



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

The Prez Sez

by Bert Chessin, President

Where does the time go? Our secular year is spent, and what has been the impact of the past 12 months on our congregation and the community? One of our Jewish 20th century giants, Abraham Joshua Heschel, continues to inspire and inform our sensibilities about time and space. I have been reading his book *The Sabbath*, and it brings many questions and thoughts to mind. In a most simple extrapolation from Heschel, what we do as Congregation Har Shalom with the time that we spend together or alone in our space connects us with the world in multidimensional ways.

Our connection with “time” is the counterweight to physical control of our environment. In our modern lives, in particular, we have tremendous control over the physical world: heat for our homes, food for our meals, clothes to meet our need for warmth and style, cars and roads for moving quickly and safely to and fro. Yet, that which gives us meaning as individuals or as a community is not only tied to the just treatment and distribution of basic needs to those around us and beyond, but also the dignity and respect that we carry to others. Making time to slow down, to sing a song together, to engage others in conversation, to build or rebuild, to create anew a ritual that connects us to our grandparents through our children, all recognize the “time” element of our lives.

Har Shalom provides us the last best opportunity in western Montana to have Jewish time in our lives. I fully recognize that spending a Friday evening in shul does not resonate with most members of Har Shalom. Some light a candle or make challah or share a meal with others. If one takes a moment to recognize a Jewish custom or story or thoughtful nugget, that is something.

There are some special events coming up here at Har Shalom and in the community that you may want to make “time” for. A Tu B’shevat seder and indoor planting project will be happening in mid-January and could be a new way to experience yet another new year. Purim (mid-March) will bring an adult event that should be “lots” of fun. It is not too early to put on your calendar a scholar-in-residence weekend just before Passover. Rabbi Niles Goldstein, author of several books and recognized as an important young Jewish thinker, will be with us for several events over the weekend of April 15–17th. Stay tuned. It’s about time.

Board of Directors *President:* Bert Chessin, 531-5193
Vice President: Sherry Kolenda, 251-7996
Treasurer: Jeff Bendremer, 493-1908
Secretary: Kate Soukonnikov, 549-0508

Members:
Jack Cohen, 543-4409 David Jolles, 728-3344
Shirle Gray, 493-6982 Marlene Hutchins, 721-2425
Toba Winston, 777-3100

Send news, events, or letters to info@har-shalom.org. Newsletters publish semi-monthly.

TREES AND TORAH

Har Shalom can help rebuild Israel's forests

by Laurie Franklin, Lay Leader

I write this on a crisp, cold New Year's Eve afternoon, sun brilliant on the snow. As we enter the secular New Year, the Jewish calendar approaches one of its four New Years*: Tu B'Shevat, the new year for trees, January 20, 2011 (see article below, *Tu B'Shevat: The New Year for Trees* by Marlene Hutchins).

In Missoula, our trees are dormant, braced for winter. Not so in Israel. There, almond trees are poised to blossom! Last year, visiting Israeli forester Kalil Adar spoke at our Atidaynu Tu B'Shevat Seder about spring in the farms and forests of Israel. This year, the observance of the "new year for trees" is particularly poignant following the December 2010 forest fire that burned 12,500 acres and 5 million trees in the Carmel Mountains of northern Israel. The fires caused loss of life, loss of homes and livelihoods, and loss of precious wild land habitats.

This year at Har Shalom, in addition to our Tu B'Shevat Seder (at Atidaynu, Sun Jan 9), and indoor planting projects (at Atidaynu, Sun Jan 23), We will participate in a world-wide fundraiser, "Operation Carmel Renewal: From Black to Green", the Jewish National Fund's (JNF's) ongoing effort to restore the Carmel forests and replace Israel's depleted fire-fighting supplies and equipment. Please consider making a donation of any amount, large or small. You can donate on Har Shalom's secure web site or by mail to Har Shalom, PO Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806, attention "Operation Carmel".

When we participate in the care of the Earth, we affirm our connection with the wonderful mystery of all creation; we renew ourselves by nurturing the source that feeds, clothes, houses us, and supplies the air we breathe. The Torah is called *Etz Chaim*, the "tree of life". In this New Year of trees, let us connect with the spirit of the Torah and make a commitment to greening Israel, our Montana home, our amazing country, and planet Earth.

**Nissan 1 is the New Year for kings and months on the calendar, Elul 1 is the New Year for the tithing of animals, Shevat 15 (Tu B'Shevat) is the New Year for trees, and Tishri 1 (Rosh Hashanah) is the New Year for years.*

ATIDAYNU NEWS

by Sheehan Rosen

As usual, things have been quite busy in our *shul*. Bad weather, illness and winter sports have meant smaller classes over the past couple of weeks, but we have managed to get into a nice rhythm with a morning service that is fun and informative. Thanks to Laurie and Jeff for starting our meetings with wonderful song and prayer.

Many children are working very hard on their Hebrew and it really shows. It does get easier with regular study at home, even just 10 minutes a day. A "thank you" goes to parents for supporting your children in their studies. The *b'nei mitzvah* class had a successful *tzedakah* bake sale during the Hanukkah Party. The class is still deciding where to donate the proceeds; we'll let you know when a charity is chosen.

A Tu B'shevat Seder and project is planned for January, and of course, we are looking forward to the annual Purim festivities in February. Visitors are always welcome and Hebrew help is always needed. Please join us if you'd like.

Har Shalom Continues to Support Missoula Food Bank

by Robin Abeshaus

In one of the Hanukkah books my family reads each year, a seemingly empty potato barrel miraculously has a few potatoes in it each morning, enough to feed a village in Russia for what otherwise would have been a very hungry winter. I am reminded of this story each time I check the Food Box bin in the lobby of Har Shalom. No matter how recently I've emptied it, there are always a few more cans and boxes of food for the Food Bank. The same thing happened this year when the Food Bank asked for Christmas week volunteers: we had an overwhelming response from the Har Shalom community.

Thank you to all 18 of you who contributed your time on December 23rd (we sorted hundreds of pounds of food to be distributed at the Food Bank during 2011), and thank you to all of you who contribute cans and boxes of food to Har Shalom's Food Bank collection bin. The collection bin remains in Har Shalom's lobby, and we encourage members to bring what they can when coming for services, Sunday school, or other events.

This fall, Har Shalom has contributed close to 200 pounds of food to the Missoula Food Bank. As someone who began volunteering at the Food Bank with Har Shalom's Christmas shift a number of years ago and has continued volunteering there since, I can tell you first hand how much your generosity is appreciated by the Food Bank's clients.

In *The Miracle of the Potato Latkes*, when Tante Golda realizes there are no more potatoes in the village, her concern is not for herself, but for the other villagers who have come to rely on her to provide for them at Hanukkah time. The miracle takes place in response to Tante Golda's overwhelming kindness and willingness to share, no matter how little she has herself. At Har Shalom, we have created our own miracle of sorts: a seemingly bottomless bin of food for the Food Bank, and close to two dozen volunteers to help sort all of the donated food.

Todah rabah.

TU B'SHEVAT: THE NEW YEAR FOR TREES

by Marlene Hutchins

When you come to the land and you plant any tree, you shall treat its fruit as forbidden; for three years it will be forbidden and not eaten. In the fourth year, all of its fruit shall be sanctified to praise the L-RD. In the fifth year, you may eat its fruit. -Leviticus 19:23-25

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar, celebrated this year on Shabbat, January 20, 2011, is the new year



for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing.

We rejoice in the fruit of the tree and the fruit of the vine, celebrating the splendid, abundant gifts of the natural world that give our senses delight and our bodies life.

Tu B'Shevat also marks the beginning of spring in Israel. Sustaining rains are at the peak of their power and the world responds, brimming with buds of fragrant life. To mark this moment, school children plant trees.

For Jews outside of Israel, Tu B'Shevat is a celebration of the renewal of vision and awareness, a celebration of connections and connectedness -- to our own inner selves, to the social world of human beings, and to the natural world and its Source.

It is customary to eat a new fruit on this day, or from the kinds that are noted in the Bible in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. On this day we remember that "Man is a tree of the field" (Deuteronomy 20:19) and reflect on the lessons we can derive from our botanical analog.

TU B'SHEVAT ACTIONS AT HAR SHALOM

The holiday of Tu B'Shevat, a celebration of trees, certainly appears to be related to the more modern Earth Day. Har Shalom is taking the following steps toward caring for the earth:

- Replacing our older thermostats with ones that allow us to program setbacks and adjust our heating demand to our building use patterns *DONE!!!*
- Upgrading the insulation in our roof when we replace our building's roof
- Using real plates and cups rather than paper after services and for Sunday School snack (thanks to all who stick around and wash dishes so that we can take this action) *DONE!!!*
- We would like to install new, multi-glazed, low-e windows in the sanctuary to bring in more natural light and permit us to use less electricity for illumination

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

by Robin Abeshaus

This is the mission statement of Har Shalom's newly formed Social Action Committee:

The Social Action Committee of Har Shalom works to make *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) an integral part of our congregation. We work on two levels: direct support for community needs and addressing societal issues of injustice.

