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Jan–Feb '14

Atidaynu* News

by Sheehan Rosen

*Atidaynu means "our future."

Classes have been busy so far this year. Bert has added some new dances to our repertoire. It is a challenge to get us all on the right foot at the same time, but the dances are a true highlight of the morning.

As is typical this time of year, we see the need to combine some classes because of smaller group size, but things are working out pretty well. Parents are reminded to please let teachers or Sheehan know of an expected or unexpected absence to help with lesson planning. Another, more positive, trend we see at this time is rapid progress in Hebrew. All of the kids are getting into a good groove and helping each other with reading. It's great to see that things are starting to really click and the willingness they have to help their friends.

Atidaynu is helping to plan the Tu B'Shevat Seder on January 12. This is always a fun day and we hope you will join us!

Todah Rabah

- To Jack Meyer for helping on nomination committee.
- To Heidi Wallace for facilitating our Board retreat, the 13 who attended, and to Sherry Kolenda for hosting.
- To R. Howard Gorin for donating a wide selection of books to those who attended our Annual Meeting.
- To lay service leaders Bert Chessin, Holly Kingsford, Boris Soukonnikov, Kate Soukonnikov.
- Chanukah Party Helpers: A special thanks to Bob Marshall, John Harris and Tzofiya Harris (and all the cooks) for their amazing food, and donations for the awards; a thanks for Kate Soukonnikov, Boris Soukonnikov, Batya Odom for set up and Batya's 'Jewpardy' the kosher Jeopardy game; Bert Chessin for his clean-up help and *Chutzpah*, his wonderful band's playing; Kate, Bob and Jenn Barile

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The Har Shalom newsletter is written entirely by volunteers. Submissions are welcome. Next deadline: Feb 17 for Mar/Apr '14 issue. Send corrections or comments about this newsletter to Pat Cohen, editor, at cohenpc@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Holly Kingsford

I am honored to be given the responsibility of guiding Har Shalom at this critical time. We are moving forward on several fronts, enabling Har Shalom to better serve the needs of our community. I've asked myself how I came to be in this position. It seems that I've been developing the skills I will need by continuing along my spiritual path and honing my leadership abilities throughout my life.

I grew up attending the Hebrew Day School in Portland, Oregon and moved to Israel when I was 18 years old. I attended the University of Tel Aviv and served in the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) as a drill sergeant. Then life happened; I met and married the love of my life, Paul, and we lived in London, England (yes, Paul is a Brit), then emigrated to the U.S. We have two wonderful children who are now grown up and living on their own. Ilana and her husband Josh have two youngsters (ask me about my grandchildren!). And our son Jason will soon be entering the U.S. Marine Corps, beginning his own adventures.

I have lived in a number of cities, large and small. At each location I made the effort to get involved in community and professional organizations. In Connecticut I founded a BNI (Business Networking International) group and taught 6th grade Hebrew and History for six years. Since relocating to Missoula in 2011 I have been on the board of the MBN (Missoula Businesswoman's Network) and Dress for Success and started my own Farmers Insurance Agency. Currently I have reduced some of these obligations so I can focus on the needs of Har Shalom.

While living in Avon, Connecticut, I served as vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce. It was there that I saw the effective use of having Operating Committees perform much of the 'work' of an organization while the Board of Directors would provide overall direction and oversight to those working committees. This is the structure that I am implementing within Har Shalom. My goal is to lessen the burden on the board of directors and allow greater involvement of the Har Shalom community. I believe this is the beginning of something big and I'm excited to be part of the growing Har Shalom community.

LAURIE'S LETTER by Laurie Franklin, Student Rabbi and Spiritual Leader

Making Holy Community: A Tree of Life

In this Har Shalom newsletter, you will read quite a bit about new administrative structures at Har Shalom. Y—A—W—N? Don't fall asleep yet! As dull as it may sound at first, there's a spiritual angle to this story that gives it life. We are truly making a kehillah kedosha, a holy community, together. "Together" means broadening the circle of people who make it all happen and doing it with mutual love and affection. We are blessed that so many Har Shalomians already pitch in to lead services, create holiday parties and observances, and help each other when we have special needs. Now, we are gathering even more talent and good energy to deepen the ties within our congregation and affirm the holiness that comes into our lives from Divine connection.

