

MONTHLY NEWS * DECEMBER 2014



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Laurie's Letter

Coming soon: A Hanukkiah for Missoula!

The magic and beauty of Hanukkah is getting a big boost in Missoula. Welding students at Missoula College are working steadily to complete a magnificent, large-scale hanukkiah to be part of the Missoula Downtown Association's Festival of Lights celebration. Levi Bessette, a student welder, is acting as foreman, working with Dane Stewart, Ryan Tripp, and Tyler Smith (lighting). The students are super-enthusiastic about designing and producing a special project. They are as excited to see their work downtown as we are!

Why a hanukkiah for Missoula? Some of us have been dreaming about this possibility for a few years. As colorful Christmas lights fill downtown, it will be a delight to see a shining hanukkiah as part of the winter scene. Our children will see a reflection of their culture as part of our public life and feel proud of their heritage.

For the Jewish people, Hanukkah is a happy time: a time to play dreidel games, sing songs, eat latkes and sufganiot (Israeli donuts!), and give and receive presents. The increasing light, one more candle each night, fortifies us in the darkest days of the year. The light gives us hope that a new season of growth is ahead. We remember our ancestors, who rededicated the Holy Temple after it was desecrated by King Antiochus and his troops. It's a time to rededicate ourselves to display the holy spark of light that each of us carries within.

As a Jewish people, we are asked to be a light unto the nations, to bring chesed, lovingkindness, into our relationships, and to help make the world a better place. When we watch the lights of our new hanukkiah, we can be inspired to fulfill our role as bringers of light to Missoula and the World.

You can help bring Hanukkah light to Missoula. One candle can be "purchased" with a \$100 gift. You can also support part of a candle, at a level of your choice. You may wish to dedicate a donation to your family or to a special person. Please mail or drop off donations, or submit via PayPal at www.har-shalom.org/Make_a_Donation. Our mailing address: Har Shalom, PO Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806. Please specify the purpose of the donation (hanukkiah!) and the name(s) for the dedication.



Laurie Franklin



Atidaynu News

We had a very successful challah making day in late November; we made plain challah and pumpkin challah. The challah will be part of a meal that Atidaynu families will prepare for Family Promise on December 6. It is really wonderful to see everyone pull together and support this great program for Missoula families who are struggling to secure housing. I am happy to announce that participation in Family Promise will be a regular part of the Atidaynu program for the foreseeable future.

We are working toward implementing a new structure for Hebrew learning. Our diverse population means that different families have different needs and expectations regarding Hebrew learning. Teachers will be speaking with parents about what works best for them and their plans for b'nei mitzvah preparation so we can better meet the needs of our children and avoid frustration. I am sure we will have kinks to work out, but teachers agree that a change is needed.

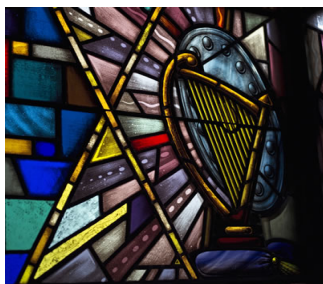
Todah Rabah to parents for being engaged and helping out with class activities and special projects. Lastly, the children are busy preparing for the Chanukah Party, you won't want to miss it, so please mark your calendars now!

Questions or want to enroll your child? Contact Sheehan at rosens@montana.com

Granny Greeny is Coming to Town! Friday December 5 at Imagination Station

Ina Albert, of Whitefish, MT, writes us, "Please let the congregation know and come and visit me, Granny Greeny, in costume, to introduce my new book *Granny Greeny Says Listen Louder*." She will sign copies and read from her book on First Friday December 5 at Imagination Station (227 N Higgins Ave, Missoula) from 4 - 8 pm. Ina is an author, workshop presenter, and wife of Rabbi Allen Secher is a long-time friend of Har Shalom. Visit Granny Greeny's website:

<http://bit.ly/1FCMF4p>



Strategic Planning Meeting Dec. 7, 10 am at Holly Kingford's home

We need your input and ideas as Har Shalom moves forward. Join us as NCBI's Heidi Wallace conducts the meeting from 10 am to 2 pm. Holly lives at 316 B Inez St., between 1st and 2nd, off Russell St. (across from The Good Food Store).

Please bring a dish to share for lunch if you are able. (Questions? Call Holly at



Movie at the Roxy, Sun, Dec. 7, 5 pm

Touchdown Israel presents the broad religious and cultural diversity that is Israel, and illustrates how sports can be both metaphor and unifier for the world around it. You will even get to hear the shofar!

To watch the trailer: <http://touchdownisrael.com/>

Tradition! Tradition!

