Torah Study
10 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jeb Rosen, watch for details

Wednesday 6/24 –

6-7 p.m. Adult Prayer Book Hebrew
7:30-9 p.m., Chevruta Night

Friday 6/26 – 6 p.m., Shabbat Service & Kiddush (no potluck)



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