In the last few weeks, as the new operating groups (see the President's column) have been coalescing, and more people have been invited to participate (yes, anticipate a recruitment call if you haven't yet received one!), our sense of shared mission is growing. In January, as we celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the New Year of the Trees, I see Har Shalom as a *tzemach kadosh*, a vigorously sprouting branch of Torah. Welcome, everyone, to our glorious New Year as a Tree of Jewish Life!

Laurie's Office Hours

Please contact me by phone, 546-9368, or email, laurief@har-shalom.org, to arrange an appointment. I'm at Har Shalom on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 and by appointment, beginning immediately. In January, I will be attending the ALEPH rabbinic conference from Jan 10 to 15, but will be available at all other times.

Board of Directors President: Holly Kingsford 207-2078 • holly@kingsfordcommunications.com
Vice President: Kate Soukonnikov 549-0503 • info@har-shalom.org
Treasurer: Marc Steinberg 406-459-0244 • mpsteinberg2003@yahoo.com
Secretary: Lida Running Crane 829-1697 • lidarunningcrane@yahoo.com
Past President: Bert Chessin 531-5193 • bchessin@aol.com

POSTPONED: Celebration Party (originally scheduled for Sat., Jan. 4)

We want to acknowledge the work of our past president and Har Shalom board, but the flu and the holidays got in the way. We'll let you know when we've rescheduled the party, and a huge thank you to Bert Chessin, Toba Winston, Dave Jolles and Sherry Kolenda for the work they are still doing for Har Shalom and all the great work they have done in the past.

Introducing the new board and operating committees *by Holly Kingsford*

When an organization changes leadership at the top, it's a natural time to try new approaches to old challenges. After all, what's a little more change? As the presidency passes from Bert to me, we are redefining roles and responsibilities to make the day-to-day operation of Har Shalom work across a broader base.

Here is an introduction to the changes. First, the Board is shrinking from nine to five members. The Board's new role will be to make decisions about long-range planning and policy. The board consists of Holly Kingsford, President, Kate Soukonnikov, Vice-President, Marc Steinberg, Treasurer, Lida Running Crane, Secretary and Bert Chessin as Immediate Past President.

Second, we are creating five operating committees. The intent of the revamped structure is to put "new boots on the ground" for getting things done and to prevent board burn out. Each committee has a chairperson and a board member liaison, and both will work closely with other members of their team. The five operating committees are *Ruach*, *Education*, *Membership*, *Building*, and *Administration/Finance/Operations*.

Here's what they will do:

Ruach works toward the spiritual growth of our community. Daniel Azaryahu chairs Ruach, and board liaison is Bert Chessin. Rabbinic Intern Laurie Franklin will work closely with this group.

Education oversees the Atidanu program, as well as adult education opportunities and social action. Sheehan Rosen chairs this committee, and board liaison is Lida Running Crane. Laurie Franklin will work closely with this group, too.

Membership works to minister needs of our community and is chaired by Toba Winston, with board liaison, Holly Kingsford.

Building maintains and enhances our space. David Jolles is chair, assisted by his board liaison, Kate Soukonnikov.

Administration/Finance/Operations manages our money. Sherry Kolenda chairs this committee and works with board liaison Marc Steinberg.

We are very proud of the work accomplished over the years of Bert's fine leadership:

- Creation of lay-leaders
- Support and togetherness that is leading to the growth of our community
- Ongoing resolution of our finances as they relate to our building
- Finding our voice while feeling safe in the community
- Developing our b'nei mitzvah, conversion and other life cycle protocols

We aim to continue to work hard to create a positive culture that respects and builds our holy community. Looking ahead, I see many opportunities for congregants to express their opinions and to be involved as their time and talents allow. We believe that every person is an important part of the whole. I am excited to see our efforts develop our resources for relationship building, mentoring, and a bright future for the generations that will follow us. My prayer is that they will look back on what we have done and say to us "Kol HaKavod, you have created for us an excellent community, and we are proud to be here with you."

Annual Meeting: Elections, reorganization, and good news

We held an annual meeting, and we had a good time. Really! First, elections. Our new president is Holly Kingsford, who is joined by Vice President Kate Soukonnikov, Treasurer Dr. Marc Steinberg, and Secretary Lida Running Crane. Outgoing President Bert Chessin is the fifth member of the new board. The board introduced a plan for a new administrative structure for Har Shalom (see related article), and we engaged in an activity of discovery led by Marc to inform and guide the work of the operating sub-committees of the board.

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Tu B'Shevat Seder January 12, 11:15 a.m.

