

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We Still Have a Dream

by Bert Chessin

Rosh Hashanah is a time of reflection, assessment, and planning for another year. Har Shalom collectively gives thanks for the possibilities that continue for us and for our children. We are blessed in many ways for the growth, changes, and challenges that lie ahead.

It was a busy summer in many ways for me personally, yet more importantly, it was a busy and gratifying year for our congregation. We are still thriving in our building that continues to challenge us. The building was alive with a lively Har Shalom summer camp in August, with a thriving Montessori camp in July, and let us not forget the wonderful garden at our western wall. It is an oasis, drawing kids and adults alike to its flowers, fruits, flowers and lush green lawn. A special thanks goes to Robin Sailor, a Montessori parent, and all the volunteers who made this happen.

Among the changes going on around Har Shalom is the evolving relationship with Laurie Franklin, now a rabbinic student. Our partnership in transforming our congregation and building into a Jewish community center necessarily involves and requires new commitments on the part of each of us. Laurie has and continues to give of herself — her time, her love, her nurturing, her educating, her sweat and, yes, her financial support — at a level that demands the rest of us to find ways and levels of commitment to carry an increasing load around Har Shalom. Laurie's time commitment to us is significant but not unlimited so she has time to grow into her rabbinic role.

Over the past few months the Har Shalom board has faced realities and dreams about keeping and making this enterprise a viable operation. We will be sharing our plans and vision for the upcoming year and beyond at the annual meeting on September 18. However, more important to our future is your involvement; we need your ideas, your energy, your involvement. Even if you don't live in the Missoula environs, or rarely attend functions, if you identify with Har Shalom or believe that we need to be here and thriving, it is important for us to know that. We also need to know how you want us to thrive. What are we doing or not doing and how are we doing them?

One way that we can grow and change together is to take things on in manageable bites. We are not looking for new committees to be formed or even for congregants to join an existing committee. As we identify events or efforts, we will form "task forces" with limited time-frames to fit in better with our needs and modern lives. To the best of our abilities, let's jump into projects and move on to the next task at hand. The world was created in six days. There is time for rest, too, but take an hour or two and help bring our dreams a little closer.

Laurie's Letter: Good News!

by Laurie Franklin, Student Rabbi and Spiritual Leader

I like good news, and I got some *really* good news on July 18: I am now officially a rabbinic student with ALEPH, Alliance for Jewish Renewal. I am just beginning to realize what this means. Big picture: this is a dream-come-true. I've been headed in a rabbinical direction for

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Atidaynu* News

by Sheehan Rosen

On Sunday, September 18, there will be an open house for Atidaynu, our children's Sunday school, starting at 10 a.m. New and returning families are invited to join us to meet this year's teachers, socialize, and do a fun family project. We welcome Jewish and inter-faith families with children ages 3 to 13.

Atidaynu meets twice-a-month for two hours on Sunday mornings. We begin the day with a short service, discussion of the past week's events or Torah portion, and song. Parents are encouraged to join their children during this time. Children then break into classes of their age group for lessons, arts and crafts, stories and recreation. Hebrew instruction and practice is provided by teachers and parents during the final 45 minutes, with most students working in pairs or independently using a set of books developed by the Reform movement. Older students who are preparing for a bnei mitzvah work individually with Laurie Franklin and are encouraged to attend Saturday morning services. Snacks are provided. We can always use more teachers or parent helpers, your input and participation are really appreciated! Please contact Sheehan Ednie-Rosen at rosens@montana.com if you are interested.

We would love to see more children join our group. To participate in Atidaynu, families must be members of Har Shalom and we ask for a modest fee to pay for snacks and materials, but 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. See you on the 18th!

*Atidaynu means "our future."

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

Next deadline: Oct. 15 for Nov. / Dec. Issue

Laurie's Letter *(continued)*

several years, but it crystallized in the past year when I became a student in the ALEPH Davenport Leadership Training Institute. I find a spiritual home and training ground in ALEPH, and ALEPH has embraced me as a rabbinic student. Such an honor, such an opportunity! I am so grateful to be on this path.

What does this mean for Har Shalom? Many special possibilities: For one, I will be busy with homework and study so will cut my time at Har Shalom by 50%. That means I will be leading services and Torah study less frequently. So, now there will be additional opportunities for people in our congregation to try their wings and learn on the job as I have been doing.

This fall, I will lead four two-hour workshops about service leading to enable more Har Shalomians to become confident, knowledgeable, and experienced lay leaders (see articles for dates and times). One beautiful feature of our community is that there is no fixed hierarchy of service leaders. If you want to learn, you are invited to.

Service-leading is one of several ways you can contribute to our community's worship life. Now, if you want to bring an Oneg (snacks and challah after services) or be a shamus (someone who helps to set up the sanctuary before services), your work is greatly needed. Our board is organizing these jobs to make sure they are done. Together, we can broaden and deepen our spiritual life by sharing what we know and what we can do for each other.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah at Har Shalom

Sukkot, the happiest of holidays, begins at sundown on Wed., Oct. 12. Why so happy? We emerge from the High Holy Days period of self-examination and renewal and celebrate the bounty of the fall harvest. We gather in sukkot—flimsy, temporary structures—to eat, drink, sleep, pray and remember our connection with the earth and especially, with the Divine spirit expressed through all life. This year, come to the Har Shalom Sukkot service at 6 p.m., Friday, October 14, which will include Sukkot Yizkor. Our sukkot service will be marked by special music and a potluck. Watch the weekly announcements for more details.

Simchat Torah: The happiness continues! As Sukkot ends, we celebrate the yearly cycle of Torah as we finish the last reading in Deuteronomy and begin the first reading of Genesis. Party-time! Food, drink, music and dancing with the Torah. We will roll out the entire scroll and recognize different Torah highlights: the Song of the Sea, the Ten Statements (commandments), scribal oddities (big and small letters) and more. Celebrate on Friday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m.

Service Leading 101 *Wednesdays, 7 to 9 pm • Oct 19, 26 and Nov 2, 9*

Each session will focus on a different part of the liturgy for Kabbalat Shabbat, e.g., Kabbalat Shabbat Psalms, Shema and its blessings, Amidah, Aleinu and Kaddish. We will learn about the history of the siddur and the content of the prayers. We will compare Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Shacharit liturgy. Workshops will be followed by internships at services. The class will be "beginner friendly" but will also be useful for those who have already led services because it will delve into deeper meaning of the liturgy and will focus on creating transitions and introducing new material (ritual and music) to the congregation. For congregation members only. No fee.

Adult Hebrew Classes

Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. • Nov 16, 23, 30 • Dec 7, 21 • Jan 4, 18, 25 • Feb 1, 9, 15, 22 final siyyum (celebration)

The 12-session class is based on the one-room schoolhouse model. Beginners will learn Hebrew reading and writing basics in a spiritual framework and learn about the mystical significance of the letters of the alphabet. We will use finger paints, charades, and other devices to practice alphabet skills. Returning students will get lots of reading practice in the siddur and from Torah, working in chevruta (with study partners). In addition, returning students will help new students with their basic learning, and by doing so, will reinforce their own. *Members, \$10 materials fee; Nonmembers, \$60/series.*

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

TAMUZ

1 (July 3) Hermine Summer
John Breitner's mother

8 (July 10) May Eisenstadt
Keegan Eisenstadt's grandmother

10 (July 12) Adeline Ginsberg
Beth Leibowitz's father

16 (July 18) Samuel Nashel
Elizabeth Howard's grandfather

22 (July 24) Irving I. Schuldberg
David Schuldberg's father

AV

5 (August 5) Dorothy Cohen Martin
Marilyn Dayries' mother

11 (August 11) Betty Ann Schreiberman
Sheryl Alexander's mother

16 (August 16) Barbara Goren
Carolyn Goren's sister

19 (August 19) Dora Spector
Ellen Silverglat's mother

21 (August 21) Morris L. Goren
Carolyn Goren's father

21 (August 21) Averil Sherman
Suzanne Aboufadd's mother

ELUL

14 (September 13) Nancy Polishuk
Jackie Cohen's sister

17 (September 16) Ann Goldberg
Richard Goldberg's mother

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

Knitters, crocheters and wannabes are welcome to join us 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.

If you or anyone you know has yarn to donate, please bring it to Har Shalom and leave it in the Library. Please bring something to nosh on.

When: Tuesday, September 20th, 6-8 p.m. Where: Har Shalom library

Please let me know via e-mail or phone at least 24 hours in advance, if you plan on joining us. If you have any questions, call 546-3831 or e-mail roslynpinson@yahoo.com

Family Promise

Family Promise is a national interfaith organization dedicated to providing transitional housing for families that are currently homeless. Following several meetings this past spring, Har Shalom has decided to join a group of Missoula-area faith communities as they establish a Family Promise program in Missoula. As a support congregation, Har Shalom will be paired with a host congregation. With our host congregation, we will provide a week at a time of housing (in the host congregation's building), meals, and evening companionship for two-to-three families. We will "host" four times per year (approximately once every three months).

During our assigned weeks, we will need volunteers to help cook meals, serve meals, visit with the families in the evening, help set up and take down at the host congregation's building, play with children, provide homework help, and more. If you are interested in doing any of these things, or have any questions or ideas, please contact Robin Abeshaus (who has agreed to coordinate Family Promise volunteers from Har Shalom) at 542-7535 or robina@imt.net.

Social Justice

The Montana Organizing Project, MOP, has brought together institutions and individuals from the faith community, unions, and civic organizations to help address issues of social justice in Montana. Primary issues have focused on health care, social services and racial injustice. MOP was initiated about three years ago and now has an active board. Bert Chessin serves on that board. Earlier this year the group partnered with other organizations in advocating for maintenance of health and human services by the State of Montana, through a day of lobbying our legislators and in attending rallies in Helena to pressure our representatives to lessen the cuts being considered. MOP is active with several issues, including Native American concerns, particularly in the border areas around Montana's eight reservations; in listening sessions in the communities of Baker and Glendive because of housing shortages and other social stresses; taking a bank survey to look at establishing a state bank, similar to North Dakota; in rural development; and helping Hi-Line communities organize for representation on social justice issues. A few minutes will be taken at our annual meeting to discuss Har Shalom's interest in joining MOP.

From the Har Shalom Library

You will find reviewed books on the hall bookshelf. Members can borrow them.

From Toba Winston: *The Thirty-Third Hour* by Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz

This book is fiction but reads like a true to life story. It is an irresistible blend of spirituality and mystery. A sex ethics charge is involved; if it became public, it would create a disastrous scandal. The rabbi has 33 hours to investigate before the issue will be turned over to the police.

I do not want to say more because the reader becomes judge and jury as the rabbi seeks to find out what really happened. I will say, the book is filled with delightful stories and an experimental family education program bringing together parents and children to explore Bible stories in new and challenging ways. I think this would be a wonderful experimental program for Har Shalom to try. After you read this book, tell me what you think!

Yahrzeits (cont'd.)

26 (September 25) Jack Witkowsky
Kathleen Witkowsky's father

TISHREI

3 (October 1) Bernard Robin
Melinda Robin's father

5 (October 3) William Sanz
Mark Sanz's father

13 (October 11) Charles Stahl
Larry Stahl's grandfather

16 (October 14) Charles Sherman
Suzanne Aboufaddl's father

20 (October 18) Dorothy Bloom
*Michael and Zachary Bloom's
Grandmother/Great-grandmother*

21 (October 19) Eva Stahl
Larry Stahl's grandmother

24 (Oct. 22) Francis B. Rosenzweig
Frank Rosenzweig's father

26 (Oct. 24) Leroy Bloomberg, M.D.
Staci Bloomberg's father

CHESHVAN

1 (October 29) Joseph Goldberg
Richard Goldberg's father

University Interfaith Event for Missoula

**Monday, September 26, 6 p.m.
Room 330, University Center**

The University of Montana Office of the President, UM International Programs and Emmaus Campus Ministry invites members of Missoula's faith communities and UM's faith-based student groups to an interfaith gathering and buffet reception on Monday, Sept. 26, 6 p.m., University Center 330.

President Royce Engstrom, Provost Perry Brown, various faith community leaders and students will speak. This event will launch a year of interfaith collaboration and learning.

Please RSVP Brian Lofink at brian.lofink@mso.umt.edu and copy Laurie Franklin at laurief@har-shalom.org if you plan to attend.

Donations and Tributes

We are grateful to our current and past contributors. Every donation, regardless of size, is deeply appreciated. Making tributes and memorials is a wonderful way to honor someone and support the Jewish community.

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: Memorial; Honor; Membership; Capital Campaign; school, camp, or special event fee. 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. If you send a donation by conventional mail, please remember to use Har Shalom's new post office box: PO Box 3715, Missoula 59806.

Memorials

Stephen Kalm and Robin Abeshaus, in Honor of Trent Lowenstein
David and Janet Tatz-Morey in memory of Ed Brown's mother

Capital Campaign Donations

Earl & Bertha Pruyne Foundation, Elaine Alman, Richard Auerbach, Anthony Beltramo, Bert Chessin, Jackie Cohen, Jack & Pat Cohen, Joy & Mark Earls, Dori Gilels, Carolyn Goren, Marlene Hutchins, Adair Kanter, Maeta Kaplan, Jerry Kogan, Jack & Shelly Meyer, Paul & Sheehan Rosen, Ed Rosenberg, Halle Safier, Steve Saroff, Rachel & Deborah Schaffer, Matthew Semanoff & Jessica Weltman, Michael & Ellen Silverglat, Bernard & Janice Silverman, Kate Soukonnikov, Beverly Tatz, Joel & Esther Weltman, Gary & Lynne Willstein, Toba Winston

Greening the Back Forty! project

Bert & Carol Chessin, Jack & Pat Cohen, Laurie Franklin & Sandy Ross, Marlene Hutchins, David Jolles & Erin Craney, Stephen Kalm & Robin Abeshaus, Toba Winston

Sponsored Rabbi Niles Goldstein events

Bert & Carol Chessin

Passover Donations

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Rabbi Fund

Kate Soukonnikov

General Donations

Anthony Beltramo, Sheila Davidoff, Richard & Donna Jo Johnson, Reisa Kahn, Susan Laemmle & John Antignas, Merce Litfin, Robert & Elizabeth Natelson

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.



P.O. Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806

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