

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Bert Chessin

Smoke Gets in Our Eyes

We await the clearing of our forest fire-induced air at the same time as we ready ourselves for the start of school and for turning our attention to jobs and projects that don't involve hiking boots, tents, travel, family visits, etc. The journeys we take through the month of holidays—Rosh Hashana, Yom Kipper, Sukkot, Simkhes Torah—is also a process of clearing the oxidized patterns of life that keep us from seeing a brighter future and keep us from breathing deeply in the life-giving air of learning and peace and health and community.

Har Shalom is entering the new year with renewed energy, hopes, and plans. Our student rabbi, Laurie Franklin's, year of study in Jerusalem is a tremendous opportunity for her, not to mention a huge commitment of effort and dedication. Her relationship with Har Shalom continues through blogs to the community (see website), phone calls with congregants, and all forms of communication with board members, committees, and the Missoula community. Har Shalom's spiritual path is coordinated by the Ruach team spearheaded by Kate Soukonnikov.

We are blessed to have Rabbi Whiman join us several times over the coming 10 months. I've met several people from his previous congregation; they give high praise for Rabbi Whiman, and we have the pleasure of reading his thoughts as he writes for our Har Shalom newsletter.

So drink in the possibilities of the Jewish year 5773 and add an extra lift to your step. I came back from the URJ's Mifgash Musicale musical workshop with an inspired outlook and dreams of voices singing in harmony, singing both familiar and new songs of Jewish spirit. Ones' voice, feet, hands and creativity all have a role in removing the dust from our eyes.

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

A Caring Community?

What does it mean to be part of a caring community? I've experienced it firsthand, so I'll tell you what it means to me. A few years back, I got really sick and had some surgery. People from Har Shalom called me, sent cards, brought food—yes, chicken soup—visited when I needed company and left when I got too tired. I needed that support. I know that many Har Shalomians have been recipients of this kind of support because I've heard the anecdotes. Sometimes it's as simple as a friend who buys you an appetizer at the Depot! And sometimes, it's a lot more.

What else does "caring community" mean? It also means celebrating good times! So, when we have a baby naming, a birthday, an anniversary, or a bar/t mitzvah, we gather together and share the joy.

We are a small community, so it seems that our actions and reactions are pretty direct. Is there any reason to organize beyond the things we already do spontaneously for each other?

I say, "YES." Communities are based on relationships. You can't force relationships, but you can make a commitment to fostering and deepening them. Creating a network that helps us be aware of those who need something OR have something to celebrate is a way that we can make a commitment to each other and build our relationships. In this season, during the Jewish calendar months of Elul and Tishrei, we have an opportunity to re-examine our connections with each other and with the Divine. We have a chance to reaffirm our highest

(continued top of next page)

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Atidaynu* News

by Sheehan Rosen

*Atidaynu means "our future."

Atidaynu resumes our twice monthly meetings on October 7.

We are very excited to see everyone again! We will start each morning with a short service and songs and then break into our small groups for teachings, arts and crafts, stories and recreation. After a snack, we will move onto Hebrew instruction which is provided by teachers and parents for the final half hour. Some changes may be coming to our Hebrew program with more opportunities for online learning at home, we will keep you posted on that as it develops. Discussions are also in the works for a post b'nei mitzvah youth group; any help or guidance for that would be greatly appreciated!

There should be no impediment to attending our school, so we encourage you to bring your children and spread the word to other families with children that a whole lot of good, Jewish things are happening. We require that families be members of Har Shalom and we ask for a modest fee to pay for snacks and arts and crafts; yet 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.

An email will go out to returning families with registration information. New families are always welcome and we look forward to experimenting with new ways that parents and other congregants can be involved in the Har Shalom community. Please join us and share your ideas. And, we can always use more teachers; sharing the load helps everyone. Please contact Sheehan at rosens@montana.com for registration information or to volunteer.

Don't forget, join Har Shalom for children's High Holiday events during the month of September. And all families are extended a special invitation to the Sukkah building and celebration on September 30th at 5 p.m. See you there!