Come celebrate the Fruits of our Bounty in a new way. Our Tu B'Shevat seder will explore the "New Year for Trees" or "Tree of Life" through traditional and contemporary, ecological and kabbalistic traditions. The Tu B'Shevat seder is for everyone, young and old. We join the Atidaynu families in a festive meal, and include music and song. For more information contact Bert Chessin (531-5193) or Daniel Azaryahu.

MOLLI class announcement (for people over 50)

Montana's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is offering a course taught by professor Robert H. Greene: *Life and Death on the Eastern Front: 1939-1945*. It will be held Fridays, 1-2:30 pm, Jan. 24-Feb. 28, at UM. The course covers World War II along the eastern front. Most of the attention will be on the rhythms and mechanics of life and survival, resistance and collaboration. Geographically, this class will focus on the USSR and Poland. For more information, contact Eileen (406-243-2905).

Conversion Class Soon

For those considering conversion to Judaism, our conversion class will begin soon. Please contact Laurie Franklin at 546-9368 or laurief@har-shalom.org for details and to choose the class meeting times.

Chanukiah Lighting in Helena

Representatives of Montana Assoc. of Jewish Communities, MAJCO, gathered in Helena at the State Capitol at noon on Dec. 2 to light Chanukah menorahs. Gov. Steve Bullock spoke about the need and respect for diversity in Montana. Aaron Weissman of Great Falls facilitated the gathering and Rabbis Ed Stafman (Bozeman), Barbara Block (Billings), and Chaim Bruk (Bozeman) spoke to the group. The Old Supreme Court room hosted the annual event which continues to build connections among our far-flung communities. Missoula was not represented because road conditions made the drive untenable. Har Shalom congregants are encouraged to join this warm gathering in future years.

Annual Meeting *(continued from previous page)*

Next, Bert reviewed some of the landmarks: great lay leader service leading during Laurie Franklin's Israel study year; meaningful community gatherings for bnei mitzvah and holidays, an active year in Atidaynu (youth education) and Torah study, and deepened commitment to Missoula community charitable work. Friendships and connections within our community are growing steadily, and we are acquiring new members, especially as new people move to Missoula.

Finally, we talked about money! Good news: our financial health is sound. Better news: after five years of working with us, our bank mortgage holder now considers us to be a reliable and worthy lender; and is offering us attractive terms for the renewal of our mortgage. In addition, we heard a presentation from a second bank about an alternative mortgage loan scheme. Har Shalom's Finance, Operations and Fundraising Committee is evaluating the new proposals carefully, negotiating with the lenders, and will be making recommendations to the board for action later in 2014.

Dave Jolles, former board member (practically a lifer) and current Building Committee chair, presented a special plan for retiring our debt, the "Minyan Club". Dave says we can retire our mortgage completely by creating ten teams of givers who will commit to annual donations for ten years. He already has approximately \$360,000 of commitments from community members and expects that more are forthcoming. Several people in the room declared that they planned to tithe income to Har Shalom, including our own office administrator, Marguerite Thordarson, and Rabbinic Intern, Laurie Franklin.

Last but not least, if you were one of the lucky attendees, you could choose freely from a table of excellent, used, books about Jewish subjects, gifted to Har Shalom by R. Howard Gorin, whose life mission upon retirement from the rabbinate is to match books and people who need them. Laurie met R. Gorin through ALEPH Alliance for Jewish Renewal events, where he regularly sells valuable books for a fraction of their new price. They hit it off, and he performed a New Year Mitzvah to send us, at his own expense, four boxes loaded with books about history, literature, humor, philosophy, Jewish living, and contemporary issues TO GIVE AWAY! He tells Laurie that he plans another "book drop" sometime in the next few months.

Family Promise News *by Robin Abeshaus*

To start 2014, I spent New Year's Day cooking dinner for my family as well as three other families. The three other families are currently guests in the Family Promise of Missoula (FPM) Program. For one reason or another, these families celebrated Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's without a home of their own. With the support of a number of faith congregations in Missoula (including Har Shalom), Family Promise offers temporary housing to families facing homelessness.

I have been one of the volunteer coordinators for Family Promise of Missoula for over two years now. Five times a year I work with volunteer coordinators from other congregations to prepare for guests. Like a good Jewish mother, my role has mainly been to make sure we have enough "food in the house" for breakfasts and evening snacks. Another coordinator rounds up cooks, and yet another finds volunteers to spend evenings and overnights at University Congregational Church with our guests. On Sunday before our guests arrive, I head to UCC to set out food in the kitchen and toys in the playroom for the children who will be staying with us. Other volunteers come to make beds and put up signs to help guests find their way.

