



Har Shalom

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

WWW.HAR-SHALOM.ORG

STUDENT RABBI CALLIE SOUTHER • CSOUTHER@HUC.EDU

September-October '09

Har Shalom Board

President:

Bert Chessin 531-5193

Vice Pres - Treasurer:

Dave Jolles 549-3656

Secretary:

Kate Soukonnikov 549-0503

Board Members:

Ty Brennan 626-4479

Sherry Kolenda 251-7996

Larry Stahl 493-6190

Toba Winston 777-5541

Har Shalom Annual Meeting Sunday 9/13

An opportunity to participate and be counted

Everyone is invited to attend the Har Shalom Annual Meeting on Sunday September 13. We are combining a business agenda and bagel brunch. Brunch begins at 10 am, and the business meeting at 11 am.

The Har Shalom Board will be presenting our budget for fiscal 2009–2010, the new slate of board members, and several other issues for discussion and vote. Among issues for consideration are (1) whether we continue in the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute for Religion student rabbi program in academic year 2010–2011 or hire Laurie Franklin to serve in a spiritual leadership role and (2) making a deeper commitment to involvement in charitable, social justice, and environmental activities.

We need a quorum to do business, so your attendance or proxy is important! To vote in the annual meeting, each member unit must be up-to-date in financial commitment to Har Shalom for the coming year. If necessary, it's possible to vote by proxy. The proxy requires a written, signed authorization that designates another member household to vote on behalf of the authorizing household but does not direct the proxy to vote for or against a specific issue or candidate. The proxy may be hand-carried, mailed, or faxed to either Har Shalom or the designated proxy. If you wish to mail your proxy to Har Shalom, please use the post office box address, Har Shalom, P.O. Box 3715 Missoula, MT 59806 and not the street address. If faxing to Har Shalom, please call the office before faxing at 549-9595 to make sure your fax will be received.

President's Message

Draw closer to the Har Shalom family in the sweet New Year

L'shanah tovah tikatevu. I have spent a good bit of time over the past few months working in the honey business, and it has been a physical challenge to support the bees to produce such a sweet product—and well worth it! One small payoff in the past few days has been sneaking little bits of dripping honeycomb. If a Jewish community were built honeycomb-by-honeycomb, I would be well along in helping us get there. It is hard work and the product is oh, so sweet.

I want to welcome all the new faces to our congregation and re-embrace our returning families. We look forward to the energy, ideas and good work found in each person involved in our community. One recent, fine example: the Soukonnikovs (Kate and Boris) joined our congregation just a year ago and have made contributions in so many areas that they are now critical pieces in the Har Shalom mosaic. Not everyone will be so enthusiastic and involved, but each of us can and should find ways to make this our community.

We are working hard to make Har Shalom a bit more of a full-service congregation. The children will be attending religious school more often and with a more integrated program. Callie Souther, our student rabbi, has learned—as have we—from her first year with us and will be channeling her energy into some new areas. It is important for all of us to think about what has worked well and what has not. Talk to board members, other congregants, and with Callie about your thoughts and suggestions. One idea is to have a parent and adult program on Sundays, including those weekends that Callie is with us. I know there are many good ideas in your heads and we want to hear them.

Now is the time to be a part of the Har Shalom New Year. As you peruse this newsletter, notice the concerted efforts by so many to grow into our building. I encourage you to find ways to turn (tshuvah) your inspirations and efforts to become a little more of the Har Shalom family.

May the New Year be a good and sweet one for you and your family.

Bert Chessin

Callie's Column

Thoughts from Student Rabbi Callie Souther

There is a Hasidic teaching that the word Elul is an acronym that stands for the famous verse from Song of Songs, *ani l'dodi v'dodi li*, "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." The month of Elul is a prescribed time, set aside from the rest of the year, to prepare for the New Year. These weeks before the *yamim noraim*, the Days of Awe, are an opportunity for us to do a spiritual check-up. This process is completely internal. We need not do the external work of apologies or setting affairs in order, which is what the days between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are for. This month is for us, and us alone. It is an opportunity to come to terms with ourselves, in our on-going work of self-improvement. Elul is a gift of time, an extension before a deadline.

