

Spring 2016 News

Laurie's Letter

Two Ps

I like to take a long view of the holidays of our Jewish calendar: How are they connected to each other and how does each one inform us and lead us to the next? I think of the holidays and festivals as times to refine our focus between the High Holy Days of one year and the next. This year, Purim comes toward the end of March and Passover at the end of April. How can we relate these two seemingly dissimilar holidays?

First, let's look at their differences: the Megillah of Purim never mentions God's name whereas Passover is all about the role of God in the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Purim celebrations are raucous, unfettered and silly, while Passover observance follows a distinct seder-order-of ritual. Purim is a holiday declared by humans, Esther and Mordechai, whereas Passover is a commandment from God. On Purim, we hide our identities with costumes; on Passover, we affirm our identities. Ok, so far, they're quite different.

Now let's look at the similarities: In both Purim and Passover stories, the Jewish people overcome an oppressive monarch, Achashverosh and Pharaoh, respectively. The people are rescued from either annihilation or slavery. Our celebration in both cases involves imbibing a fair bit of wine. For Purim, the quantity is given qualitatively, "drink enough to make it impossible to distinguish between Mordechai and Haman"; For Passover, it's four cups. In both cases, we feast like royalty!

So, how might we find a relationship between the two holidays that helps us grow as individuals and as a people? Maybe the invisibility of God in Purim teaches that we have to take responsibility for ourselves and others. And God's pervasive presence in Passover reminds us, that nonetheless, God has a role in everything we experience. Maybe Purim teaches that our independent actions count; whereas Passover teaches us to balance our sense of agency with respect for the Divine. Maybe Purim teaches that our sense of self-preservation is innate, and Passover shows us that we owe that nature to Divine creation. Maybe Purim teaches us to be activists, and Passover shows us how to get it done by example from the Greatest Activist of all! Can you come up with other ways to relate the two?



Laurie Franklin

President Holly Kingsford's Column

The Sky Is Falling!

If you have been past Har Shalom lately, you may have noticed that there is a hole in the roof where a cover used to be. One very bad day in January caused the overhang to collapse due to either the weight of snow and ice in the gutter or by the rotting of the structure, or perhaps both. It happened on Martin Luther King Day, which means that the place was deserted. If you are going to have a collapse, best to have it when no one is around.

Very soon, if it hasn't happened already, the covers over the front double doors and the Montessori School will be taken down. We have had an engineer come and make an assessment of the structures. He has asserted that they are "safe for the short term". It has been determined by the leadership team that we would prefer not to leave the safety of our community to chance. The covers are to be removed as soon as possible. There is significant deterioration visible. To shore it all up and repair the deterioration is more expensive than it is worth. So the decision was not a difficult one to make. Insurance was investigated. However, there is no coverage for the existing structures that are still intact, and Bert took care of the demolition of the collapsed portion, so there was no expense that would exceed our insurance deductible.

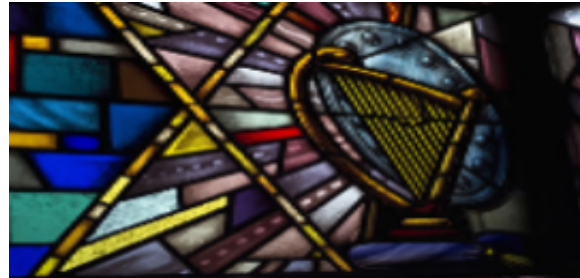
Now the conversation moves to the inevitable, "How are we going to pay for this?" Well, Har Shalom hasn't had a fundraiser yet this month. But joking aside, if we want to make the repair look seamless and replace the covers over the walkways to preserve the new carpet that was just laid, we will have to have canvas awnings made. Initial estimates are coming in around \$15,000. We have a building reserve that will take care of the demolition, but we will have to replenish that account for the next what-if.