Each Friday eve of Shabbat



Har Shalom Launches Gift Shop

A match made in heaven: take the beautiful Judaica made by our Craft Club and turn them into a source of income for the shul.

The store opens 3 pm this Friday in the lobby. Hours are 3 - 6:30 pm, Fridays and Atidaynu Sunday mornings. We have Hanukah wall hangings with removable felt candles, Hanukah felt hanging kits to make with the family,

207-2078.)

services, before we light candles, we will lighten our pockets by putting our loose change into a Tzedakah Box sitting near the Shabbat candles. The Board will donate the money to a worthy cause.

greeting cards and FRESH CHALLAH (Fridays only).

We need a name! Email Kate at katyasouk@gmail.com to suggest one; the winner gets a wall hanging.

Jackie's Book Review *by Jackie Cohen*

The Elephant and My Jewish Problem by Hugh Nissenson

This eloquent and carefully constructed compendium of Nissenson's previously published fiction and his journal excerpts, dramatizes the Jewish experience during the 20th century in America, Europe, and especially Israel. His stories confront the Jewish quest for faith and redemption in dire circumstances, especially in the face of evil.

Nissenson lived on and off a kibbutz near the Golan Heights from 1965 to 1967, the era of fortress Israel. He covered the Eichmann trial in Tel Aviv in 1961 for Commentary Magazine.

The demonic and degrading atrocities that Holocaust survivors endured demonstrate Israel's crucial need for existence. One example recounts a beautiful 16-year-old girl, snatched from the prisoner line, sterilized and thrown into a Wehrmacht brothel with "For Officer's Only," tattooed on her belly. In excerpts from his journal of the trial, he tells Martin Buber, "Don't try to grasp the meaning of evil revealed at this trial with your rational mind alone."

From his life on the kibbutz, he immerses us into a stark reality of war with an almost hourly description of the tension and fear from Israeli bunkers. He travels the Golan with soldiers after its capture describing the scene of a shelled Syrian village, strewn with bloated animal corpses, and dead children who look like they are still asleep. He converses with young Israeli soldiers in the bunkers who leave for battle and are killed.

Through the everyday, commonplace activities in Jewish peoples' lives, particularly Israelis, he reveals the deeper struggles of faith, apropos for Israel, whose interpretation mean God wrestler.



book review

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4: Sacred Texts in the Jewish Tradition

Laurie Franklin will speak at the UM Library exhibit and Lecture Series, Fighting the Fires of Hate. Tour the US Holocaust Museum exhibit at the Mansfield Library at 3:30 pm. RSVP to laurief@har-shalom.org to tour the exhibit.

Background: <http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/fightingfires?destination=node/872>

Schedule: <http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/content/schedule-events>

Chanukah begins December 16 (eve) through December 24

5 pm, Saturday, December 20, HS Chanukah Party

December 18, 12 noon: Menorah Lighting at the Capitol

We are confirmed for the annual Chanukah gathering with the Hanukkiah lighting at the Capitol rotunda in Helena from 11 am through 1 pm. More details forthcoming on the room for a MAJCO board meeting following the lighting.

Todah Rabah to:

* To Lauren Weinstock, Kate Soukonnikov, Lisa Carter, Tzofiya Harris, and the Har Shalom Craft Club for kicking off the brand-new Judaica store * To Erev Shabbat Oneg bringers * To individual and family contributors to Gershon Baskin talk: Matt Erikson, Joyce Latimer, Robin Abeshaus and Stephen Kalm, Toba Winston, Jana Staton, Suzanne Aboulfadl, Marc and Madelyn Semanoff, Marc and Debra Steinberg, Heather Licht and Michael Vergeront, Lynne Robin and Mike Smith (Willow Mountain Veterinary Hospital), Jack and Pat Cohen * To Dave Jolles for participating in the choir for the Erev Thanksgiving Interfaith Service.



Donations and

Yahrzeits

KISLEV

- 12 (Dec 4) Irving Tatz
Janet Tatz's father
14 (Dec 6) Cherrie Steinebach
Tyler Steinebach's mother
15 (Dec 7) Mildred Shulman
Joy Earls' mother
18 (Dec 10) Bill Weisz
George Weisz's father
19 (Dec 11) Barbara Lumpkin
Candy Miller's mother
24 (Dec 16) Morris Leibowitz
Gary Leibowitz's father

TEVET

- 1 (Dec 23) Jonathan Kast
Sigrun Kuefner's son
4 (Dec 26) Fanny Rosenberg
Ed Rosenberg's mother

Tributes

Your donations and contributions are deeply appreciated.

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, Marguerite, are Tuesdays and Fridays, noon to 4 pm. Contact her at 406-549-9595 or email harshalommsla@gmail.com

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