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

Next deadline: October 17 for Nov/Dec Issue

LAURIE'S LETTER (continued from first page)

values and find a way to express them. As a community of Jews, we can say to each other, "I care about you, your struggles and your joys, and I want to be part of your extended family."

As this year unfolds, I would like to begin to create a network of communication that will enhance our relationships by offering the possibility of providing timely and heartfelt support to each other. I know I'm far from home, living and studying during the coming year in Jerusalem, but it makes me acutely aware of the special friendships within our community (I miss you guys!) AND of the possibilities not yet realized. I would like to advance the idea that a few small steps can enhance our caring for each other.

Does that sound good to you? If so, write to me about your ideas. What could we do for each other that we don't presently do? How? What might be particularly meaningful to you?

Let's talk.

THOUGHTS by Rabbi David Whiman

It's Time for a Change

When I served my three year tour of Naval service in Athens, Armed Forces Radio would daily broadcast what it called "the phrase of the day"—a half-hearted attempt to impart the Greek language to English-only speaking servicemen. The phrases chosen were striking however for their impractical and unlikely utility. My favorite and the most memorable—*thelo na ikothomisume ena skilospito* meaning "I want to build a doghouse." I imagined legions of American sailors and marines marching into Greek hardware stores in order to secure the building material needed to construct whole developments of doggie domiciles. But mostly I just wondered what the guy who chose the phrase of day was thinking.

Nowadays I ply my craft in words and phrases. Sometimes in Hebrew, most often in English, rarely in Greek—except in the diners of Long Island where my Hellenic language skills still do come in handy. But I endeavor always to be conscious of the applicability and the truthfulness of my words. Why? Because I hold to the notion that the words and phrases that we use play an important part in framing our way of seeing and then acting in the world. Thus my continuing crusade against a certain "phrase of the day" that I have come to loathe; "It is what it is."

USA Today labeled the phrase 2008's cliché of the year. I am told that the phrase is popular with coaches, business executives and sportscasters. "Never in a million years did I think we would be 1-5 at this juncture, but it is what it is." I'm not sure how frequently you hear these words spoken in Montana, but I cannot tell you how often I hear them intoned in this part of the world. As used, the phrase seems to simply state the obvious but actually it implies helplessness. "It ain't gonna change, so deal with it or don't. It is what it is." The phrase conjures resignation, acceptance. "It is what it is" can also signal apathy or an unwillingness to work for change, a way of saying "this is of no interest to me." It is used when we want to remind ourselves and others of what we hold to be the unalterable elements of life. It is a phrase that has no place in a synagogue at the approach of a New Year.

When I was a kid, our JCC's struggling middle school basketball team would huddle up before taking the court and loudly chant: "What it is! What it was! What it shall be!" To deconstruct what no 8th grader could articulate but what we were coached to know—present, past and future are interconnected but not the same. The past and present are not absolutely predictive. The future is in large part what we shall make of it. That's an important truth to remember at the turning of the New Year.

The High Holy Days are often referred to as *aseret yimay ha-tshuvah*—the Ten Days of Tshuvah. The Hebrew word *tshuvah* is usually translated as repentance, but in this case the word really is better understood as return, redirection and most of all change. In other words, this is a start-over time for improvement, reminder, and higher resolve. Judaism has always taught that the future can be different from the present. That what is to come can not only be better than what is but that we can help make what will come to be into something higher, healthier, holier. We have never been an "it is what it is" faith.

In the Book of Exodus, God reveals the divine name. God self identifies as *ehye asher ehye*, a phrase very hard to translate but usually rendered as "I will be what I will be," at heart a "not yet finished ever becoming deity." The God we worship is not an "is what it is" God and the same goes for us, people who were created in the image of that God.

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Pearl Jam Raffle

Do you know anybody who would *kill* to get tickets to the sold-out Pearl Jam concert at the Adams Center? Keep them out of jail; suggest they purchase some raffle tickets. Har Shalom has tickets (two) for the Pearl Jam concert on Sept. 30th concert. The raffle tickets are \$10 each, six for \$50, or 12 for \$100. We'll draw the winning ticket on September 23rd.