Donations can be made on the Har-Shalom website or by mail to PO Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806. It seems like it is always something, and it is. And that is why we appreciate our Har Shalom community with such gratitude. We will take this in stride and continue on to celebrating Purim with laughs and spirits. To be followed by Passover with bellies to fill and haggadahs to read in monotone.

Spring is just around the corner!



Holly Kingsford



Atidaynu News

Atidaynu means "Our Future"

We are back in the swing of things after winter break and gearing up for all of the Spring holidays! There are some calendar changes to accommodate party preparations and school breaks, parents please check your email or consult the Har Shalom events calendar online to stay up to date. Help is always welcome, especially for Hebrew at 11:30am. We have children at all levels, so please don't feel you have to be an expert reader. Contact Sheehan at 406/642-6527 or rosens@montana.com for more information or to volunteer.

Tikkun Olam

Our next host week for Family Promise is March 13-19. If you would like to cook a meal, be an evening host, or stay at the UCC as an overnight host, please contact Sheehan at 406 642 6527 or rosens@montana.com for available dates. Har Shalom is planning a community tree planting for Yom Ha'atzmaut, with a large proportion of the tree's cost being collected by the children of Atidaynu. This activity will be combined with the celebration of Israeli Independence Day on May 15. Please watch the weekly for updates on other events and opportunities to engage with community outreach and support.

Community Passover Seder, Sunday, April 24, 4:30pm

Our community seder is approaching fast; reservations are requested before April 18. Reservation forms postmarked after April 21 must include late fees; see the Reservation Form for details. Click [here](#) to download a form from the Har Shalom website www.har-shalom.org Space is limited so register early.

Israeli Independence Day Potluck Picnic and Annual Tree Planting

Sunday, May 15th 1:00pm at Westside Park

Israel celebrates its 68th birthday this year and we will be honoring this important date with our first annual community potluck picnic, game day, and birthday sing along! Israel's Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut in Hebrew) is celebrated on the 5th of the Jewish month Iar which falls on May 12 this year. Yom Ha'atzmaut is always preceded with Yom Ha'zikaron, the day we remember our fallen soldiers and victims of terrorist acts that without their bravery, Israel would be in peril. The intensity of ending the celebration of one of the saddest days in Israel's holidays with the happiest of celebration for the Jewish people is one more powerful than words can explain and the epitome of Israel's survival.

As a symbol of our connection to and in honor of Israel and its long history and continued commitment to trees, clean energy, and protection of the environment, we will plant a tree in Westside Park. This will be our second Har Shalom tree planted in a Missoula park with hopes for many more in the coming years. This planting mirrors Har Shalom's commitment to those values and stands as a small act of Tikkun Olam. Our gratitude goes out to our Atidaynu children and their families for collecting a Tzedakah Box full of change over the course of the school year to finance the purchase of our new sapling!

Come prepared to sing, play some games (including Israeli games), enjoy a good meal, and share each other's company outside in a beautiful spring. As is custom in Israel for celebration, please join us wearing white if you chose.

Yahrzeits

ADAR I

28 (March 8) David Kooris
Jeff Kooris' father

ADAR II

2 (March 12) Frank Spector
Ellen Silverglat's father
19 (March 29) Dr. Zangwill H.
Freed
Joan Kuchel's father

Donations & Tributes

*A special thank you to those who contributed to the **End-of-Year Matching Fund Drive***

Ana Maria Aronofsky
David Aronofsky
Linda Bailey & David Bixby
Dr. Marshall & Tonia Bloom
Kelley Brown
Shanti Conly
David Cox

Todah Rabah

To all the generous oneg-bringers; to **Toba Winston** and **Tzofiya Harris** for dedicated design work and sweat equity toward our interior beautification with new paint, carpet and kitchen flooring (and to all the as-yet to be recruited volunteers who will help with painting prep

21 (March 31) Sophie Goren
Carolyn Goren's mother
27 (April 6) Gabriel Jolles
David Jolles' father

NISAN

21 (April 29) Edward Cohen
Jackie Cohen's father

IYYAR

17 (May 25) Meyer Tuchinsky
Toba Winston's father
20 (May 28) Gary Glass
Holly Kingsford's father