I could tell you how many families FPM has housed since its opening, or how many families have been able to find work and housing while they were in the FPM program, but what I really want you to know about Family Promise is how many friends I've met there. I know a child who greets me with enthusiasm every time I am lucky enough to run into her. She tells me what book she has most recently read, and about the bedroom in the new house her family has finally moved into. Her mom and I trade stories about what is happening with our teenage girls. Our visits always end too soon. I have learned that homelessness is not something that happens to other people. It happens to people I know. It happens to families my children go to school with. It happens to people I care about.

At the end of June, after two more host rotations, I will be giving up my role as Har Shalom's volunteer coordinator. I intend to remain as a volunteer with the program, but with slightly less responsibility. Har Shalom is looking for a new volunteer coordinator. If this is something you think you might be interested in, please let me know (542-7535 or robinabeshaus@gmail.com). Meanwhile, many thanks to all of you who have responded to my requests for food, diapers, and other supplies over these past two years. Together, our many small actions have created something large and good.

Yahrzeits

The Yahrzeit is the Hebrew-calendar anniversary of a loved one's death. The Hebrew date is invariant and is computed on the basis of 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 at 549-9595 or email info@har-shalom.org.

SH'VAT

14 (January 15) Harold Lurie
Diana Lurie's father

17 (January 18) George Shulman
Joy Earls' father

20 (January 21) Sharon Auerbach
Richard Auerbach's wife

21 (January 22) Lillian Shapiro
Tuchinsky—Toba and Laura Winston's
mother and grandmother

ADAR I

2 (February 2) Michael Hendricks
Z'Eva Singer's husband

3 (February 3) Ethel Cohen
Jackie Cohen's mother

3 (February 3) Albert Belsky
Jill Belsky's father

5 (February 5) Peter Weil
Susanne Woyciechowicz's uncle

14 (February 14) Victor Tevah
Anita Aronofsky's father

14 (February 14) William Rosenberg
Ed Rosenberg's father

28 (February 28) David Kooris
Jeff Kooris' father

With apologies, we omitted the following yahrtzeit from the Nov/Dec newsletter:

KISLEV 2 (Nov 5)
Raphael Ben Mordechai
Marlene Hutchins' father



P.O. Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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, visit us online at har-shalom.org and click on the “NEW: Make secure credit card payments here” link. Or, use your bank’s FREE “Bill Pay” feature. Or mail your payment to Har Shalom at PO Box 3715, Missoula 59806. Please specify the intention of your donation: Memorial; Honor; Membership; Capital Campaign; school, camp, or special event fee. If you use a credit card, please consider adding 2% to your donation to cover our credit card fees.

Event Donation – Purim

Melissa Baggett

Bnei Mitzvah Fund

Stan and Elizabeth
Howard

Honors and Memorials

Jack and Pat Cohen – in memory of
Joseph Cohen and in memory of
Jacob Cohen

Capital Campaign

Melissa Baggett
Keith & Deborah Belden
Elise Foster
Marlene Hutchins
Steven and Lesley Lotto
Paul Rosen
Marc and Madelyn Semanoff
Susan Silverberg
Marc and Debra Steinberg
Beverly Tatz
Toba Winston



Todah Rabah *(cont'd from front page)*

for latke judging (a hard, hard job :)); and to Laurie Franklin for officiating the awards and leading the menorah lighting. And, coordinating his first Har Shalom party, a big todah rabah to Daniel Azaryahu, who put together a wonderful afternoon. We had a large, well-fed and happy crowd and learned some Torah at the same time!

- Todah Rabah to those who are on the working committees: Membership – Holly Kingsford, Sigrun Kuefner, Elizabeth Howard, Mona Bachmann, and Toba Winston; Ruach – Batya Odom, Tzofiya Harris, Rhonda Stahl, Karen Bagley; Finance – Marc Steinberg, Sherry Kolenda, Bob Marshall, Marguerite Thordarson.

Website Maintenance Mitzvah

One of our own bar mitzvah boys, Jeb Rosen (17), is now keeping our website up-to-date as another of our fabulous volunteers.

Jeb, a high school senior, is also employed as a business software developer for a company in the Bitterroot valley. He teaches at Atidaynu and volunteers in class and club fundraisers at school. A huge thanks to Jeb for his awesome work!

If you would like to volunteer your skills, email us at info@har-shalom.org.