Hebrew Class begins Sept. 5th

Remember your intention to learn the Hebrew alphabet over summer? Well, join the rest of us as we pick up where we left off last May. Holly Kingsford has agreed to lead our class. Holly moved to Israel when she was a young adult so she remembers the trials of learning the alphabet and the language. (But because she served as a sergeant in the Israeli army, she probably doesn't tolerate much whining either.)

Holly has selected the book *Teach Yourself Hebrew*, by Ethelyn Simon, that you can purchase through Amazon.com. Classes will begin Wednesday, September 5th at 7 p.m. at Har Shalom.

Toba will be at the class to collect the fee of \$18 for Har Shalom members, \$60 for non-members.

The Dead Sea Scrolls class

Har Shalom is offering a class titled "The Dead Sea Scrolls." We will be using a DVD and book that has twenty-four, 1/2-hour lectures by Professor Gary A. Rendsburg Ph.D. He holds the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish history in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University.

The course will run for 13 weeks, each Monday, September 10th to December 17th, at 7 p.m. at Har Shalom. It will be open to the public and Har Shalom members. Class cost: \$18 for members, \$60 for non-members. Each week we will watch a half hour lecture and discuss it, then watch another half hour lecture and discuss it. The last class will be a celebration of the completion of the class and a discussion of the overall impression of the course.

If you have any questions or are interested in attending this class, please call Toba Winston, 531-9620, or email at tobawinston@hotmail.com

RABBI WHIMAN (*continued*)

On Rosh Hashanah we judge our actions, not in order to make ourselves feel bad or guilty but rather to take stock of where we are in the unfolding of our life. On Yom Kippur we make a resolve to our future looking to God and to ourselves to do better, to change, to move closer to the person and people we were intended to be. And Judaism assures us that we can do it.

The words in the High Holy Day prayerbook are eloquent and extended. In a phrase what they boil down to is a ten word mantra of hope and encouragement: What it is! What it was! What it shall be. For us, for our loved ones, for all Israel, and for all the world.

Shanah Tovah. A healthy and happy new year.

Annual Meeting Sunday, September 9 **Bring your ideas!**

The Har Shalom Annual Meeting is set for 11 a.m. at the synagogue. We'll have a chance to talk together over some yummy treats and then convene the meeting at noon.

This is the time to give the board feedback about your ideas and to learn about plans and vision for the future. The congregation will elect new board members (nominations can be sent to info@har-shalom.org).

Please let us know if you need a babysitter available.

Celebrate the High Holy Days 2012 with Har Shalom

Members and guests are welcome to attend High Holy Day services. Unaffiliated friends are invited to join us by making a suggested \$75 donation, which can be credited towards membership dues.

Selichot *Saturday, September 8*

8 pm Havdallah

8:15 - 10 pm Text Study

Erev Rosh Hashanah *Sunday, September 16*

7 pm Services begin

Rosh Hashanah *Monday, September 17*

10 am Children's Service

11 am Adult Service followed by Apple and Honey lunch

3 pm Tashlich at Clark Fork by Boone and Crocket Club

Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre) *Tuesday, September 25*

7 pm Services begin

Yom Kippur *Wednesday, September 26*

10 am Children's Service

11 am Adult Service

1 pm Discussion with Rabbi Whiman

3 pm Meditation

5 pm Minha Service

6 pm Yizkor/Ne'ilah Havdallah/Break Fast

Erev Sukkot *Sunday, September 30*

5 pm Sukkah Set up and decorating

6 pm Sukkot Family Service in the Sukkah followed by pot luck dinner

Simhat Torah *Monday, October 8*

7 pm Simhat Torah Service and Party

Can you bring cookies for Erev Rosh Hashana?

There will be challah, apples and honey provided after the Erev Rosh Hashana service. If you can bring cookies or honey cake to add to the celebration it would be appreciated.

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.

ELUL

14 (September 1) Nancy Polishuk
Jackie Cohen's sister

17 (September 4) Ann Goldberg
Richard Goldberg's mother

26 (September 13) Jack Witkowsky
Kathleen Witkowsky's father

TISHREI

3 (September 19) Bernard Robin
Melinda Robin's father

5 (September 21) William Sanz
Mark Sanz's father

13 (September 29) Charles Stahl
Larry Stahl's grandfather

16 (October 2) Charles Sherman
Suzanne Aboufaddl's father

21 (October 7) Eva Stahl
Larry Stahl's grandmother

24 (October 10) Francis B. Rosenzweig
Frank Rosenzweig's father

26 (October 12) Leroy Bloomberg, M.D.
Staci Bloomberg's father

CHESHVAN

1 (October 17) Joseph Goldberg
Richard Goldberg's father

4 (October 20) Bill Martin
Marilyn Dayries's father

5 (October 21) Flora Kaplan
Maeta Kaplan's mother

5 (October 21) Frances Blindman
Elizabeth Howard's grandmother

9 (October 25) Harry Komisar
Melissa Porter's father

12 (October 28) Richard Albert Litfin
Merce Litfin Zingmark's father

Todah Rabah to Har Shalom

a note from University Congregational Church

August 9, 2012

To the Har Shalom Congregation

We would like to thank you deeply for your ongoing role as a support congregation for University Congregational Church with Family Promise of Missoula. From Robin Abeshaus's role as a volunteer co-ordinator; to the donations of food and supplies from many of your congregation, and the volunteer hours that Har Shalom members have contributed, we have found your help a crucial part of hosting homeless families in our church building.

Even though we are providing the sleeping and eating space for these families, we have only a small amount of storage space available. This has made your generous donation of storage space for the Family Promise supplies greatly appreciated. For weeks before our first host week, I amassed supplies in the office that I share with our youth director, and it was such a relief when Robin informed me and the other volunteer coordinators that there might be storage space at Har Shalom.

We are grateful for the relationship that the UCC shares with your community, and look forward to more fellowship with you, as well as with the First Christian Church and Missoula Friends, as we continue our work with Family Promise.

Thank you,
Anne Graham
Justice and Witness Coordinator, UCC

Providing Oneg: Facilitating the Har Shalom Community Experience *by Marc Steinberg*

It was a pleasant surprise when I, a newcomer to Har Shalom, was invited in June to join the Ruach Team. The Ruach Team addresses services, Bar Mitzvahs/Bat Mitzvahs, the plans for holidays and festivals, conversions, and other community needs. We have also focused on services during Rabbi David Whiman's visits to us during the coming year (while our rabbinical student, Laurie Franklin completes a year of studies in Israel).

As part of the Ruach team, I volunteered to contact members of Har Shalom about Onegs and to encourage them to occasionally provide Oneg. Oneg offers our community nosh and the opportunity to share conversations with one another after services. Providing Oneg, as many know, is a relatively easy task, especially if we share the responsibility among a number of people. The Shabbat Oneg will consist of challah and vegetarian/dairy nosh.

During the coming months we are also going to have potluck celebrations after services. We would like a number of people to bring one dairy/vegetarian dish to these events.

Please feel free to email me (mpsteinberg2003@yahoo.com), or call if you have questions, or importantly if you are willing to be an Oneg provider. I also will call and email members asking you to take part in this community responsibility. My phone number is 406.459.0244. (You need to use the area code if you are calling from a land line.)

Dowd Lecture *FYI. This is a notice from Jana Staton of the Western Montana Spiritual Development Council, one of the local interfaith groups I participated with during the last 2 years. B'vracha, Laurie*

Rev. Michael Dowd, author of the bestselling, Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World, will speak on "Life, Death, and the Sacred Side of Science," Friday, September 7, at 7 p.m. in Missoula, at First United Methodist Church. Michael and his science-writer wife Connie Barlow's inspiring ministry has been featured in *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Discover*, and on CNN, Fox News, and ABC News. Michael blogs regularly for *The Huffington Post*, recently delivered a TED talk, and was a Distinguished Lecturer at Caltech and at the United Nations. Michael's presentation is free and open to the public with time for discussion.