The Hasids, who seek the best and most graceful of the Divine, saw this month as evidence of God's love for humanity; it is a comforting thought. Although we have all been guilty of any number of behaviors or actions, we always have the opportunity to return to our best selves, and to God. In keeping with this notion, we move immediately from the somberness of Yom Kippur into the joy of Sukkot. On Yom Kippur we set ourselves right with God, and with the world, and then rejoice in the life that we have been given. We shift gears to sing praises of what we have been given: another chance at life.

At this time of year, as we prepare for the New Year and Day of Atonement, I offer up the words of Leonard Cohen, modern poet and prophet:

I did my best, it wasn't much
I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch
I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you
And even though
It all went wrong
I'll stand before the Lord of Song
With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen, "Hallelujah"

May we learn in this season that, even at our worst, God still loves us enough to give hear our praises, and give us the strength to sing them.

"People get ready..." Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions, 1965

Preparing for the High Holy Days by Lay Leader Laurie Franklin

As this newsletter goes to press, the Hebrew lunar month of Elul is well underway. What is the connection between Elul and the High Holy Days? This: Our tradition teaches that Elul is a time of preparation for the Days of Awe. Why are we encouraged to prepare? If we are to fulfill the possibility of renewal offered by the High Holy Days, we must first engage in a process of self-examination, self-correction, and rediscovery of the holy possibilities within ourselves. It takes time and will.

The desired culmination of our acts of preparation is "tshuvah", which is often translated as "returning", "turning", and "repentance". These three aspects of tshuvah can be illustrated metaphorically: On "returning", R. Ed Stafman of Bozeman's Beth Shalom says, "We seek to return to who we have always been, and who we are meant to be but have not yet become." He speaks of an inner self, a light that is hidden by the accretion of the "shmutz" of a year of living. It's our job to clear away the cobwebs, find that obscured, encumbered self, and let it emerge and shine.

On "turning," many sources liken the Elul journey to that of a ship, correcting its navigation and turning its bow to a true course. That metaphor speaks to me eloquently because of the many hours I've spent at the whipstaff (an early steering device that preceded the ship's wheel) as a crewmember of a replica 1608 Dutch trading ship. Personal navigation is no small task. Instead of fighting wind, water, and poor visibility to stay a course, we struggle with our habits and history to find a path through daily living that reflects the divine.

On "repentance", Rabbi Rami Shapiro says, "Repenting sins is more than feeling sorry and changing our behavior; it is an inner revolution (re-volution, re-turning), a transformation of the false self of ego to the True Self of God." What a challenging idea! Not only do we have to recognize our shortcomings, make amends, and cease the unacceptable acts, but we have to change inside, become something different, become a person who is no longer capable of those acts.

No wonder we revisit the process annually! It's not easy to change in a fundamental way. We first have to consider if we really believe we can change or if we are simply mouthing empty words when we say we want to. Moreover, our tradition teaches us not to hate our imperfect selves or wallow extravagantly in the guilt of wrongdoing, but to grow from the knowledge of our mistakes and move ahead! We are asked to engage in level-headed self-assessment and the unromantic work of change.

So, what can we hope to achieve as the moon of Elul waxes and wanes, and the High Holy Days approach? R. Shapiro holds out this possibility: "I realize that I am the way God takes out the garbage, tips the waiter, makes peace among friends. I respond to life with the immediacy of my life, aligned with justice and compassion."

Not bad. In fact, really, really good. What a gift to live with a clear sense of holiness and joy woven into the fabric of every day!

So, how do we get from here to there? We engage in reflection and action that immerses us experiences of holiness. And we try to make a habit of doing kindnesses and being thankful. R. Ed Stafman summarizes a few steps we can take from the writing of Simon Jacobson, *60 Days: Spiritual Guide to the High Holidays*, and I paraphrase further:

- 1) Do you really want to change? Do you think you are capable of change? Get thee a journal and keep track of your ideas and feelings about self-transformation.
- 2) Identify and describe one pattern of behavior you do want to change this year.
- 3) In the last 24 hours, how has that pattern affected you in a significant way? What other factors were at play: values learned in your upbringing, fears, biases?
- 4) How can Torah (Jewish wisdom over the ages) help you? Have you learned what guidance the Torah might be able to offer? It's big, it's deep, and it's there. You can dive in and find support.
- 5) Give, give, give. Teach your children to take joy in giving their time and money to others.
- 6) When you next eat or drink, focus on the blessing; concentrate on the spiritual energy contained in the food before you.
- 7) Console someone: visit a sick person; call a friend who's down; send a greeting to someone who's lonely.

The steps above are actions that an individual can take alone, but the simultaneous brilliance and utility of our tradition is that we also practice the ritual of tshuvah as a community. We rise as a body and confess to all possible transgressions, even if we haven't committed some of them personally. We give each other cover, which allows those of us who have done particularly nasty stuff to have the courage to declare it aloud and know it belongs to them. We help each other face up, 'fess up, and move beyond.

May each of you engage in personally meaningful reflection and steps toward tshuvah, and may we act together as a holy community to support our mutual growth and renewal.

L'Shanah Tova.

High Holy Days at Har Shalom

Our doors are open to all who wish to attend High Holy Day services; tickets or prior reservations are **not** required. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services will be led by Student Rabbi Callie Souther, who will be joined at the bima by lay leader Laurie Franklin and other congregation members. Cellist Fern Glass-Boyd will offer Kol Nidre. The schedule appears below.

Selichot

9/12 Saturday Selichot service 8 pm

Rosh Hashanah

9/18 Friday Erev Rosh Hashanah service 7 pm with oneg following

9/19 Saturday Rosh Hashanah children's service 9 am, Rosh Hashanah morning service 10 am,
Tashlich after service

Yom Kippur

9/27 Sunday Kol Nidre 7 pm

9/28 Monday Yom Kippur children's service 9 am, Yom Kippur Morning service 10 am, Yizkor 6 pm,
Neilah 7 pm, Havdallah 8:30 pm, followed by breaking the fast

Shabbaton in the Sukkah October 2-4

Har Shalom is pleased to welcome our statewide Jewish communities to the MAJCO* Shabbaton and Hadassah Annual Meeting on the weekend of October 2-4.

The Sukkot weekend opens with a Friday evening "Meet and Greet" social hour, potluck, and Kabalat Shabbat and oneg. Saturday features early morning exercise, breakfast, services, workshops, a choice of

Hadassah or general group lunch, children's and adult workshops, dinner, evening children's skit, Klezmer dance, and separate teen activities. Sunday will start with a bike-hike and breakfast, move on to MAJCO and Hadassah business meetings, workshops, and conclude with a lunch program.

Other special highlights: Hadassah's White Elephant Auction; Missoula Jewish history tour with Har Shalom president Bert Chessin; Chevre Kadisha education with R. Min Kantrowitz of Albuquerque, NM; presentation by URJ Western Region Rabbi, R. Alan Henkin; forum, moderated by Rabbi Allen Secher, "Traditional Jewish attitudes towards healthcare"; Torah study and sukkah teachings; workshops in Bar/t Mitzvah education, outreach to families with a nonJewish partner, and outreach to unaffiliated Jews; children's crafts and skit workshops, and—weather-permitting—lots of sukkah time in the what promises to be the biggest sukkah in Montana!

Registration form, lodging information, and schedule details are available at http://har-shalom.org/MAJCO_Shabbaton_and_Hadassah_Annual_Meeting_2009.

*Montana Association of Jewish Communities

Tuesdays with Morrie Dinner Theater Event to Benefit Har Shalom

Purchase tickets at www.har-shalom.org or send a check to PO Box 3715, Missoula, 59806

Theater and great food are coming October 16, 17, and 18 with our signature fundraising event of the year. The theatre performance of "Tuesdays with Morrie", based on the book by Mitch Albom is a moving and splendid show about a professor who taught author Mitch Albom about the meaning of life. All the events will be staged in the Governor's Room in the Florence Building on Higgins Street.

Friday will feature a cocktail reception and silent auction, along with the theater performance. The evening begins at 6 pm. Tickets are \$75 per person.

Saturday will feature a five-course chef's dinner by some of Missoula's top chefs, along with the performance. A Sephardic-themed dinner will feature Greg Parent, Abe Risho, Bob Marshall and others. The silent auction continues during the opening reception at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$150 per person or \$1,000 for a table of eight.

Sunday will be a lovely brunch with the performance following, \$100 per person. The silent auction will continue, starting at 10 am.

This will be a must-see event for an important community within Missoula! Contact info@har-shalom.org for questions and to volunteer time or silent auction items.

Ritual Team, Torah Study, and Chevruta Welcome You in the New Year!

Whether you are new to Har Shalom or have been associated for a while, please feel welcome to dip your toe in the waters and participate in Ritual Team, Torah study and Chevruta. Each of these groups welcomes anyone with curiosity and interest, and no experience is necessary!

