



# Har Shalom

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STUDENT RABBI: CALLIE SOUTHER • LAY LEADER: LAURIE FRANKLIN

Jan–Feb '10

## Atidaynu School News

### President's Message from Bert Chessin

As I sit here, mid-Chanukah, thinking about momentous events swirling around us — health care insurance reform, Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, Smurfit-Stone plant closure, the discontinuity between Wall Street salaries and the pocketbooks of average Americans — I have to admit that I begin to wonder, “What does Har Shalom and our Jewish tradition mean to each of us?” Well, Jews tend to care deeply about issues of morality, ethics, and our physical/biological and sustaining environment. We strive for a consciousness about the world around us that connects us with individuals and with the community — both the tree and the forest.

So what does Chanukah, Tu Bishvat, or the Torah have to do with all of this? Jewish insight teaches us that as Jews we have the opportunity to make our tradition real. Jewish learning leads us to action. Being modern Jews in western Montana, or wherever, we have the choice to live by Jewish values and to be a part of a community that defines itself by its members and how we relate to, teach and share “the light” with each other.

Our Har Shalom board and spiritual leaders will be addressing the evolving nature of our community early in 2010 and then involve the whole community in a dialogue (again) on our basic philosophy and values. There will continue to be lively and meaningful events over the next several months, such as Purim and Pesach holiday gatherings, a Holocaust remembrance program, special presentations by members of the community, fun and fundraisers. I am encouraged by the successes we have experienced over the past few years and am confident that each of us can find ways to not only keep the light alive, but to actively share it with others.

### Callie's Corner: Rosh Hashana is not the only New Year

We actually have several New Year's celebrations built into the Jewish calendar. The first of Nissan is the new year for the purpose of counting the reign of kings and months on the calendar; the first of Elul is the new year for the tithing of animals, the fifteenth of Shevat is the new year for trees and the first of Tishri is the new year for years or Rosh Hashana.

For some Jews, the idea of celebrating New Year's on January 1 makes them feel uncomfortable. They see the holiday as part of secular tradition and therefore not “Jewish.” The question is not whether we should or shouldn't celebrate. But how should we do it? Is there a way to mark the holiday Jewishly? There are Jewish insights that we can bring to the occasion that would make it more meaningful.

New Year's marks a time when people everywhere celebrate the possibility of building a better tomorrow. It symbolizes the human desire to demarcate the past from the future, the old from the new. But what if we really understood that our words — our resolutions and commitments — could create a new beginning? What if we really believed that our vows had the power to help us get past the past?

There is a deep human desire to be able to start again, not to be imprisoned by the past. We need to feel hope for new possibilities and see that our future is not governed entirely by our history. Jewish tradition celebrates the ability to start over throughout the year. In Jewish life every day, every week, and at many other times, we are given the chance to begin again. To integrate another celebration is very much in keeping with our tradition.

In daily morning prayers, we thank God for renewing the world. Every Shabbat we recall the first moment of creation, and by doing so, give ourselves the chance to start over. So to commemorate an additional New Year is not foreign to Jewish practice.

We are very happy with the way things are going so far in Atidaynu. The children seem to be adjusting nicely to the twice-a-month schedule and we are beginning to see more progress in Hebrew. Thank you, parents, for helping your kids with homework assignments and getting them to the shul on time!

Thanks to Erin Craney for making sure we have a healthy snack between classes. The kids appreciate a little break and some refueling before Hebrew. And many thanks to Jeff Bendremer who has really stepped up to help with a large class and to help us all begin our meetings with great music.

Every class has been busy with projects and discussions; there is a wonderful buzz in the building during our meetings. We also have lively parent meetings when Callie is in town. If you'd like to stop in, please do; guests are always welcome!

Of course, we have room for more children, especially those who are age 3–7. Early childhood is a great time to start Jewish education and nurture a life long connection to Judaism and our community. It's good for parents, too! Contact Erin for more information [erin\\_craney@hotmail.com](mailto:erin_craney@hotmail.com).

### An invitation: To belong

Most of you reading this newsletter do not participate in Shabbat services at the synagogue. There are many reasons for this. It does not mean you ignore Shabbat — there are Friday night dinners and restful Saturdays. Some of you read Torah and others incorporate a wide variety of mitzvot during the period. Even the simple act of dropping a few coins into a tzadakah box every

*(continued on next page)*

**Board of Directors**  
**President:** Bert Chessin, 531-5193  
**Vice President:** David Jolles, 549-3656  
**Treasurer:** Ted Fitzpatrick, 322-3850  
**Secretary:** Kate Soukonnikov, 549-0503

**Members:**  
Jeff Bendremer, 493-1908 Rob Natelson, 251-2266  
Jack Cohen, 543-4409 Larry Stahl, 493-6190  
Sherry Kolenda, 251-7996 Toba Winston, 777-5541

Send news, events, or letters to [info@har-shalom.org](mailto:info@har-shalom.org). Newsletters publish semi-monthly.