Robert & Carol Fischer
Elise & Stephen Foster
Eve Franklin
Rachel Garwin
Carolyn Goren
Patricia Hogan
Stan & Elizabeth Howard
Marlene Hutchins
Paul Isaac
Jaffe, Bob & Beth
Ruth Juris
Stephen Kalm & Robin Abeshaus
Judy Klein
Joyce Latimer
John Lewter
Naomi Lichtenberg & Alex
Fradkin
Jack & Shelly Meyer
Paul & Sheehan Rosen
Rachel & Deborah Schaffer
Marc and Madelyn Semanoff
Boris & Kate Soukonnikov
Marc and Debra Steinberg
Jessica Weltman
David Whiman,
Melissa Winston
Toba M. Winston

Capital Fund/Building Fund

Joshua Odintz
Alla Leora Sarah Stevens

Honors and Memorials

Meyer & Flo Chessin
In Honor of Bert Chessin
Jack & Patricia Cohen
In Memory of Joseph Cohen
Jack & Patricia Cohen
In Memory of Jacob Cohen
Anna Washburn
*In Honor of Kate & Boris
Soukonnikou*

and carpet removal); to
**Jennifer and Joshua
Odintz** for the new chairs for
the sanctuary, donated in
memory of Joshua's mother,
Patricia Odintz; to **Bert
Chessin** and **Scott Dwyer** for
deconstruction of the
sanctuary-door canopy; to
Justin Rosenberg for
thoughtful suggestions to
refurbish front-of-building
canopies; to **Bert Chessin** for
problem solving about
renovation of the front-end of
the building; To **Lida
Running Crane, Paul and
Holly Kingsford, Joyce
Latimer, and Bert and
Carol Chessin** for
volunteering at the Pov; to all
the anonymous bringers-of-
baking-supplies for the Lowell
School Flagship Program
cooking classes; to **Misha
Lityuga** for poster artwork for
our clothing and food drives; to
Elise Foster, David Cox,
and **Sheehan Rosen** for
drafting a revision of the Har
Shalom Core Values (ongoing);
to **Janette Hillis-Jaffe** for
offering an excellent workshop,
"Everyday Healing;" to **Pat
Cohen, Paul and Holly
Kingsford, Barb Gross,
Bert Chessin, David Jolles,**
and **Maeta Kaplan** for Purim
planning; to **Sherry Kolenda**
for Passover planning; to **Joy
Earls** for taking on the oh-so-
important role of Membership
chair; to **Marc Steinberg** for
stepping into ad hoc leadership
whenever asked; to our
wonderful Atidaynu teachers-
**Jody Jakob, Paul and
Sheehan Rosen, and Bert
Chessin**-for inspiring our
children; to **Hannah Minsky**
for teaching our Hebrew II
class with creativity and spirit;
to far-away friend, benefactor
and long-time member **Jackie
Cohen** for continuing to
provide newsletter book
reviews from Colorado!

To those who provided food
and entertainment for the
Hanukkah party back in
December; **Ed Rosenberg,**
**Bert Chessin, Marc
Steinberg, Rhonda Stahl,
Holly Kingsford, Kate
Soukonnikov, Lana Cohen,**

Tanya Cohen, Sherry Kolenda, Ilana McCloud, Paul Kingsford, Sheehan Rosen, Barbara Gross, Laurie Franklin, David Jolles, Pat Cohen, and the Chutzpah Band.

Laurie Franklin and Administrative Office Hours

Laurie's office hours are Wednesdays 2 to 5 pm and other times by appointment. Call Laurie to make an appointment at 546-9368 or email laurief@har-shalom.org

Administrator Office Hours are Fridays, 9 am to 1 pm.
Contact Ari at 406-549-9595 or email ari@har-shalom.org

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[Pat Cohen, Editor](#) | Har Shalom | 3035 South Russell Street | PO Box 3715 | Missoula, MT 59806 | 406-549-9595

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