Family Promise

Har Shalom's next Family Promise host week will be sometime during late Oct./early November. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to know more about the Family Promise program, please contact Robin Abeshaus at robinabeshaus@gmail.com or 542-7535. We will need evening hosts to have dinner and visit with guests from 5:30 to 8:30; cooks to prepare a meal or part of a meal; people to bring food (no cooking required) and other supplies.

Food Bank Donations

There is a Food Bank collection box in the lobby of Har Shalom. If you are able, please consider bringing a non-perishable food item when you come for services or other events at Har Shalom. Supplies tend to dwindle toward the end of the summer months. Donations of staple items such as tuna, soup, tomato sauce, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese are always appreciated, as well as donations of "special items" such as crackers, cookies, salad dressing, ketchup, mustard, etc. We collect items year round; Har Shalom is committed to help the hungry over the High Holy Days. Please bring non-perishable foods to the synagogue to be given to the Missoula Food Bank during this special season.

Todah Rabah *(thank you so much)*

To the many Har Shalom Family Promise Volunteers who have generously donated meals, supplies, and their time as hosts, and those who have already volunteered for future host weeks: **Maeta Kaplan, Carolyn Goren, Alice and Charlie Byrne, Erin Craney, Joyce Latimer, Suzanne Aboufadi, Laurie Franklin, Robin Abeshaus, Pat Cohen, Toba Winston, Kate Soukonikov, Sigrun Kufner.** To **David Jolles** for beginning and organizing the Pearl Jam ticket raffle. To **Ed Rosenberg** for coordinating the annual picnic and hosting Rabbi Whiman with **Trina Valencich;** to **Sandy Ross and Dave Jolles** for helping with the picnic. To **Barbara Gross** for helping out in the office and watering the plants. To **Marc Steinberg** for donating air miles to bring Rabbi David to Missoula in August. To **Nancy Seldin** for donating books to the Har Shalom Library. To **Elliott Oppenheim and Claudia MacKenzie** for loaning vehicles for the summer camp counselors. For leading services: **Laura Winston, Jennifer Stadum, Bert Chessin, Kate Soukonikov.** For providing Oneg: **Bert Chessin, Holly Kingsford, Marc Steinberg, Maeta Kaplan**

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, 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.

General Donations

David Aronofsky
Anthony Beltramo
Barbralu Cohen
Holly Kingsford

Ruach Donations

Fern Glass-Boyd
Marlene Hutchins
Trent Lowenstein
David Schuldberg
Kate Soukonnikov
Beverly Tatz
Toba Winston

Capital Campaign Donations

Jack and Pat Cohen
Arnold Finklin
Robert Fischer
Marlene Hutchins
Diana Lurie
Jack Nunberg
Paul and Sheehan Rosen
Steve Saroff
Rachel and Deborah Schaffer
Sue Silverberg
Beverly Tatz
Janet Tatz

Honors and Memorials

Robin Abeshaus and Stephen Kalm
– in honor of Evan Kalm's Bar Mitzvah
Ethan Chessin – in honor of Bert Chessin's birthday
Jack and Pat Cohen – in memory of Hank Butzel
Jack and Pat Cohen – in memory of Flora Cohen
Sheila Davidoff – in honor of Sherri Davidoff's
book publication
The Orloff Family Philanthropic Fund of
Tampa Orlando Pinellas (TOP) Jewish Foundation, Inc.
– in honor of Jessica Weltman and Dr. Matt and
Sylvie Semanoff
Susanne Woyciechowicz – in memory of Ed Woyciechowicz

In memory of Jean Orloff (Jessica Weltman's grandmother)
Hila Green
Susan and Robert Knopf
Deborah Korenblat
Patty and Richie Rothman
Steven and Doris Schwartz
Brent and Bettyann Slatten
Barry and Steph Yusman



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 the year.

Every donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated. To learn more, contact Har Shalom's Treasurer.

Every circumstance is different; 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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