The Har Shalom newsletter is written entirely by volunteers. Submissions are always welcome!

The next deadline is February 15 for the March/April 2010 Edition.

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## Todah Rabah: To all who made Chanukah a celebration

A mighty “thank you” to party organizer Maeta Kaplan, and Erin Craney, Toba Winston, Sherry Kolenda and the many other people who made our Chanukah celebration such a success. Bob Marshall made a heap of wonderful latkes and won the 2009 Latke Crown. Bob’s chef assistants on the latke cooking line also included Carolyn Goren and family, Jack and Pat Cohen, Laurie Franklin and Sandy Ross, and Merce Litfin. Special thanks also go to Kathy Good and Jackie Cohen who helped with synagogue clean-up and prep, Sheehan Rosen and Beth Jaffe who organized the craft activities and Anna Kalm (and friend) who supervised cookie decorating with cookies provided by Maeta, Amie Thurber and Alice Byrne. Storytime in the library was presided over by Rob and Betty Natelson and Toba Winston, and dreidel games were supervised by the Wozniak Bendremer family. Hope we didn’t miss anyone — apologies if so!

The Missoula Community Chorus sang three songs — Mendelsohn’s “God Watching Over Israel”, the Channukah song “S’vivo” and “May The Road Rise to Meet You” ending with the moving wish: “May God hold you in the palm of His hand.” There were tears in the eyes of both the congregation and the singers. The chorus’ participation made the evening extraordinary.

After dinner, our local klezmer group got the party rocking, including Bert Chessin (fiddle), Laura Hibbs (accordion), Paul Rosen (drums), Sonia Chessin (flute), Jeff Bendremer (guitar) and his daughter Eliana on cello. We danced the hora and sang in English, Hebrew and Yiddish. A wonderful evening thanks to all!

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## An open letter from the Synagogue for Missoula Campaign Committee: We need you!

It is with great pleasure that we speak to you now of the tremendous sense of satisfaction that we all feel, in the afterglow of our wonderful “Tuesdays with Morrie” fund raising event. Now that the dust has cleared, we see that the hard work that went into the event resulted in a more than \$5,000 profit for our building fund, and every bit we can raise means so much. It also raised much-needed awareness of who we are in this community, which means so much as well.

We have new goals for the upcoming year, and have already begun to address them with exciting ideas for other events. One of the most important things that we need to do at this moment is to reconvene our committee. Many of you have expressed that having this building is important to you in your lives. Whether your interest is in having a place to worship on Shabbat, or having a place to teach your children Jewish values, or even a place to party on Passover or Chanukah or spend the High Holy Days, we know you value having this building here in Missoula.

Please consider joining the Capital Campaign Committee so you can have a chance to play an integral part in ensuring we have this building now and in the future. We want and need your participation very much.

It is vital that we raise money between now and April to continue our loan for another year. In the spirit of continuing to grow our Jewish community, please consider donating whatever you can to help jump-start our campaign efforts going forward. Any amount you can manage is so much appreciated. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Call the synagogue office at 406/549-9595 or go online to [www.har-shalom.org](http://www.har-shalom.org) to make your donation.

We wish you peace, good health and prosperity in the coming year.  
*Sherry Kolenda and David Jolles, Campaign Co-Chairs*

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## Keep in Touch!

Besides this newsletter, we send out weekly emails and announce happenings on our website. If you would like to get the weeklies or have the newsletter mailed to you, please send a message to [info@har-shalom.org](mailto:info@har-shalom.org). The website is [www.har-shalom.org](http://www.har-shalom.org).

**An invitation** *(continued)*  
week is an important tradition.

Still, could you consider coming to the synagogue for Shabbat? Once a month, perhaps? Our services evolve over time. Hear student rabbi Callie’s beautiful voice during her visits. Or listen to Laurie Franklin’s weekly take on the torah portion Friday nights. Come back to the experience of Shabbat at the synagogue. We daven every Friday at 6 pm.

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## 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 and it is customary to make a donation to the synagogue in remembrance. May the memory of your loved ones be a blessing.*

*Special Note: Due to a computer glitch, our yahrzeit dates had to be reconstructed. Please email [info@har-shalom.org](mailto:info@har-shalom.org) if you have changes or additions. Thank you.*

### — TEVET

- 4 (1/10) Clemence Klein  
(Lance Klein’s father)
- 24 (1/10) Leonard Moon  
(Julie Moon’s husband,  
Bei Ruetten’s father; Madison  
and Julia Ruetten’s grandfather)
- 28 (1/14) Beatrice Nashel (Elizabeth  
Howard’s grandmother)

### — SHEVAT

- 5 (1/20) Meyer Alperin (Michael  
and Zachary Bloom’s  
Grandfather /Great-  
Grandfather)
- 14 (1/29) Harold Lurie  
(Diana Lurie’s father)
- 17 (2/1) George Shulman  
(Joy Earls’ father)
- 21 (2/5) Lillian Shapiro Tuchinsky  
(Toba and Laura Winston’s  
mother/grandmother)

### — ADAR

- 2 (2/26) Michael Hendricks  
(Z’eva Singer’s husband)
- 2 (2/16) Frank Spector  
(Ellen Silverglat’s father)
- 3 (2/17) Albert Belsky  
(Jill Belsky’s father)
- 3 (2/17) Ethel Cohen  
(Jackie Cohen’s mother)
- 14 (2/28) William Rosenberg  
(Ed Rosenberg’s father)
- 14 (2/28) Victor Tevah  
(Anita Aronofsky’s father)

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## Contributions *(those given after the newsletter deadline will appear in the next issue)*

### **General Operating Fund Donations:**

Lionel Mausberg

### **A Synagogue for Missoula Campaign Donations:**

Linda Gray

Scott Green

Barry and Kathy Good

Dave Jolles

Elizabeth Loehnen

Joan Melcher

Evelyn O'Leary

Lloyd Phillips

Bob Zingmark

### **In Memory of:**

*John Winston*

Floyd Kennedy

Jack LaDuke

Phil Morrow

### **In Honor of:**

*Sylvia Semanoff's 1st birthday:*

Joel Weltman & Esther Orloff-Weltman &

Tampa-Orlando Pinellas Jewish Foundation

*Rabbi Winkler Workshop:*

Kitty (Mary) Robins

### **Siddurim Purchase Fund Donations:**

Bluma Freed, in memory of Dr. Zangwill H. Freed

— father of Joan Kuchel

Shirle Gray

Pamela Hogle

Joan Kuchel, in honor of Mrs. Bluma A. Freed, Peoria IL,

and in memory of Dr. Zangwill H. Freed, 1916-2008

William & Roslyn Pinson, in memory of Pauline/Silvia Chaitoff

Susan Reed, in honor of Miriam Friedman's 95th

Sheehan Rosen

Edward Rosenberg

Herbert Shulman & Yona Nelson, in honor of the Earls Family:

Joy, Mark, Leland and Carter

Trina Valencich

Toba Winston



# UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

All events, unless otherwise noted, are at Cong. Har Shalom, 3035 S. Russell St., Missoula  
*Snacks are provided before our Shabbat service; if you arrive early you are invited to have a nosh with us.*

*\* indicates activity led by student rabbi Callie Souther.*

Student rabbi appointments: email Callie Souther: [callie.souther@gmail.com](mailto:callie.souther@gmail.com)

## JANUARY

**Friday, 1/1, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush  
**Saturday, 1/2, 10 am-noon** Torah Study  
**Wednesday, 1/6 7:30-9 pm** Chevruta Talmud Study  
**Friday, 1/8, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush\*  
7:15 pm Vegetarian Potluck\*  
**Saturday, 1/9, 9-10 am** Torah Study  
10:30-noon Shabbat Shacharit\*  
**Sunday, 1/10, 10 am-noon** Atidaynu Sunday School\*  
**Tuesday, 1/12, 6-8 pm** Har Shalom Board Meeting  
**Wednesday, 1/13, 7:30-9 pm** Chevruta Talmud Study  
**Friday, 1/15, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush  
**Saturday, 1/16, 10 am-noon** Torah Study  
**Wednesday, 1/20, 7:30-9 pm** Chevruta Talmud Study  
**Friday, 1/22, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush  
**Saturday, 1/23, 10 am-noon** Torah Study  
**Sunday, 1/24, 10 am-noon** Atidaynu Sunday School, Tu Bishvat  
**Wednesday, 1/27 7:30-9 pm** Chevruta Talmud Study  
**Friday, 1/29, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush  
**Saturday, 1/30, 10 am-noon** Torah Study

## FEBRUARY

**Wednesday, 2/3, 7:30-9 pm** Chevruta Talmud Study  
**Friday, 2/5, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush  
**Saturday, 2/6, 10 am-noon** Torah Study  
**Tuesday, 2/9, 6-8 pm** Har Shalom Board Meeting  
**Wednesday, 2/10 7:30-9 pm** Chevruta Talmud Study  
**Friday, 2/12, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush\*  
7:15 pm Vegetarian Potluck\*  
**Saturday, 2/13, 9-10 am** Torah Study  
10:30-noon Shabbat Shacharit\*  
**Sunday, 2/14, 10 am-noon** Atidaynu Sunday School\*  
**Wednesday, 2/17, 7:30-9 pm** Chevruta Talmud Study  
**Friday, 2/19, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush  
**Saturday, 2/20, 10 am-noon** Torah Study  
**Wednesday, 2/24, 7:30-9 pm** Chevruta Talmud Study  
**Friday, 2/26, 6 pm** Kabalat Shabbat Service with Kiddush  
**Saturday, 2/27, 10 am-noon** Torah Study  
**Sunday, 2/28, 10 am-noon** Atidaynu Sunday School followed by  
**Purim Party** (*details to be announced*)



# Har Shalom

P.O. BOX 3715, MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED