



# Har Shalom

P.O. Box 3715, MISSOULA, MT 59806 PHONE: 406.549.9595  
WWW.HAR-SHALOM.ORG • INFO@HAR-SHALOM.ORG  
LAY LEADER: LAURIE FRANKLIN • 546-9368 ROSSFRANKLIN@MSN.COM

Sept–Oct'10

## Atidaynu, our religious school

### President's column: Reality Check and Dream Catching *by Bert Chessin*

This may be a stretch, but my heavy involvement in Har Shalom is a bit like my skills as a trout fisherman. I know that there are plenty of fine fish in the streams that could be hooked and landed, and though I have fly and spinning rods, dry and wet flies and lures, I too often fall short in bringing home those feisty beauties that I dream about. However, it is well worth the effort, whatever the outcome.

Our Jewish wisdom, whether residing in Torah, Talmud, or western Montana, knows well that principled, values-infused, collective action is essential to communal success. I am sure that I share many a congregant's dream of a future Har Shalom community center, thriving in many ways: engaged ritual services, lively holiday celebrations for adults and children, stimulating discussions around books/politics/philosophy/Torah/Talmud/etc., warm social gatherings, supportive care to those in need, and *tikkun olam* actions and joint efforts with other groups working toward common goals. It is those bonds, those embraces, those ah-ha moments, those tangible experiences that tell us it is good to experience life in a way that would not be possible without a connection with those who share our heritage and our future.

About four years ago, we staked a future in Missoula that is centered around our building. The building has proved a blessing. We are proud of having our own space. We share it with a thriving Montessori school that brings life to the space through the week, and we welcome family, friends and visitors for all those Har Shalom events, small and large. Our identity is wrapped up with 3035 South Russell. The board has made tremendous strides in redefining our values. They speak to who we are and will help make our future.

However, realities are also catching up with us. We have major challenges in how we sustain ourselves functionally and financially. Growing expectations of Har Shalom programs and services has not yet been matched by increasing involvement from our congregants. I have outlined essential committees elsewhere in the newsletter that must be formed or reformed to meet our needs. Present and future board members alone cannot sustain this work. A wider base is required to build our congregation.

We are also at a crossroads to pay for the building and services. Over the past few years, the pledges made by congregants have kept us in the building, and our operating expenses have been nearly covered by membership dues, rental fees, and donations. Though our operating expenses are budgeted to stay fairly even with previous years, we are limited from initiating programming that requires new money, such as inviting visiting scholars or bringing in rabbis to experience ritual differently. Our financial obligations to stay in the building have not abated, yet at the same time, we project that we will see fewer dollars from pledges because donations pledged a few years ago have already been received.

As we enter the New Year, I challenge myself and everyone else to find ways to reach out, to reach deeper, to reach further, in order to help figure out ways to commit time and effort toward Har Shalom's future. Both a first and a second step are needed to connect, to build, to catch our dream and make it a reality.

Our future is doing very nicely while we write this because our summer camp is going full tilt this week. Two, fine, young Israelis are helping a dozen Har Shalom children absorb Jewish history, values, and ritual through informal games, activities, singing, and discussions. It is known that Jewish camps have as large an impact on establishing a long-term Jewish identity as any other experience, in or out of synagogue. So we are blessed to have a strong camp experience right here in Missoula. A few families in our congregation have also provided Jewish camp experiences for their children in places as far as New York, western Washington and British Columbia. The generosity of the Cohen Foundation helped one such family.

Building on the summer experience, we look forward to another year of Atidaynu. We continue our twice-a-month school on Sunday mornings, where children begin the day with prayer and songs as one big group. Most parents join us for this too, so it is a wonderful communal experience. Children are grouped by age into classes for teachings, arts and crafts, stories and recreation. Hebrew instruction is provided by teachers and parents for the final 45 minutes, with many students moving at their own pace using a set of books developed by the Reform movement. Those older students who are in preparation for a bnei mitzvah work individually with Laurie Franklin.

Some new plans for the coming year include Shabbat dinners for families with children in the same class, having children and parents for a particular class take responsibility for leading services once or twice a year, and having the b'nei mitzvah children attend the once-a-month Saturday Torah service.

With the slowly strengthening and growing Atidaynu, there are just a couple of things missing. More children

*(continued on next page)*

#### Board of Directors

**President:** Bert Chessin, 531-5193

**Vice President:** Sherry Kolenda, 251-7996

**Treasurer:** Jeff Bendremer, 493-1908

**Secretary:** Kate Soukonnikov, 549-0503

#### Members:

Jack Cohen, 543-4409 David Jolles, 728-3344

Shirle Gray, 493-6932 Marlene Hutchins, 721-2425

Toba Winston, 777-3100

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

Next deadline: Oct. 15 for Nov/Dec Issue

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

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## Laurie's Letter *by Lay Leader Laurie Franklin*

I write this on a perfect Missoula August day: warm sun, cloudless blue sky, and soft breeze. This is the quiet time before the action-packed days of the Jewish calendar that begin with S'lichot, continue through Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, and end with Simchat Torah.

Before I knew much about Judaism, I wondered why all these holidays were bunched up in the fall. It was hard to keep track of them, much less make sense of their meaning. In fact, it seemed a bit much, both an imposition and a bewilderment. Then, they were followed by an inexplicably loooooong stretch of calendar quiet until Chanukah.

Now, I whole-heartedly embrace this season because I have come to recognize the special character of each observance, the teaching that comes from the closeness of their spacing, and the connectedness of each one to the next. Taken together, the Jewish holidays of the months of Elul and Tishrei invite us to make a spiritual journey that cleanses and renews us, unites us as a people, grounds us in the natural world, and turns us toward the Torah. Wow! What a tradition: a season of reflection, rebirth, and rededication, a tool for making a good life! So, join me for a brief station-to-station tour of this journey of renewal:

### **Elul Aug 11 to Sept 8**

The 28-day Jewish month that precedes the first of Tishrei, aka Rosh Hashanah. Elul is a time of reflection. We also have a chance to make amends for our shortcomings with those we have offended or hurt.

### **S'lichot Saturday Sept 4** (technically midnight between the 4th and 5th)

S'lichot is translated as forgiveness or apologies. In the S'lichot service (see schedule), we culminate the reflections of Elul with prayers for forgiveness. We ready ourselves to approach Rosh Hashanah with joy tempered by awareness of Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement, to follow.

### **Rosh Hashanah 5771 Thursday and Friday Sept 9 and 10**

The Jewish calendar has four new years; Rosh Hashanah is the New Year for years! We celebrate the new beginning and pray for joy, prosperity, and health.

### **Shabbat Shuva Friday and Saturday, Sept 10 and 11**

The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This is it, folks. Get on the bus. Yom Kippur is coming. Consolidate your intentions to apologize, forgive, renew. (*See schedule for service time.*)

### **Yom Kippur Saturday Sept 18**

Day-long fast, a cessation of regular routines of life, lots of prayer, lots of communal support for owning up to our shortcomings. But also, a sense of possibility, because we know that we are being redeemed and renewed by the process.

### **Sukkot Sept 23 to 29**

Pure joy: we are renewed! We harvest crops and rejoice in the earth's bounty in the sukkah. But it's a fragile shelter, and we are subject to the unpredictability of the infinite sky above. Thus, we are reminded not to be too smug.

### **Shmini Atzeret Sept 30**

Not technically Sukkot, but we are still invited to hang out in the sukkah and celebrate.

### **Simchat Torah Oct 1**

Celebration of Torah! We finish the last portion of Deuteronomy, read a few lines from the beginning of Genesis, and dance with the Torah! So, now that we've reflected, renewed ourselves with fellow human beings and with G'd, begun the New Year, and celebrated the earth, we rededicate ourselves to the cycle of reading of Torah. Home free! Now we go on to live our everyday lives! Next stop: Chanukah.

So why are these holidays so closely grouped? Because renewal of self and relationship with the Divine, connection with the holiness of the natural world, and love of Torah are indivisible. Together, they ready us for another year of mindful living. May you enter this season with a deepened sense of dedication to a just life and a deepened commitment to everyday holiness.

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## **Atidaynu, our religious school** *(continued)*

would be really nice, and finding ways for parents and other congregants to be involved is important to the long-term health of our Jewish future. We can always use more teachers and sharing the load helps everyone.

There should be no impediment to attending our school, so we encourage you to bring your children and spread the word to other families with children that a whole lot of good, Jewish things are happening. We require that families be members of Har Shalom, and we ask for a modest fee to pay for snacks and arts and crafts; yet, no one is turned away because of an inability to pay. All discussion about payment and fees is held with the treasurer only and is kept strictly confidential.

Atidaynu will be holding an open house and sukkah decoration-making on Sun., Sept. 19, beginning at 10 am. Join us for some nosh, lumber and screws, schmooze, and news.

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## **High Holy Days Services 5771**

### **S'lichot**

Sat 9/4 S'lichot service 9 pm

### **Rosh Hashanah**

Wed 9/8 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7 pm

Th 9/9 Children's service 9 am,

Morning service 10 am, Tashlich following services at the Clark Fork River below the old Rail Station.

### **Shabbat Shuvah**

Fri 9/10 Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm

Sat 9/11 Shabbat Shacharit 11 am

### **Yom Kippur**

Fri 9/17 Kol Nidre 7 pm

Sat 9/18 Children's service 9 am,

Morning service 10 am, Yizkor 6 pm, Afternoon service and

Neilah 6:30 pm, Havdallah

8:45 pm, Breaking of the Fast

*The synagogue building will be open all afternoon on Yom Kippur, and we will have activities for those who wish to stay on the grounds all day: Stroll to the park, nap time (bring sleeping bag and pillow), martyrology meditation, and informal sharing of poems, insights.*

Parking: Please do not park in our neighbors' parking lots; we like to preserve our good relationship with them! Parking is permitted on S. Russell, and there is a covered drop-off area at Har Shalom's front door.

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## Committee Opportunities *by Bert Chessin*

We have decided to start, in earnest, building working committees in support of the goals and values developed by the Har Shalom board earlier this year. This is a real opportunity to be a part of our growth. We need a few individuals to join each of the following. The four committees we encourage you to consider are:

**Ritual** (“That would go nicely with a 2010 Manishevitz”) Now that we no longer rely on rabbinic students, and Laurie Franklin is our spiritual leader, we need some congregational energy for defining ritual efforts and direction. You do not need to be a ritual master, but if you have any interest in exploring matters related to services and holidays, please consider.

**Membership** (“Funny, you don’t have to be Jewish”) Our efforts to welcome, interest, and retain all those congregants or potential congregants is important to our future. An ounce of effort here will pay a pound of congregational warmth. If you enjoy planning small events, talking with people, and putting our collective foot forward, this is a place for you.

**Caring Community** (“Mitzvah balls for Missoupla”) A cooked meal, a short visit to hospital or home, a card with heartfelt words, a telephone call. These are a few of our favorite ways to build community and for both parties to feel the power of congregational love.

**Social Justice** (“We are the World”). We know that each one of us has causes that get us going. Help define what Har Shalom is made of. How do we live Torah? A few opportunities already have surfaced and many more need to be considered and filtered for longer-term commitments from the congregation.

Please find a family member or friend for tikkun olam. We will be sturdy if we can build these committees into viable, long-standing working groups. These are the investments that pay the greatest dividends, and everyone benefits. We are not asking for huge commitments, and the board would like to partner with you. Contact any board member, using the board roster that appears in this newsletter.

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## Annual Meeting: New board member, new VP and new faces in the crowd *Lively “Core Values” Discussion Generates Committees*

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday 9/29, Har Shalom elected a new member to the board, reelected those whose terms were about to expire, and at the business meeting immediately after the general meeting, the board voted in a new officer. President Bert Chessin heads the new board with new Vice President Sherry Kolenda, Treasurer Jeff Bendremer and Secretary Kate Soukonnikov. Joining them are Jack Cohen, Shirle Gray, Dave Jolles, Toba Winston, and new board member Marlene Hutchins. Outgoing member Larry Stahl was recognized for many years of service.

Treasurer Jeff Bendremer and President Bert Chessin introduced the fiscal year 2010-11 budget and reported that Har Shalom is on sound financial footing. Other good news: Har Shalom is renewing its mortgage with First Security Bank of Missoula for one year under favorable conditions, including a reduction of the interest rate and amortization of the principal.

Finally, a high point of the meeting was the thoughtful discussion of Har Shalom’s “Core Values,” defined by the board during a series of retreats facilitated by congregant Ami Thurber. The discussion generated (and in some cases, renewed) five working groups: Caring, Marketing, Membership, Ritual, and Social Justice. Those who volunteered expressed a high level of commitment to and enthusiasm for the constructive work ahead. The board and all those present appeared pleased by the positive outcomes of the meeting.

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## LDor V’Dor: From generation to generation

*Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Collage at High Holy Days*

This year, Har Shalom invites you to mark Yizkor by bringing in photos or other images of your deceased family members to create a Yizkor memorial collage. We will begin collecting our congregation’s mementos at the S’lichot service, Saturday 9/4, and continue through Yom Kippur. The images will be displayed on a large collage just outside the sanctuary in the main lobby of Har Shalom. You can also write a few words on the collage about your family member(s).

Please do not bring valuable, irreplaceable images; it is possible to make low-cost reproductions at a local copy shop. If you live out of town and would like to send materials for the Yizkor memorial, please send them by conventional mail to Har Shalom’s post office box, and we will add them to the Yizkor memorial.

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## Yahrzeits

*The Yahrzeit is the anniversary of a loved one’s death. The Hebrew date is invariant and is computed on the basis of the day and time of the deceased’s passing; the corresponding civil calendar date changes each year. In the list below, the Hebrew date appears first, followed by the current year’s civil date in parentheses. At Har Shalom, we read our congregants’ yahrzeits at the Shabbat service closest to the Hebrew calendar yahrzeit date. If you would like to add a yahrzeit to the Har Shalom list, please contact our office.*

### ELUL

- 26 (Sept 5) Jack Witkowsky  
Kathleen Witkowsky’s father

### TISHREI

- 3 (Sept 11) Bernard Robin  
Melinda Robin’s father
- 5 (Sept 13) William Sanz,  
Mark Sanz’s father
- 13 (Sept 21) Charles Stahl,  
Paul Stahl’s father
- 16 (Sept 24) Charles Sherman,  
Suzanne Aboulfadl’s father
- 20 (Sept 28) Dorothy Bloom,  
Michael Bloom’s grandmother and  
Zachary Bloom’s great-grandmother
- 21 (Sept 29) Eva Stahl,  
Paul Stahl’s mother
- 24 (Oct 2) Francis B. Rosenzweig,  
Frank Rosenzweig’s father
- 26 (Oct 4) Leroy Bloomberg M.D.,  
Staci Bloomberg’s father

### CHESHVAN

- 1 (Oct 9) Joseph Goldberg,  
Richard Goldberg’s father
- 4 (Oct 12) Bill Martin,  
Marilyn Dayries’s father
- 5 (Oct 13) Flora Kaplan,  
Maeta Kaplan’s mother
- 5 (Oct 13) Frances Blindman,  
Elizabeth Howard’s grandmother
- 9 (Oct 17) Harry Komisar,  
Melissa Porter’s father
- 12 (Oct 20) Richard Albert Litfin,  
Merce Litfin Zingmark’s father
- 17 (Oct 25) Max Marshall,  
Connie Campbell’s father

# Giving for the High Holy Days: If not now, when?

by Sherry Kolenda

Here's a story: last year, a Jewish man was in Italy on business. He had had a free morning in Rome, so he went for a walk. As he walked past the steps in front of the Vatican, he saw two men soliciting money. The first was holding a huge wooden cross, with a sign written in Latin with Italian translation that said, "Love the Lord – The Lord loves you." The second man wore a kippah, and was holding a Mogen David, a star of David. His sign was written in Hebrew with Italian translation, and it said, "Shma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad, Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, The Lord is One."

As people walked by, almost every single one put a fistful of euros into the box of the man with the cross, leering with contempt at the man with the kippah. The kippah-clad man's box was completely empty, while the other man's box was overflowing with money. After watching this scene for about 10 minutes, the Jewish man saw the Pope and his entourage exit the Vatican and start down the steps. The Pope saw this scene, and said to the man with the kippah, in a helpful tone, "Good Sir, why don't you go find somewhere more fruitful to solicit funds? Can't you see that you have almost no supporters here in front of the Vatican, and if anything, are only helping this other man beside you?" With this, the kippah-clad man turned to the man with the cross beside him and said, "Hey Moishe, look who's trying to teach us how to raise tzedakah!"

Okay, no tricks here. During these holiest of holy days, we are encouraged to engage in tzedakah. We ask every single individual to give generously to Har Shalom, because this special institution needs our collective support. I suspect many of you don't know exactly what Har Shalom is; I'm guessing that a lot of you think Har Shalom is a place where you go for really good, free High Holy Day Services, and maybe the Passover Community Seder without any baggage, either emotional or financial, for the rest of the year.