This holiday season, Har Shalom supported the Missoula Food Bank (*please see separate article*) and C.S. Porter Middle School's holiday food and toy drive. We are eager to add to this list of community projects. If you have ideas or suggestions, please feel free to put them (or comments) in the Social Action Committee suggestion box in the lobby of Har Shalom. You can also email comments/suggestions to Robin Abeshaus at robina@imt.net.

We are also looking into opportunities to work with the Montana Organizing Project on issues such as health care and banking reform, and with the Montana Human Rights Network on issues of equal rights for all people. Again, comments and suggestions are welcome.

If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact one of the following committee members. We welcome new members, either long-term or just to work on a specific project.

Robin Abeshaus: robina@imt.net

Bert Chessin: bchessin@aol.com

Rhonda Stahl: achicknamedstahl@aim.com

Kate Soukonnikov: katyasouk@gmail.com

SINCE TIME IS THE ONE IMMATERIAL OBJECT

by Maya Angelou

“Since time is the one immaterial object which we cannot influence—neither speed up nor slow down, add to nor diminish—it is an imponderably valuable gift.

Each of us has a few minutes a day or a few hours a week that we could donate to an old folks home or a children's hospital ward.

The elderly whose pillows we plump or whose water pitchers we refill may or may not thank us for our gift, but the gift is upholding the foundation of the universe.”

SHABBAT DINNERS: JAN 14 AND FEB 5

Have you made a *Shabbat* dinner connection yet? Once each month, instead of Friday evening *Kabbalat Shabbat* at the *shul*, we encourage our members to get together in small groups in each other's homes to welcome *Shabbat*. The next morning, we have a full *Shabbat Shacharit* (*Shabbat* morning service) at Har Shalom and encourage everyone to attend.

If you would like help to create your own *Shabbat* group, please contact Laurie F. through [\[shalom.org\]\(http://shalom.org\). We will happily match you up with a few others to enjoy a “heimish” \(home-like, comfortable\). Also, please remember to invite a Hillel student or two to your table; Laurie F. can provide contact information.](mailto:info@har-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The next two Har Shalom *Shabbat* dinners are Fridays Jan 14 and Feb 5. *Shabbat Shalom!*

TORAH STUDY AND CHEVRUTA

Torah study meets every Saturday morning at Har Shalom at 10 am. We read and study the weekly Torah portion, and no experience is necessary. Discussion is lively, illuminating and free-ranging.

Chevruta meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm at Har Shalom. We focus on Talmudic writings that relate to the weekly Torah reading. Everyone is welcome.

REPAIRING THE WORLD, ONE STITCH AT A TIME

Last issue, Roslyn Pinson wrote “I love to knit and crochet. I'd like to start a Har Shalom knit/crochet group, so that we can enjoy each other's creativity, knowledge, and

(continued next page)

company. This is the perfect weather for hot tea, good talk and yarn projects. Our output would be donated for *tikun olam*.”

Now, the stitchery group is a reality!!!! Come to the next two gatherings, Th Jan 6 and Th Feb 3, from 6 to 8 pm in the library at Har Shalom. Questions? E-mail roslynpinson@yahoo.com

Yahrzeits

The *Yahrzeit* is the Hebrew-calendar anniversary of a loved one's death. The Hebrew date is invariant and is computed on the day and time of the deceased's passing, but the corresponding civil calendar date changes each year.

In the list below, the Hebrew date appears listed first, followed by the current year's civil date in parentheses. *Yahrzeit* candles are traditionally lit the evening before the specified date because the Jewish day begins at sunset of the previous day.

At Har Shalom, we read our congregants' *yahrzeits* and recite the Mourner's *Kaddish* at the *Shabbat* service before the Hebrew calendar *yahrzeit* date. If you would like to add a *yahrzeit* to the Har Shalom list, please contact our office or email info@har-shalom.org.

TEVET

28 (Jan 4) Beatrice Nashel (Elizabeth Howard's grandmother)

SHEVAT

17 (Jan 22) George Shulman (Joy Earls' father)

21 (Jan 26) Lillian Shapiro Tuchinsky (Toba and Laura Winston's mother/grandmother)

14 (Jan 19) Harold Lurie (Diana Lurie's father)

ADAR

2 (Feb 6) Frank Spector (Ellen Silverglat's father)

2 (Feb 6) Michael Hendricks (Z'Eva Singer's husband)

3 (Feb 7) Albert Belsky (Jill Belsky's father)

3 (Feb 7) Ethel Cohen (Jackie Cohen's mother)

5 (Feb 9) Peter Weil (Susanne Woyciechowicz's uncle)

14 (Feb 18) Victor Tevah (Anita Aronofsky's father)

14 (Feb 18) William Rosenberg (Ed Rosenberg's father)

20 (Feb 16) Joseph Friedman (Muriel Friedman's father)

21 (Feb 24) Carl Breitner (John Breitner's father)

21 (Feb 24) Sophie Goren (Carolyn Goren's mother)

24 (Feb 28) Louis Bloom (Michael and Zachary Bloom's Grandfather /Great-Grandfather)

HOW TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS AND PAYMENTS

We extend heartfelt thanks to our current and past contributors. Your commitment to Har Shalom is essential to realizing our dreams and inspires us to do more!

To make a donation, pay membership dues or religious school fees, go to www.PayPal.com and send your payment to HarShalomMsla@gmail.com.

Please specify the intention of your donation: 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.

Camp Scholarship Fund

Fred & Susan Reed in honor of Miriam Friedman, mother of Susan Reed

Capital Campaign donations

Jeff Kushner & Janet Woodburn

General

Anthony Beltramo

Jack & Pat Cohen

Scott Green

Greg Nemoff

Honors

Kate & Boris Soukonnikov in honor of Rya Hawks

Kate & Boris Soukonnikov to the Rabbi fund, in honor of Laurie Franklin's High Holy Days leadership

Memorials

Melinda (Lynne) Robin) in memory of Saluna Zacharjasz, mother of Fanny Korman, my dearest friend, without whom Isaac Smith's Bar Mitzvah would not have been the successful life event that it was.

High Holy Days

Jim & Jacqueline Shulman

Susan & Drew Leff

Winkler Weekend

Suzanne Aboulfadi

Jeff Bendremer

Leann Boyd

Edward Brown

Sonia Chessin

Bert Chessin

Carol Farley

Marlene Hutchins

Sigrun Kuefner

Phyllis Lefohn

Steven Lotto

Leslie Lotto

Laura Marx

Mindy Opper

Tom Parcheta

Trudy Pratt

Halle Safier

D. Kate Sells

Janet Tatz

TODAH RABAH

Todah rabah means "thank you very much!" Har Shalom could not exist without the hands-on involvement of its members. Please remind us if we left you out

inadvertently, so we can offer appropriate recognition next time. We truly say *todah rabah* to all those listed below:

Robin Abeshaus, for monitoring and transferring food donations to the Missoula Food Bank, for organizing the Har Shalom annual pre-Christmas Missoula Food Bank volunteer effort, and for keeping our pantry stocked with supplies; **Marlene Hutchins** and **Laura Marx** for organizing the Rabbi Winkler retreat; **Suzanne Aboulfadl**, **Kate** and **Boris Soukonnikov**, and **Jackie Cohen** for generous book donations to the Har Shalom library; **Dalit Guscio** for presenting a wonderful program about Israel's Arava Institute and her experiences there as a student and a teacher, as part of With Earth and Each Other: A Virtual Rally for a Better Middle East; **Marie Morris**, **Suzanne Aboulfadl**, **Bert Chessin**, **Barbara Gross**, **Sigrun Kuefner**, **Rhonda Stahl**, **Toba Winston** and all those who brought yummy food and drink for onegs; **Pat Cohen** for taking on the newsletter editor role; **Bert Chessin** for installing our new digital thermostats; **Roslyn Pinson** for starting our newest activity: the repairing-the-world-one-stitch-at-a-time knit/crochet group; all the marchers in the Festival of Lights Parade "Amazing Walking Menorah"; the Hanukkah party klezmer musicians; the Hanukkah party latke graters and flippers **Lesley and Steve Lotto**, **Sandy Ross**, **Bert Chessin**, **Carol Ekiss**; All the Hanukkah party cleaner-uppers; the **Atidaynu 6th-grade class** for conducting a Hanukkah bake sale and raising money for tzedakah.



PO. BOX 3715, MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED