#### President's column

by Bert Chessin

Despite the generally gray skies these past few months, there still is a bright sun on the coldest of days. The light we bring to each other and to our community is equally therapeutic.

Our congregation has the good fortune to be gifted a Shabbat oil lamp from the Helena congregation of Temple Emanu-El. The lamp has been dormant, sitting in a box, shuffling from household to household for nearly 80 years! One small symbol of the tenacious survival skills of the Jewish people is an opportunity for Missoula and our congregation to bring back the light and be a light unto the community. We are starting to plan the conversion of the beautiful, hand-made, brass fixture into a *ner tamid* (eternal light) for our sanctuary.

So, how can we as individuals and as a community be a light unto the community? By being an active part of the community, by sharing our Jewish values and culture with neighbors, friends, family, and strangers. A string of events are scheduled over the next few months; each in its own way may be an occasion for adding that spark, that twinkle, that smile, that eye-widening gift to the Har Shalom experience.

Do not miss the information in this newsletter about the March 4th Shabbat Across America and Canada dinner, the scholar-in-residence weekend with Rabbi Niles Goldstein April 15-17, the April 19th community seder with contributions from Rabbi Goldstein, Purim parties on March 19th and 20th, and Ben Lotto's bar mitzvah service on March 12. We still have the full complement of Friday night services, Atidaynu (Sunday school), Torah study, Chevrutah, Repairing-the-World-One-Stitch-at-a-Time, book club. Oy. Take a look at the calendar, and I bet there are things here in Har Shalom for you.

#### Laurie's Letter

by Lay Leader Laurie Franklin

In frigid mid-winter, it's hard to imagine the softness of spring: green leaves unfolding, roots extending in warm soil, plants setting flowers. Nonetheless, I feel like I've already experienced a spiritual spring. I recently returned from the second residential week of ALEPH's Davennen Leadership Training Institute (DLTI-6), held at the Isabella Freedman Retreat center in N. Connecticut.

There, in the company of 45 or so *chevre* (friends: rabbis and cantors, ordination program students, and lay leaders) and under the direction of Rabbis Marcia Prager, Shawn Zevit, Cantor Jack Kessler and Rav Daniel Sheff, I learned about leading and experiencing prayer and about traditional nusach and congregational melodies.

The company of these inspired people and the time spent davenning and learning together is almost indescribably beautiful. For a few days, we inhabit a small world of support, shared learning, and deeply moving religious experience. I return, recharged and refocused, ready to share with my fellow Har Shalomians. I hope to see you in the weeks ahead.

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

**Directors** 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 Marlene Hutchins, 721-2425 Toba Winston, 777-3100

# Mar–Apr '11

Lots to Celebrate at **Atidaynu\*!** by Sheehan Rosen

With winter sports winding down and longer days ahead, March is an excellent time to renew your commitment to your children's Jewish education or to come and visit Atidaynu. We are looking forward to two celebrations this month. The first is the bar mitzvah of one of our students, Ben Lotto. Ben and his family have been Sunday school participants for many years, and we are so excited to share this life event with them. Ben's bar mitzvah will be on March 12, please see this newsletter's article for details.

The other big happening this month is the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 20. Food, fun and folly for all! This holiday celebration is being put together by our B'nei Mitzvah class and will also be a fundraiser. Lunch will begin at noon, followed by *Megillah* reading, costume party, music, games, and general silliness.

Atidaynu classes meet twice a month, see calendar for dates. Visitors and helpers are always welcome, and it's never too late for new families to join us! Contact Sheehan Rosen at rosens@montana.com for more information.

\*Atidaynu means "our future."

#### **Erev Yom HaShoa:** Saturday evening, April 30

Save the date for Har Shalom's Yom HaShoa commemoration: Candle lighting followed by music, literature, and spoken word. More details to follow.