But providing High Holy Day services is just a one, although very important activity for Har Shalom. What Har Shalom is really all about creating a pluralistic, egalitarian environment where people can learn about everything Jewish: Jewish theology, philosophy, history, culture, spirituality, you name it. Har Shalom helps people learn about things Jewish. Har Shalom is a totally independent community organization, with no financial support from anywhere other than our own members and the people who care enough for us to contribute to the shul we love. Some of us identify ourselves as non-affiliated, some as Reform, or Conservative and some even self-identify as Orthodox!

Turn to Har Shalom to help understand why continuing to learn and understand Judaism, in the context of our modern western world, is important. And for those of you who don't want to grapple with such daunting issues, but seek other things from this wonderful religion of ours, Har Shalom offers educational opportunities and discussion about the entire range of religious and spiritual questions. I encourage every one with even the slightest interest to come and see if there is anything that turns your crank.

Unlike many established Jewish institutions, Har Shalom is non-judgmental, doesn't profess or pretend to have any "pat answers" to tough questions, and has no rigid "rules and regulations." Har Shalom embraces diversity, not just of opinion, but also of practice. In our modern, integrated world, intermarriage is a reality, so a "just say no" attitude will only drive people away.

Har Shalom plays a vitally important role in the continuity of our religion, and the continuity of our religion is critical to the preservation of our way of life. At a time when there is ever more backlash and isolation from right-wing Judaism, a strong liberal Jewish voice is needed. The Jewish community absolutely needs this diversity of thought and opinion; if there was only one flavor of Judaism, what is the likelihood that you would opt in?

Hopefully I've convinced you that Har Shalom deserves our tzedakah. Let me now briefly tell you why it needs it. Because to date, Har Shalom has focused its limited resources on creating this fabulous building for attracting, retaining, and educating Jews, at the expense of devoting resources to funding its wonderful offerings. To date Har Shalom has been supported by a very small group of extremely generous donors. But with the institution's rapid growth, in courses offered, students served, and High Holy Days participants welcomed, we need to expand the donor base. Har Shalom strives to be as inclusive as possible.

Here is what Har Shalom needs from you: Har Shalom needs every person to give generously to help support this very important, growing institution. Now is when we need to remember the very important mitzvah of tzedakah.

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## Sukkot: A joyful harvest celebration

After the Havdallah ceremony that ends Yom Kippur, it's traditional to break the fast and set the first pole of the *sukkah*. In a few short days, Sukkot begins, and we can pray, eat, sleep, and relax in the bough-covered shelter. A *sukkah* doesn't provide much more than shade, so the rabbis of the Talmud excused us from the obligation of dining in it if the rains were strong enough to dilute the soup. But the rabbis didn't offer commentary about snow; I guess they weren't writing in Montana. This year, Sukkot is relatively early, Sept. 23 to 29, so we can hope that the weather is favorable for outdoor services and celebrations in the *sukkah*.

Har Shalom will erect our community *sukkah* on Sunday, Sept. 19, beginning at 10 am. We can use all the help you can give. The Atidaynu Religious School Open House will be taking place at the same time, so we will ask families coming to the open house to make decorations for the *sukkah* and lend a hand, if they like, to set it up. Lunch and noshes will be available for everyone who comes to help.

On Friday, Sept. 24, we'll have a potluck at 6 pm and service at 7 pm, weather permitting, in the *sukkah*. Friday's service will also include a Sukkot Yizkor memorial. The *sukkah* will be available for use during Sukkot for anyone who wants to drop by with a bag lunch, a snack, or a good book to read. Remember to bring a folding chair.

## Annual Picnic and BarBQ Sun., Sept. 26: A Sukkot carnival in our backyard!

**What:** Close off the Har Shalom back parking lot/hang out in the *sukkah* with lulav and etrog/barbeque and potluck/volleyball net, trikes and bikes, NYC-style handball with a spaulding ball, sidewalk chalk games and art, sand toys, (sprinkler and wading pool if it's hot), LIVE music from the "ad-hoc-mir-nisht-in-chinek" klezmizoulians and others, general merriment.

**When:** Sunday Sept 26, 4:30 to 7:30 pm, rain or shine

**Why:** *Far vus nisht?* Why not?

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## Giving for the High Holy Days *(continued)*

In a modern context, giving to Har Shalom fulfills the commandment to give to the Levites. In today's world, any one who studies or explores Judaism is filling the ancient role of the Priests, the Levites, by guarding, preserving and advancing our precious religion. So completely fulfill the commandment of tzedakah during these upcoming holy days by giving generously to Har Shalom. And while we always need gifts of tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars from those who are in a position to give so generously, we also need gifts of thousands, hundreds and tens of dollars if that is what you can afford. We ask that you please give at least some meaningful portion of what you estimate you save at Har Shalom by not paying High Holy Day fees and not contributing to a temple brotherhood or sisterhood fund, etc.

Har Shalom will appreciate and make outstanding use of whatever amount you can give. If you haven't started teaching your kids about tzedakah, now is a great time, and Har Shalom is a great cause. And if your children are too young, please consider giving \$18, or \$180 if you can afford it, in each of their names. In addition, there is a list of various items that you can sponsor directly, like: the Capital Campaign: A Synagogue for Missoula, the Rabbi Fund, or the Cohen Educational Fund. We have a list of available sponsorships if you're interested.

My final request tonight is that you decide NOW on the amount of your generous pledge. Don't delay, or put it aside, and let it become another item on the high and ever growing "To Do" pile that may never get done. If you don't write a check for this holy time, make your pledge to someone as your witness, and go to the website [www.har-shalom.org](http://www.har-shalom.org) to make it happen. If you have further questions, or want to speak to someone about a special gift, like sponsoring a course or naming a room, please feel free to call Sherry Kolenda at 544-5677 or the Har Shalom office at 549-9595 this week.

Thank you for reading this plea, and hopefully for contributing. Your gift might just help change the world. L'Shana Tova, and G'mar Chatima Tova. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life.

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## How to make contributions and payments

To make a donation, pay membership dues, religious school fees, camp registration, or community seder, go to [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com) and send your payment to [HarShalomMsla@gmail.com](mailto:HarShalomMsla@gmail.com). Please specify the intention of your donation: High Holy Days, Membership, Capital Campaign, Memorial, or Honor. Your donation will be deposited directly into the synagogue account. If you use a credit card, please consider adding 2% to your donation to cover our credit card fees. Every donation, regardless of size, is deeply appreciated. If you send a donation by conventional mail, please remember to use Har Shalom's new post office box: PO Box 3715, Missoula 59806.

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## Recent Donations and Tributes

*(Donations made after newsletter deadline will appear in the next issue)*

### General Donation

Lionel Mausberg

### General donations for Shul Concert

Shirle Gray

Harold Ort

Roy Curet & Susan Morgan

Suzanne Aboulfadl

### Honors and Memorials

From Joel and Esther Weltman,

a donation in memory

of Joseph Berezin, the grandfather of

Dr. Matthew Semanoff and Jessica Weltman,

and great-grandfather of Sylvie Rose Semanoff

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## Simchat Torah Sept. 30: Celebrate the Cycle

Simchat Torah marks the completion of the annual cycle of Torah. Each week, we read and study the weekly portion—the *parshat hashavuah*—and when we finish the last one, we begin again. This calls for celebration: we dance with the Torah, wave Torah flags, eat sweets, and sample tasty beverages.

I remember riding to synagogue—a little Bronx neighborhood *shtetl*—on my grandfather's shoulders, and the festive hullabaloo inside: candy flying through the air, singing and dancing. Come to Har Shalom for Simchat Torah and create a sweet, living memory of your own. This year, we will celebrate Simchat Torah on Thursday evening Sept. 30. We'll start with pizza and salad at 6 pm, a craft corner to make Torah flags, and hold a Torah celebration at 7 pm. This year, we can look forward to live music, including but not limited to a rousing bagpipe rendition of "Torah, Torah, Torah" (details under construction at press time).

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## Newsletter Editor wanted

Requirements: Adores deadlines, drips congregational fervor, sees through walls, and spelz wel. Please contact Har Shalom ASAP. Really.



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## Har Shalom library is growing

Board Member Toba Winston successfully submitted a proposal to the Jewish Publication Society's (JPS) Books Around the World Program, which partners with Jewish organizations to provide free books. As a result, Har Shalom is the recipient of a crisp stack of new reads for youth and adults, ranging from fact to fiction, biography, history, humor, ritual, and philosophy. Please come in to see what you might like to borrow. Here's a list of the newest titles:

*Jews in America: A Cartoon History*  
*From Krakow to Krypton*  
*Consolation: The Spiritual Journey Beyond Grief*  
*Sara's Journey*  
*Terrible Things*  
*Fallen Angels*  
*Albert Einstein: The Jewish Man Behind the Theory*  
*The Cross by Day, The Mezuzah by Night*  
*The Kids' Catalog of Passover*  
*The Kids' Catalog of Hannukah*  
*One Night, One Hannukah Night*  
*The JPS Guide to Jewish Traditions*  
*20th Century Jewish Religious Thought*  
*The Jewish Book of Days*  
*On Women and Judaism*  
*Inventing Jewish Ritual*  
*Yoni Netanyahu*  
*The Brothers Schlemiel*  
*A Shout in the Sunshine*  
*Teddy Kollek*  
*A Daughter's Gift of Love*  
*Abraham Joshua Heschel*  
*Bridge to Freedom*  
*Prisoner in Time*  
*American Jewish History*  
*The Answered Prayer*  
*Clara's Story*

Note: The library is open whenever the building is open. Borrowing books is for members only and on an honor system. There is a checkout sheet on the library desk. Please fill in the appropriate information, and please return borrowed books.

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## The University of Montana builds Israel ties after Israeli ambassador's visit

*Har Shalom can look forward to welcoming UM's Israeli academic guests*  
by Laurie Franklin

Last November, Har Shalom hosted Israeli General Counsel for the Pacific Northwest, Akiva Tor, who presented a program about Israel international affairs and current events. The next day, Ambassador Tor met with UM administration and faculty to promote academic ties between UM and Israel. Subsequently, The University of Montana International Programs, the Montana World Trade Center, and the Office of the Governor sent a joint delegation to Israel in May 2010 to build business, academic, and cultural ties with Israeli institutions. The recent UM delegation is the first big step toward developing relationships that are mutually beneficial to UM and academic partners in Israel. UM anticipates that scholars from Israeli universities' arts and sciences disciplines will visit Missoula in 2010-2011 to engage in discussions with faculty and administration to create academic exchanges at the faculty, graduate, and undergraduate levels.

One of the happy results of this effort: we can expect to meet, greet, host, and offer Shabbat hospitality to visiting academics from Israel. We'll be asking for volunteers who would like to have the pleasure and honor of hosting Israeli visitors for Shabbat, and we'll let you know as soon as we learn of specific details.

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## Shabbat Dinners Begin Friday October 1

Har Shalom's calendar for 2010-2011 has a new feature: Shabbat dinners once each month, beginning in October. We will match up families and individuals to join together once a month and create comfortable, home dinners and light candles together on Friday evening. On Shabbat dinner evenings, we will NOT hold a Kabbalat Shabbat service at Har Shalom but WILL hold a Saturday morning Shabbat Shacharit the next day. Do attend.

When you next come to Har Shalom, please sign the sheet for those who would like to participate. We will help you form a small congenial group that might become your own extended Shabbat family. The first Shabbat dinner night is Friday, Oct. 1.

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## Sam Parker called to Torah

Sam Parker, son of Thomas and Lauren Parker and big brother of Rebecca, will be called to Torah on Saturday, October 2, at 10 am. Sam will read Torah and Haftarah, lead parts of the service, and offer a teaching about the Torah portion, B'reishit. This is a special occasion not only because we welcome Sam into the community as individual who is responsible for his religious life, but also because it is the very first reading of the Torah, and we will have celebrated Simchat Torah two days earlier! The family invites the congregation to an Oneg (lunch) at Har Shalom immediately after the service.

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## MAJCO Shabbaton November 5-7 at Beth Shalom, Bozeman

Please save the dates! The Montana Association of Jewish Communities (MAJCO) will hold its 2010 Shabbaton in Bozeman, at Congregation Beth Shalom, on November 5, 6, and 7. Shabbaton dates were set at press time for this newsletter, and the program is now under construction. Information about programming will follow in emails and flyers.

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## News Flash: A new rabbi in Montana!

Congregation Beth Aaron, Billings, MT, just hired a part-time rabbi, Rabbi Barbara Block. Rabbi Block will reside in Billings. We look forward to meeting and interacting with her in the coming months. Welcome, Rabbi Block and congratulations to Congregation Beth Aaron!

# SEPTEMBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 22 Elul Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm	2 23 Elul	3 24 Elul Kabbalat Shabbat & Kiddush 6 pm	4 25 Elul *Torah study 10 am *S'lichot service 9 pm
5 26 Elul	6 Labor Day	7 28 Elul	8 29 Elul Erev Rosh Hashanah Erev Rosh Hashanah (RH) and Oneg 7 pm	9 Rosh Hashanah *Youth Service 9 am *Morning service and Oneg 10 am Tashlich 1 pm	10 Rosh Hashanah Shabbat Shuva Kabbalat Shabbat service & Kiddush 6 pm	11 3 Tishrei *Torah study 10 am *Shabbat Shuva Shacharit service & Oneg 11 am
12 4 Tishrei	13 5 Tishrei	14 6 Tishrei Board Meeting 6 pm	15 7 Tishrei Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm	16 8 Tishrei	17 9 Tishrei Erev Yom Kippur (YK) Kol Nidre Service 7 pm	18 Yom Kippur *Youth Service 9 am *Morning Service 10 am, Yizkor 6 pm, Afternoon & Neilah 6:30 pm
19 11 Tishrei *Atidaynu Open House 10 am *Sukkah Setup 10 am	20 12 Tishrei	21 13 Tishrei	22 14 Tishrei Erev Sukkot Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm	23 15 Tishrei Sukkot	24 Sukkot *Sukkot Potluck 6 pm *Kabbalat Shabbat and Yizkor in the Sukkah 7 pm	25 Sukkot *Torah study 10 am *Shabbat Shacharit service & Oneg 11 am
26 18 Tishrei Sukkot Har Shalom Annual Barbeque and Sukkot carnival 4:30 to 7:30 pm	27 19 Tishrei Sukkot	28 20 Tishrei Sukkot	29 21 Tishrei Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm	30 Shmini Atzeret & Erev Simchat Torah *Simchat Torah Pizza Party 6 pm *Simchat Torah Celebration & Service 7 pm		

# OCTOBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> 23 Tishrei <b>NO SERVICE</b> *Shabbat Community Dinners	<b>2</b> 23 Tishrei *Torah Study 9 am *Shabbat Shacharit & Bar Mitzvah 10 am *Oneg 12 noon
<b>3</b> 23 Tishrei	<b>4</b> 23 Tishrei	<b>5</b> 23 Tishrei	<b>6</b> 23 Tishrei Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm	<b>7</b> 23 Tishrei	<b>8</b> 23 Tishrei	<b>9</b> 1 Cheshvan Torah study 10 am
<b>10</b> 2 Cheshvan Atidaynu 10 am to noon	<b>11</b> 3 Cheshvan	<b>12</b> 4 Cheshvan	<b>13</b> 5 Cheshvan Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm	<b>14</b> 6 Cheshvan	<b>15</b> 7 Cheshvan	<b>16</b> 8 Cheshvan Torah study 10 am
<b>17</b> 9 Cheshvan	<b>18</b> 10 Cheshvan	<b>19</b> 11 Cheshvan	<b>20</b> 12 Cheshvan Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm	<b>21</b> 13 Cheshvan	<b>22</b> 14 Cheshvan	<b>23</b> 15 Cheshvan Torah study 10 am
<b>24</b> 16 Cheshvan Atidaynu 10 am to noon	<b>25</b> 17 Cheshvan	<b>26</b> 18 Cheshvan	<b>27</b> 19 Cheshvan Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm	<b>28</b> 20 Cheshvan	<b>29</b> 21 Cheshvan	<b>30</b> 22 Cheshvan Torah study 10 am
<b>31</b> 23 Cheshvan						



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## Todah Rabah: HUGE THANKS

To Rya Hawks, Nancy Seldin, Geoff Hill for donating books to Har Shalom and Toba Winston for procuring a grant for new books for the Har Shalom Library!

To Jackie Cohen for intrepid weeding, Greg Nemoff for grading, Erin and Sam Jolles for donating flowers and planting them, Dave Jolles for painstaking reconstructive surgery on the front planter box, Laurie Franklin for general labor and bringing food!

To members who bring food to the Friday evening *onegs* and clean up afterwards!

To Soul Train Camp counselors Jeremy and Meital for engaging our children in fun and creative learning activities and bringing Israel to Har Shalom!

To Har Shalom service leaders, Kate Soukonnikov, Bert Chessin, and Laura Winston for bringing ruach to our services!

To Jackie Cohen for newsletter editing!

To Laurie Jean Harris, Har Shalom office manager, for the big conference table!

To everyone who has lent a hand in the last year, Yasher Koach!



# Har Shalom

P.O. BOX 3715, MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806

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