- Torah study meets weekly on Saturday mornings from 10 am to noon, except once a month, when our student rabbi leads Shabbat Shacharit services, and Torah study meets from 9 to 10 am. We are a self-led group and read the weekly Torah portion, Haftarah, various commentaries, and engage in active discussion.
- Chevruta is a Talmud study group, also meeting weekly on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9 pm. We read and discuss different parts of Talmud and contemporary commentary, learn about Talmud history, and consider various approaches to Talmud study.
- Ritual Team meets either once or twice a month to plan and lead a service, learn music, and maintain

our ritual objects. We begin our Ritual Team New Year meeting schedule in November. Please watch the weekly email and next newsletter for meeting dates.

If you find any of these groups interesting, please come to a scheduled meeting (see calendar) or contact Laurie Franklin at 546-9368 or rossfranklin@msn.com with questions.

Simchat Torah: Party with the Torah

Once a year, we finish the cycle of reading Torah and begin again. This is true cause for celebration! Join us on Saturday October 10 at 7 pm for a Torah party, complete with music, oneg (desserts), Havdallah and dancing with the Torah! If there are enough people in the room, we'll unroll the entire Torah and see all of it, all at once! So, come!!!

Todah Rabah

Jeff Kooris for last year's housing and car for Student Rabbi Callie Souther. Many thanks to those who helped clear the "back forty" behind the synagogue, especially **Dave Jolles, Jack** and **Pat Cohen, Jeff Kooris** and his tractor, and **all the volunteers** who rolled up their sleeves and dug in! Kudos to Soul Train facilitators **Bert Chessin, Sheehan Rosen,** and **Jeff Bendremer**. Thanks for all the time, schlepping children, and snacks. A big shout-out to all our Mega Yard Sale helpers: **Bert Chessin** and **Carol Ekiss, Laurie Franklin, Pat Cohen, Sherry Kolenda, Ted Fitzpatrick, Lisa Carter. Fern Glass-Boyd, Kathy Good, Dave Jolles** and **Erin Craney, Toba Winston, Phil Tuchinsky, Merce Litfin-Zingmark** and **Bob Zingmark, Flo** and **Mike Chessin, Marjorie Dula, Laurie Jean Harris, Emily Darling, Rya Hawks** and friend **Tim** (we don't know your last name!), everyone else who lent a hand not mentioned by name, and our **AWESOME donors!**

Events Calendar

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

*Events with * led by Student Rabbi Callie Souther*

September

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Wednesday 9/2 | Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30-9 pm |
| Friday 9/4 | Kabalat Shabbat Service 6 pm, Kiddush after service |
| Saturday 9/5 | Torah Study 10 am-noon |
| Tuesday 9/8 | Board Meeting 6 pm |
| Wednesday 9/9 | Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30-9 pm |
| Friday 9/11 | Kabalat Shabbat Service 6 pm, Kiddush after service |
| Saturday 9/12 | Torah Study 10 am-noon, Havdallah and Selichot 8 pm |
| Sunday 9/13 | Annual Meeting 10 am Brunch, 11 am Meeting |
| Tuesday 9/15 | Synagogue for Missoula Committee 5:30 pm |
| Wednesday 9/16 | Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30-9 pm |
| Friday 9/18 | *Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7 pm with oneg following |
| Saturday 9/19 | *Rosh Hashanah Children's Service 9 am, Rosh Hashanah Morning Service 10 am, Tashlich after services |
| Sunday 9/20 | *Atidaynu Religious School Open House 10 am to noon |
| Tuesday 9/22 | Synagogue for Missoula Committee 5:30 pm |
| Wednesday 9/23 | Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30-9 pm |

Friday 9/25 Kabalat Shabbat/Shabbat Shuvah Service 6 pm, Kiddush after service
 Saturday 9/26 Torah Study 10 am–noon
 Sunday 9/27 *Kol Nidre 7 pm
 Monday 9/28, *Yom Kippur Children's Service 9 am,
 Yom Kippur Morning Service 10 am, Yizkor 6 pm, Neilah 7 pm, Havdallah 8:30 pm,
 followed by breaking the fast
 Tuesday 9/29 Synagogue for Missoula Committee 5:30 pm
 Wednesday 9/30 Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30