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

Next deadline: Apr. 15 for May/June Issue

#### Scholar-In-Residence weekend, April 15-17, with Rabbi Niles Goldstein

Author, teacher, commentator Rabbi Niles Goldstein is the founding rabbi of The New Shul in Manhattan, having served for over a decade. He is the author of nine books, including *Gonzo Judaism, Craving the Divine: A Spiritual Guide for Today's Perplexed*, and *God at the Edge*. An active lecturer around the country and overseas, he has also taught at New York University, served as the voice behind "Ask the Rabbi" on the Microsoft Network, is a former army chaplain, and holds a black belt in karate.

The outline for this special weekend, right before Passover and Easter, is as follows:

- Friday evening, April 15, 6 pm potluck dinner at Har Shalom, followed by a talk on "A Spiritual Exploration with Hassidic Masters", which will interweave a discussion on Jewish mysticism with wine tasting.
- Saturday morning, April 16, 10 am services with an extended *Dvar Torah*, or interactive teaching
- Saturday afternoon (most likely), talk for broader Missoula community on Post-Modern Spirituality with connections to both Passover and Easter. Publicity will provide specifics when time and place are firm.
- Sunday afternoon (possibly Saturday) "A Walk in the Wilderness with Rabbi Goldstein: the Role of Nature in Judaism", Kootenai Creek Trailhead, 3 pm. Following the walk, we will gather informally at home of Toba Winston for nourishment and refreshment. Details to follow.

Rabbi Goldstein will be visiting with university representatives during his visit to explore teaching possibilities for the future. He will also be joining the Har Shalom community Passover dinner on April 19, providing Seder enrichment. Visit his website to explore his writings and broad experience, http://nilesgoldstein.com. Rabbi Goldstein has spent time exploring Montana, its beauty and wilderness, and 20 years ago had a student-rabbi placement in Butte.

#### Ben Lotto called to Torah, Sat., March 12

Chevre (friends), B'nei Mitzvah (this is the correct Hebrew plural!) don't happen very often at Har Shalom because we are a small community, so this is a wonderful chance to qvell about our newest young adult member, Ben Lotto, as he reads from Vayikra and its Haftarah, and shares his views about the parsha. The morning service, Shabbat Shacharit, begins at 10 am and is followed by a celebratory oneg provided by the Lotto family.

Atidaynu students are expected to attend and will help lead the morning blessings, just as we do on Sundays at Atidaynu.

# Purim events: March 19, 20

**Saturday, March 19, at 6:30 pm.** A Potluck meal and a *Fiddler- on-the-Roof* sing along with your favorite Tevya, Golda, or other Shalom Aleichem garb will ring in *Purim*. We'll have an adjudicated contest with prizes for the most authentic outfits for male and female characters, a karaoke version of the classic film will be shown so we can all sing those familiar songs.

**Sunday, March 20, Noon.** Our *Atidaynu* students, families and all other interested folks will be celebrating *Purim* beginning at noon, directly following Sunday school. Jeff Bendremer's *B'nei Mitzvah* (those nearing *bar* or *bat mitzvah* age) class will help run various games and fun activities. There will be food, music, dancing and singing to make this a memorable party, with *hamantaschen* in abundance, including gluten-free varieties, salads, and drinks. Bring some food to share with your fellow groggers. *Nastarovye! EChaim!* 

# Community Passover Seder, April 19

Har Shalom will once again host a community *seder*, catered by the University Catering Service. On April 19, Tuesday evening, the second night of Passover, we will gather for a

#### **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.

#### ADAR II

- 2 (March 8) Frank Spector, Ellen Silverglat's father
- 3 (March 9) Ethel Cohen, Jackie Cohen's mother
- 3 (March 9) Albert Belsky, Jill Belsky's father
- 14 (March 20) Victor Tevah, Anita Aronofsky's father
- 14 (March 20) William Rosenberg, Ed Rosenberg's father
- 20 (March 26) Dorothy R. Friedman, Muriel Friedman's mother
- 21 (March 27) Carl Breitner, John Breitner's father
- 21 (March 27) Sophie Goren, Carolyn Goren's mother
- 24 (March 30) Louis Bloom, Michael and Zachary Bloom's Grandfather /Great-Grandfather
- 27 (April 2) Gabriel Jolles, David Jolles' father
- 28 (March 4) David Kooris, Jeff Kooris' father

#### **NISAN**

- 3 (April 7) Dorothy R. Friedman, Muriel Friedman's mother
- 7 (April 11) Janet Getzenberg, Anne Getzenberg's mother
- 16 (April 20) Golda Alperin, Michael and Zachary Bloom's Grandmother /Great-grandmother
- 21 (April 25) Edward Cohen, Jackie Cohen's father (Ed Rosenberg's sister)

(continued top of next page)

#### Community Passover Seder (continued)

retelling of the Passover story, complete with songs, readings, wine, and a fine meal. It is family-oriented, and all ages will find a welcoming chair.

This year we have a special guest, Rabbi Niles Goldstein. He will provide commentary and readings to enhance our *Hagaddah*. If you are not attending the scholar-in-residence weekend just prior to Passover, this will be an opportunity to meet him and enjoy a special evening.

Check the Har Shalom website for the Passover reservation form or stop by the building to pick up a form. Please do not wait until the last minute as this year could be a full sanctuary of congregants and guests. Call the office or Bert Chessin with questions.

# Three Faiths Service Project & Potluck, Mar. 13 & 20

#### **Breaking Barriers, Sharing Values**

Missoula's Holy Spirit Church has sponsored a popular Muslim-Christian potluck dinner for two years as a way to welcome and learn from Muslim exchange students at UM. This year, with the encouragement of UM Associate Provost for International Programs, Dr. Mehrdad Kia, the leadership expanded the event to include Hillel students and Har Shalom members. We are invited to engage in a community service project that expresses a shared value—charity—and visit together one week later at a potluck dinner.

The service project on Sunday March 13 begins at 12:30 pm at Montana Food Bank Network, 5625 Expressway. Volunteers will help break down bulk foods like grains and fruit into family-sized portions. The work party will last until about 3 pm. Groups representing the three faiths are asked to contribute workers. The Three Faiths potluck supper and interfaith discussion starts at 6 pm on Sunday March 20 (right after Purim!) at Holy Spirit Parish Hall, 130 S. 6th Street E. Those attending are asked to bring a food dish appropriate to dietary restrictions. Students from the Muslim Student Association, campus Christian groups, and Hillel will set up displays, but the main events are the supper, brief presentations by representatives of each faith, and interfaith table discussions.

Har Shalom and UM Hillel are encouraged to participate in both the service project and potluck! Questions? Contact Laurie F. at rossfranklin@msn.com or 546-9368.

# Repairing-the-World-One-Stitch-at-a-Time by Roslyn Pinson

Knitters, crocheters and wannabes are welcome to join us on March 1st for the next gathering of Repairing-the-World-One-Stitch-at-a-Time. We are making blankets and other needed items for shelter and foster children in the Missoula community. Bring scrap yarn and needles, if you have some at home. We will teach you how, if you don't now know.

We have received several bags of yarn from people who heard about our charitable projects. One bag of yarn was donated by a knitting store in Missoula and another from someone in the Bitterroot. If you know of anyone who has yarn to donate, please bring it to Har Shalom. Be sure to put your name in the bag of yarn (so we can thank you for the donation) and leave it in the Har Shalom Library.

#### When: Tuesday, March 1st, 6-8pm Where: Har Shalom

Please bring something to nosh on. If you have any questions, call 546-3831 or e-mail roslynpinson@yahoo.com

## Hebrew, Anyone?

I've had many requests from those who would like to study Hebrew at Har Shalom. In response, we are beginning Adult Hebrew classes. The classes will focus on prayer book and Biblical Hebrew. For those who have little or no background, we will learn the *aleph bet*, how to decode words, a bit of writing and grammar. We will learn these skills as we read prayers and brief texts. The approach will be part-academic, part-fun, and 100% practical!

