

AUTUMN 2015 NEWS

Laurie's Letter

God is in the Field and a Song

We have entered the month of Elul, the month before Rosh Hashanah. According to the great rabbi and founder of Hassidism, the Baal Shem Tov (1698-1760), "God is in the field", meaning that Elul is a time that God is accessible to us in an informal way, like a sovereign who walks in the fields to visit His/Her people. What an opportunity! If we are willing, we can sense the closeness of Divine Presence as we go about our daily routines. Even more so, we can ask for guidance to prepare for the Days of Awe.



Laurie Franklin

What guidance do you want? What blessings do you desire? To whom do you need to apologize or with whom do you seek reconciliation? This is our "Jewish time" to think about all that, to clarify how we want to act in the world, to repair relationships, and move into greater harmony with Divine intention. When we hear the shofar, it calls us to wake up, to open our hearts to possibility, and bring forth our highest selves once again.

Our High Holiday liturgy opens with a song, Pitchu'li (Open to Me), that issues an appeal to open the gates of righteousness that we might enter. The words can be understood as both an appeal to the Holy Blessed One for entry to a higher spiritual state and an appeal to ourselves to do the soul work of renewal. On Rosh Chodesh Elul, a group of Har Shalomians celebrated by creating a new melody for this prayer text that incorporates both English and Hebrew and expresses our longing for closeness to God. The song will be part of our High Holiday services. Please listen to this new work of spiritual creativity, the result of collaboration by Toba Winston, Kelcie Murphy, Lauren Weinstock, Ya'el Winston, Joyce Latimer, Barb Gross, Holly Kingsford, and me. May your Elul be fruitful and may you sense the support of Shechinah, aka Divine Presence, as you journey to and through the Days of Awe.

[link to Pitchu'li: https://www.dropbox.com/s/71su13g5bz8gzg/Pitchu%27li_final.m4a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/71su13g5bz8gzg/Pitchu%27li_final.m4a?dl=0)

President Holly Kingsford's Column

Perhaps you recall the letter Har Shalom sent out in July along with membership renewal forms?

We discussed in that letter the cause for celebration regarding the status of our unwieldy mortgage which is gradually shrinking due to our diligence in getting the payments to the bank. But in the letter was also the unfortunate news that we had to raise dues. That's never a fun message to have to share, but there you have it. We can't have our board members tossing and turning all night wondering where the money is coming from!

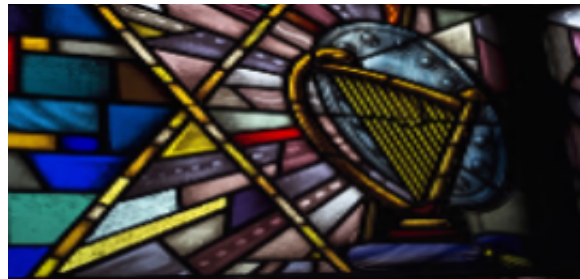


Holly Kingsford

For those who have responded, thank you for coming through and being willing to commit to the support of Har Shalom. In addition, I want to personally thank everyone that makes their commitment a priority by supporting our Jewish Community. The good news is that even though the requested commitment was offered as \$1200 per year, the average commitment letter we received has tallied up to about \$1400 per family, more than the requested amount! For that we are so grateful. It says that people value what we are doing here, and that a Jewish presence in Missoula is important to us. I know it is important to me. Life would be bleak indeed without all of you in it.

For those of you still on the fence, perhaps even grumbling about how you can fit in a commitment on top of all the other bills, I hope you will step forward in the way that is right for you. I don't believe it is possible to out-give the Almighty. Because when we are faithful to name an amount, it will be provided. I have set up a monthly check to go to Har Shalom because that is what fits into my budget. Please look over your bookkeeping and then let us know what kind of arrangement could work for you. We are so grateful for any heartfelt contribution.

We thank you with warmest regards for your willingness to join Har Shalom in building and sustaining an active Jewish presence in Western Montana.



Atidaynu News

Atidaynu means "Our Future"

We hope everyone had a wonderfully relaxing and fun summer. We welcome all new and returning families to Har Shalom's Children's Education Program for ages three to b'nei mitzvah!

Our first meeting of Atidaynu will be on September 27. The first get together will be an orientation meeting giving parents, students and teachers a chance to meet each other, learn a bit about what we will be doing this year, and participate in a couple of group activities. We will then be meeting two times a month for the remainder of the school year. Registration forms and calendars will go out to returning families in mid-September.

If you are a new family interested in enrolling, would like to teach or volunteer, or just have questions about our program, please contact Sheehan at rosens@montana.com or 406-642-6527.