October

Friday 10/2 Erev Sukkot, Shabbaton social hour 5 pm, Potluck 6 pm, Kabalat Shabbat 7 pm with
 oneg following (see Shabbaton schedule online)
 Saturday 10/3 Shabbaton, Breakfast buffet 8 am, activities begin 9 am
 Sunday 10/4 Shabbaton, Breakfast buffet 9 am, activities begin 9 am
 Tuesday 10/6 Synagogue for Missoula Committee 5:30 pm
 Wednesday 10/7 Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30–9 pm
 Friday 10/9 *Kabalat Shabbat Service 6 pm, Kiddush after service
 Saturday 10/10 *Torah Study 10 am–noon, oneg, Havdallah, and Simchat Torah 7 pm
 Sunday 10/11 *Atidaynu Religious School 10 am to noon, Consecration of Atidaynu students, twice-
 a-month schedule begins
 Tuesday 10/13 Board Meeting, 6 pm
 Wednesday 10/14 Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm–9 pm
 Friday 10/16 "Tuesdays with Morrie" at the Florence Hotel, wine reception 6 pm, show 8:30 pm
 Saturday 10/17 Torah Study 10 am–noon, "Tuesdays with Morrie" silent auction 5:30 pm, chef's
 dinner 6 pm, show 8:30 pm
 Sunday 10/18 "Tuesdays with Morrie" brunch and silent auction 10 am, show 1 pm
 Wednesday 10/21 Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm–9 pm
 Friday 10/23 Kabalat Shabbat Service 6 pm, Kiddush after service
 Saturday 10/24 Torah Study 10 am–noon
 Sunday 10/25 Atidaynu Religious School 10 am to noon
 Tuesday 10/27 Synagogue for Missoula Committee 5:30 pm
 Wednesday 10/28 Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm–9 pm
 Friday 10/30 Kabalat Shabbat Service 6 pm, Kiddush after service
 Saturday 10/31 Torah Study 10 am–noon



Har Shalom

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Contributions (*Those received after the newsletter deadline will appear in next issue*)

Synagogue Operating Expenses and Building Maintenance

Mark and Janet Bloch, for the New Year
Deborah Denenberg, thanks for summer
storyteller evening

Janice Mehring, thanks for Shabbat
Richard and Susan Nashel, in honor of Ethan
Howard's Bar Mitzvah

A Synagogue for Missoula: Building Jewish Community Campaign

Aime Golda Avniel, New Year's donation to
encourage her son and grandson Yuval and
Zeiv

Sigrun Kuefner
Marc and Madelyn Semanoff

In Memory of:

Jerome Aresty

Jeff Aresty

Sharon Auerbach

Richard Auerbach

John Winston

Shigeji Aoyama

Susan and Joe Baltake

Jackie Cohen

James Courtney

Erik Frodsham

Paul and Suzanne Hanau

Bradley R. Lichtenheld

Dr. Richard and Joan Loeff

Deborah McCrea

Kate and Boris Soukonnikov

Sylvia Tuchinsky

Toba Winston

We Extend a Happy and Healthy Birthday to:

September Birthdays

3 ErinCraney
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 Schuldberg
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

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 (09/06) Ann Goldberg (Richard Goldberg's mother)
- 26 (09/15) Jack Witkowsky, (Kathleen Witkowsky's father)

TISHREI

- 3 (09/21) Bernard Robin (Melinda Robin's father)
- 5 (09/23) William Sanz, (Mark Sanz's father)
- 13 (10/01) Charles Stahl (Maxine Stahl's father-in-law, Larry Stahl's grandfather)
- 16 (10/04) Charles Sherman (Suzanne Aboulfadl's father)
- 20 (10/08) Dorothy Bloom (Michael and Zachary Bloom's grandmother/great-grandmother)
- 21 (10/09) Eva Stahl (Maxine Stahl's mother-in-law, Larry Stahl's grandmother)
- 24 (10/12) Francis B. Rosenzweig (Frank Rosenzweig's father)
- 26 (10/14) Leroy Bloomberg, M.D. (Staci Bloomberg's father)

CHESHVAN

- 1 (10/19) Joseph Goldberg (Richard Goldberg's father)
- 4 (10/22) Bill Martin (Marilyn Dayries's father)
- 5 (10/22) Flora Kaplan (Maeta Kaplan's mother)
- 5 (10/22) Frances Blindman, (Elizabeth Howard's grandmother)
- 9 (10/27) Harry Komisar (Melissa Porter's father)
- 12 (10/30) Richard Albert Litfin (Mercede Litfin Zingmark's father)