For those who already read Hebrew, we will dig further into texts, grammar, and writing. I would like to hear from you if you are interested. I hope to begin in early March, which will give us a block of 12 weeks of fun and study before June (with a built-in spring break). The consensus time for those who responded appears to be Wednesday evenings. I will contact each of you individually before classes begin on March 9. A survey form for interested parties is posted at http://har-shalom.org/What\_you\_need\_to\_know\_now. Please email to me at rossfranklin@msn.com. I'm looking forward to learning together! —*Laurie F.* 

#### Todah rabah: Thank You So Much!

As usual, Har Shalom members and fellow travelers give generously of their time and inspiration. It's wonderful to be part of enabling the Jewish community of Missoula, carrying forward our rich legacy of culture and religion.

Todah rabah to Lisa Slocum Carter for hand calligraphy of prayer book dedications; Robin Abeshaus for continued shepherding of Har Shalom's Missoula Food Bank donations; Dave Jolles, for new storage units and shelving in Har Shalom's classrooms and storage spaces; Atidaynu's four classes, for planting terraria, window-sill, and hanging plants in all of Har Shalom's spaces; The Shabbat Across America and Canada Team: Toba Winston, Adair Kanter, Elizabeth Howard, Sigrun Kuefner, Marie Morris, Maeta Kaplan, for creative, hard work to make it happen; Bert Chessin and others, for leading inspirational services; Pat Cohen and Marlene Hutchins, for newsletter assembly and layout; Marlene Hutchins, for sharing expertise and leading workshops about communication and marketing perspectives for Har Shalom; Kate Soukonnikov, for faithful relaying of info@harshalom messages and web site management; office volunteers for helping with filing and copying; and *oneg* volunteers and providers, for challah, goodies, and clean up.

#### Support Har Shalom with a tax-free gift from your IRA by Toba Winston

Looking for the way to make the most tax-effective gift to Har Shalom? Congress recently extended a law that allows people 70½ or older to make tax-free charitable gifts using funds transferred directly from their IRAs. You can transfer up to \$100,000 through the end of 2011.

Every donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated. To learn more, contact Har Shalom Treasurer, Jeff Bendremer at 406-493-1908.

Every circumstance is different and Har Shalom is not giving out tax advice. Each potential donor should consult a personal tax professional before making an IRA transfer to Har Shalom.

#### Social Action Committee Activities by Robin Abeshaus

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.

Our committee is small, but we know that the hearts of many Har Shalom members are large. You don't have to join the committee to be involved. We are looking for volunteers to help organize the following events — no meetings required. If there is an event that interests you, please contact Robin Abeshaus at 542-7535 or robina@imt.net

Ideas looking for organizers:

#### Environmental Action:

Writing letters for the Million Letter March: An initiative to help stop climate change. This could be an actual event where people gather and write, or an email event, where you just distribute information to Har Shalom members via our email list for those who want to get involved.

#### • Social, Action, *Tzedakah* – all in one:

Organizing a "Soup Supper" at Har Shalom: A Soup Supper is a meal served at Har Shalom with soup and bread provided by volunteers. People are asked to donate money for their dinner, and the money raised would be donated to a local charity. An event organizer is needed to coordinate volunteers for cooking, set up, and clean up. And the local charity has not yet been selected.

Cooking and Serving a Meal with other Har Shalom members at the Poverello Center:
 A coordinator is needed to schedule with the Poverello Center, plan the menu, organize ingredient donations, and schedule cooking and serving volunteers.

Have another idea? Let a committee member know, or drop your idea in the suggestion box at Har Shalom.

# 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.

General Donations (Donations made after newsletter deadline will appear in the next issue)Bernard & Janice SilvermanReisa Kahn & George MasnickDavid AronofskyHal & Eileen OrtSusan & Lawrence LevensteinFredi & Sybil Jakob



P.O. BOX 3715, MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Har Shalom Wish List: A New Feature!

Your generous donations in-kind or coin are vital to Har Shalom's day-to-day operations, so please consider this:

We are in need of an up-to-date, high-speed laptop or desktop computer with ample memory, as well as a state-of-the art copy-scanner-fax. These tools will enable us to do two things better:

- 1. Perform record keeping and general business at appropriate commercial speed.
- 2. Support our adult and youth education programs.

Our current tools were generously donated but do not adequately fill the roles they are intended to serve. If you would like to underwrite our technology upgrade, please contact President Bert Chessin at 531-5193.

#### From the Har Shalom Library

The Thirty-Third Hour by Mitchell Chefitz

This novel is about a rabbi in south Florida who has 33 hours to decide whether or not to bring a family educator up on charges. He goes over videos and journals of classes and his own relationship with the teacher. Exhausted, questioning and remembering family troubles of his own, he delves into the theology of the classes and is moved by the depth of the worship. The author brings many insights into the story from Torah and Talmud.

The book will be on display in the synagogue hallway. —*Kate Soukonnikov* 

# Har Shalom March 2011

SUN	MOM	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 25 Adar / Repair-the- world-one- stitch- at-a-time 6–8 pm	2 26 Adar I NO CHEVRUTA	<b>3</b> 27 Adar I	4 28 Adar Shabbat Across America and Canada dinner and "Tish" 6 pm (by reservation)	5 29 Adar / Torah study 10 am-noon
6 <i>30 Adar I</i> Atidaynu 10 am-noon	7 1 Adar II NO CHEVRUTA	8 2 Adar II Board Meeting 6–8 pm	<b>9</b> 3 Adar II	<b>10</b> 4 Adar II	11 5 Adar II NO SERVICE Shabbat Home Dinners	12 6 Adar II *Torah study 9- 10 am *Shabbat Shacharit & Bar Mitzvah of Ben
13 7 Adar II Three Faiths service project Montana Food Bank Network 12:30 pm	14 <i>8 Adar II</i> Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30–9 pm	<b>15</b> 9 Adar II	16 10 Adar II Adult Hebrew Aleph and Bet Time TBA	<b>17</b> 11 Adar II	18 <i>12 Adar II</i> Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm	19 13 Adar II *Torah study 10 am-noon *Purim Fiddler- on-the-Roof sing along & potluck 6:30 pm
20 14 Adar II *Atidaynu 10 am-noon *Purim Carnival noon-2 pm *Three Faiths potluck & sharing at Holy Spirit 6 pm	21 <i>15</i> A <i>dar II</i> Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30–9 pm	<b>22</b> 16 Adar II	23 17 Adar II Adult Hebrew Aleph and Bet Time TBA	<b>24</b> 18 Adar II	25 19 Adar II Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm	26 20 Adar II Torah study 10 am-noon
27 21 Adar II Atidaynu 10 am-noon	28 22 Adar II Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30–9 pm	29 23 Adar II Repair-the- world-one-stitch- at-a-time 6–8 pm	30 24 Adar II Adult Hebrew Aleph and Bet Time TBA	<b>31</b> 24 Adar II		

# Har Shalom APRIL 2011

SAT	2 27 Adar II Torah study 10 am-noon	<b>9</b> <i>5 Nissan</i> Torah study 10 am-noon	16 12 Nissan *Shabbat Shacharit and text study 10 am with Rabbi Niles Goldstein	23 19 Nissan Pesach 5 Torah study 10 am-noon	30 26 Nissan *Torah study 10 am-noon *Yom HaShoa Commemoration
FRI	<b>1</b> 26 Adar II	8 <i>4 Nissan</i> Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm	15 11 Nissan Rabbi Niles Goldstein potluck & talk 6 pm "A Spiritual Exploration with Hassidic Masters"	22 18 Nissan Pesach 4 Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm	29 25 Nissan Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm
THURS		<b>7</b> 3 Nissan	<b>14</b> 10 Nissan	21 17 Nissan Pesach 3	<b>28</b> 24 Nissan
WED		6 <i>2 Nissan</i> Adult Hebrew Aleph and Bet Time TBA	13 <i>9 Nissan</i> Adult Hebrew Aleph & Bet combined class 7:30–9 pm	20 16 Nissan Pesach 2 Adult Hebrew Aleph and Bet Time TBA	27 23 Nissan Adult Hebrew Aleph and Bet Time TBA
TUES		5 <i>1 Nissan</i> Rosh Chodesh	12 <i>8 Nissan</i> Board Meeting 6 pm	19 15 Nissan Pesach 1 Community Seder 5 pm	<b>26</b> <i>22 Nissan</i> Pesach 8 Pesach Yizkor 5:30 pm
MOM		4 29 Adar II NO CHEVRUTA Spring break!	11 <i>7 Nissan</i> Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30–9 pm	18 14 Nissan NO CHEVRUTA Erev Pesach	25 21 Nissan Pesach 7 Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30–9 pm
SUN		<b>3</b> 28 Adar II	10 6 Nissan Atidaynu 10 am-noon	*A Walk in the Wilderness with R. Goldstein Kootenai Creek Trailhead 3 pm *Hospitality at Winstons' TBA	24 <i>20 Nissan</i> Pesach 6 Atidaynu 10 am-noon

# Community Passover Services

#### THIS IS A SIT-DOWN MEAL, SERVED FAMILY STYLE.

The menu will include: traditional matzah ball soup, beef brisket, roasted potatoes, zucchini kugel and fresh vegetables, all the traditional Passover foods and sponge cake with fresh strawberries. Wine and juice will be served with the service.

(Our Passover Seder is "kosher-style")

In years past we have been filled to capacity and we have space for just over 100 people this year. With Rabbi Goldstein joining us this year we anticipate a good crowd. Because we must confirm and pay for the meals with the caterer by April 12 we are unable to guarantee places for walk-in guests.

Our catered Passover Seder will be held **Friday, April 19, beginning at 5 p.m.** 

(to accommodate our wee guests)

Location: Congregation Har Shalom, 3035 S. Russell Missoula

The facility is wheelchair accessible. Parking behind the building and on Russell Avenue.

PASSOVER SEDER RESERVAT	ION FORM
Passover Services reservations for:	
Name:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Phone number(s):	
Number of members attending:	
Adults @\$28/person	
Students (11 years old through college) @\$20	/person
Children (10 and under) @\$13/person	
Number of non-members attending (it is not too late to be Adults @\$38/person	pecome a member):
Students (11 years old through college) @\$25,	/person
Children (10 and under) @\$18/person	
Total	
Total number in your group	
Total amount enclosed \$	
Late Reservations: Please add \$5 per adult, \$3 per child f after April 12.	for reservations postmarked
We can provide vegetarian meals by advance request, so p	please note below:
(number) of our adult meals should be vegetar	rian
(number) of children's meals should be vegeta	rian
\$ contribution to Har Shalom to feed those who included in the "Total amount" above.	can't afford a Passover meal is
Questions? Send an email to: HarShalomMsla@gmail.co subject line, or call the synagogue, 549-9595. Leave a me	
Mail this form and your check, payable to Har Shalom, PO Box 3715, Missoula	
To pay by Credit Card: Go to www.Har-Shalom.org, and charge your meal(s). Please specify in the notes the reservation and for how many. Or, fill out the f	at the charge is for your Seder
Charge my credit card:VISAMC	AMEX
Number	Exp. Date
Name on card	