High Holiday Schedule

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Annual Picnic-Sun Sep 6, 4:30 pm

Torah service, Parashat Ki Tavo-Sat Sep 5, 11 am

Candlelight Selichot-Sat Sep 5, 8:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah- September

Sun 13th, 8:45a-Morning Mikveh at

Lolo Hot Springs

Sun 13th, 7 pm-Erev Rosh Hashanah

Mon 14th, 9 am-Young People's Rosh Hashanah

Mon 14th, 10 am-Rosh Hashanah service

Tues Sept 15, 7:30 am-Rosh Hashanah II chanting & contemplative Torah service, followed by light breakfast

Yom Kippur- September

Tues 22nd, 7 pm-Kol Nidre

Wed 23rd, 9 am-Young People's Yom Kippur
10 am-Morning service

-(YK *menuchah aka rest!*)-

Wed 23rd, 5:30 pm-Yizkor

5:50 pm-Ma'ariv/Neilah

8:30 pm-Havdallah and Break the Fast

Sukkot-September

Sun 27th, Noon-Set up; bag lunch or order pizza

5 pm-Erev Sukkot potluck

6 pm-service and lulav

Tues 29th, 6 pm-Yizkor

Simchat Torah-October

Mon 5th, 5:30 pm-Soup and salad potluck

6:30 pm-Service

Davvenology Special Session *Saturday, September 5*

Getting to Know You: An Introduction to High Holiday Liturgy

Please come to Har Shalom on Tuesday Sept 1, 7:15 to 8:30 pm, as we explore High Holiday Liturgy. If services on the High Holidays seem different, it's because they are! What's added and why? We'll look at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur special features and familiarize ourselves with some of the seasonal melodies. All are welcome. No Hebrew proficiency necessary.

Selichot Candlelight Service Saturday, September 5

Join us on Sept 5 at 8:30 pm as we experience the transition from dusk to dark and pray for spiritual wholeness. "Selicha" means "sorry". We ask our Father, our King, Our Mother, our Queen, our Guide and Inspiration to hold us in compassion as we rediscover the spark of divine light within. The brief (approx. 45 min), candlelight service will be followed by a silent, contemplative leave-taking. If you have one, please bring a small flashlight to read the Selichot siddur.

Contemplative Chanting Service on Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 15

On Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah, Tuesday, we will meet in the sanctuary for an early, 45-min service consisting of contemplative chants. The service begins promptly at 7:30 am and will be followed by a light breakfast for those who are able to stay.

Got Sukkah? Sunday, September 27 and Tuesday, September 29

It's almost time to set up our Har Shalom sukkah and wave the lulav (perform the ritual of the 4 species)! We will build and decorate the sukkah on Sunday September 27 beginning at 12 noon, right after Atidaynu. Bring a bag lunch or we'll pitch in and order some pizza! Our Erev Sukkot potluck and service will take place the same night, potluck at 5 pm and service at 6 pm. Sukkot Yizkor is Tuesday September 29 at 6 pm.

Dance with the Torah in the streets of Missoula! Monday, October 5

Simchat Torah arrives at sundown on Monday October 5, and we can celebrate! We read the last words of Deuteronomy and begin all over again with the first words of Genesis. All the kids are invited up to the Torah for an aliyah, the only time before they become bat or bar mitzvah! Every year we unroll the entire Torah and explore the fascinating quirks of scribal art that adorn the scroll. Because it's a school night, we will start early with a soup and salad potluck at 5:30 pm and service at 6:30 pm. Music will be provided by CHUTZPAH!, our klezmer ensemble of local renown, and a few itinerant bagpipers. Bring the whole family and your dancing feet! We promise to get the kids home by 8:30 pm.

Tikkun Olam

SHUL to TABLE: Food Drive for the Missoula Food Bank

Har Shalom is in the process of reaching to our neighbors over the next few months to help put food on the tables of Missoula families through participation in the Missoula Food Bank food drive. We have successfully kicked off our initial efforts with a picnic gathering to organize and pool resources and are now in the phase of active commitment to making this outreach a success for our whole community.

As previously announced, there will be three ways to participate to ensure that each of our congregants has a way that feels right for them to contribute. They are as follows: 1) joining the already growing teams of Har Shalomers who are volunteering to walk their neighborhoods handing out fliers, followed by a next day pick-up of non-perishable food items left out by their neighbors. We have families from each of the "boroughs" of Missoula, (Bitterroot included!), and hope you will invite your friends and neighbors to join in the process as well! 2) The Tzedakah Box Challenge will kick off shortly, both online and in person, where Laurie will match whatever we gather with up to \$250 dollars from the rabbi fund. Lastly, 3) the good old-fashioned hand delivery of either food items or a check made out to the Missoula Food Bank when you come in to services during the months of August or September. Saturday, October 3rd is our final delivery date to the Missoula Food Bank so we have lots of time to pull together our friends and families to make this year's food drive a huge success and to offer a solid show of support for those within our community who are struggling to feed themselves and their families.

We thank you in advance for your support and contributions and are looking forward to the opportunity to build community within Har Shalom as we reach out to help the Missoula Food Bank meet the needs of so many of our Missoula neighbors.

Fliers are available at Har Shalom or please email Lida at lidarunningcrane@yahoo.com for an emailed template if it is easier for you to print them off at home. A link to the fliers will also be provided in the weekly listserv.

*** A special thanks goes out to Bob Marshall of Biga Pizza for giving us a generous discount on some delicious pizzas for our Food Bank planning meeting! Thanks for helping fuel our creativity! ***
If you have any questions or would like further clarification or help in how to organize an outreach effort in your neighborhood, please call Lida Running Crane at (406) 241-2566.

Yahrzeits

ELUL

17 (September 1)
Ann Goldberg
Richard Goldberg's mother
23 (September 7) Esther
Schagren
Holly Kingsford's
grandmother
26 (September 10) Jack
Witkowsky
Kathleen Witkowsky's father

TISHREI

1 (September 14) Janice Glass
Jacobs
Holly Kingsford's mother
3 (September 16) Bernard

Yahrzeits (con't)

CHESHVAN (con't)

17 (October 30) Max Marshall
Connie Campbell's father
22 (November 4) Christopher
Tucker
Catherine Tucker's spouse
25 (November 7) Donald S.
Brown
Ed Brown's father
29 (November 11) Jacob Cohen
Jack Cohen's grandfather

KISLEV

2 (November 14) Raphael Ben
Mordechai
Marlene Hutchins' father
3 (November 15) Harry Arthur

Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah

To **Rabbi Allen Secher** for valuable book donations to the Har Shalom library; to service leaders **Toba Winston, Holly Kingsford, Kate Soukonnikov, David Jolles, Barb Gross and Bert Chessin** for creative, heartfelt Shabbat leadership; to **Kate Soukonnikov** for once again orchestrating a day-long program at Har Shalom for the "Worlds Apart But Not Strangers" seminar; to **Bert and Mike Chessin, Daniel Azaryahu, Mona Bachman,**

Robin
Melinda Robin's father
5 (September 18) William
Sanz
Mark Sanz's father
13 (September 26) Charles
Stahl
Larry Stahl's grandfather
19 (October 2) Arnold Finklin
Har Shalom community
member
21 (October 4) Eva Stahl
Larry Stahl's grandmother
24 (October 7) Francis B.
Rosenzweig
Frank Rosenzweig's father
26 (October 9) Leroy
Bloomberg M.D.
Staci Bloomberg's father

CHESHVAN

1 (October 14) Joseph
Goldberg
Richard Goldberg's father
4 (October 17) Bill Martin
Marilyn Dayries's father
5 (October 18) Flora Kaplan
Maeta Kaplan's mother
5 (October 18) Frances
Blindman
Elizabeth Howard's
grandmother
9 (October 22) Harry Komisar
Melissa Porter's father
12 (October 25) Richard
Albert Litfin
Merce Litfin Zingmark's father

Saroff
Steve Saroff's father
8 (November 20) Joseph
Cohen
Jack Cohen's father
12 (November 24) Irving Tatz
Janet Tatz's father
14 (November 26) Cherrie
Steinebach
Tyler Steinebach's mother
15 (November 27) Mildred
Shulman
Joy Earls' mother
18 (November 30) Bill Weisz
George Weisz's father
19 (December 1) Barbara
Lumpkin
Candy Miller's mother
24 (December 6) Morris
Leibowitz
Gary Leibowitz's father

Donations & Tributes Rabbi Fund

Roseann and Morton H. Kessler
Matthew Weiss and Andrea
Young

Contributions

Jessie Mark
Tzedkah

Building Fund

Anonymous
Harriet Blake
Kathy Jacobson

**Holly Kingsford, Dave
Jolles and Boris
Soukonnikov** for
presentations at "Worlds
Apart"; to all the bakers and
cooks who provided special
recipes for the "Worlds Apart"
dinner, to the **dedicated
Shabbat oneg bringers** who
feed us generously; to **Bruce
Barrett** for hosting a post-
event discussion after our
presentation from the Israeli
Consul General to the Pacific
Northwest, **Dr. Andy
David**; to **Ilana McCloud** for
helping out Har Shalom's
summer day camp; to **Pat and
Jack Cohen** for plans to
create a durable, permanent,
aesthetically pleasing
installation for our outdoor
hanukkah; to office
administrator **Ari Margo** for
devoted, intelligent work to get
our new database, ShulCloud,
up and running; to **Marlene
Hutchins** for ongoing
consultation and aesthetic
advice for our website and
materials; to **Bob and Cindy
Marshall and Biga Pizza** for
delicious pizzas to fuel our
food-drive planning effort.

Laurie Franklin and Administrative Office Hours

Laurie's office hours are Tuesdays, 1-4 pm and by appointment. Call Laurie to make an appointment at 546-9368 or email laurief@har-shalom.org

Office Hours with our Administrator, Ari, are Tuesdays and Fridays, noon to 4 pm.
Contact him at 406-549-9595 or email ari@har-shalom.org

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