

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Bert Chessin

*Don't be surprised...*

Missoula is the kind of place that challenges us in both its relatively unencumbered pace and the need to meet community needs with limited human resources. A balance of family atmosphere and pressures to institutionalize are met with particular grace on the part of our staff and board, and yet at the same time we recognize the "stretch" that is required of congregants from time to time.

Our annual reflection and work to resolve past issues in this season can turn us towards new, healthier, stronger life patterns. Around Har Shalom, it is a time for new classes and new faces and roles within our governing structure. I stepped into the president's shoes five years ago and it has been a most gratifying and, at times, frustrating stage in my and Har Shalom's life. Missoula is deeply bound to my makeup and now Har Shalom is as ingrained in this stage of my life as family and our environment.

The fine people on our board of directors are stepping forward to help take on the president and other officer positions. I am in no way stepping away from being involved in the inner workings of our congregation, but am looking toward new roles and opportunities as part of a new 5-year plan.

It is still the reality of Har Shalom that we have major financial, educational, social, and spiritual commitments. At the same time we are developing solid plans in several areas, so that as we move through the High Holidays and the month of Awe, we honestly believe that in one year and in five years, our collective reflection on what has happened and what we hope for, will show that we have moved from too-well-worn ruts onto smoother and more solid paths.

Shana Tova and Olam Chesed Yibaneh (we will build a more compassionate world.)

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

*Creating Shalom in the New Year*

In this season, when we celebrate the birth of the world and the beginning of the New Year, we can also engage in self-examination. This process of reflection can help us understand anew what is most important to us. Let's consider our name: "Har Shalom", mountain of peace. What do we do to fulfill our name? How are we bringing shalom into the world? By "shalom", I mean the broadest sense of the word: working for justice, increasing opportunity for all, helping the needy, giving emotional support, and working for peace among peoples and nations.

As a community, we are supporting partners in Family Promise, an effort to provide temporary emergency housing for families in transition. We also provide a stream (and sometimes a river) of supplies for the Missoula Food Bank. Our bnei mitzvah students take on volunteer work as part of their mitzvah projects.

In addition to these Har Shalom community-based efforts, I am delighted to learn that many individuals and families from Har Shalom are working to create shalom. Some of us are past and present board members and volunteers in nonprofits like WORD, Dress for Success, the Poverello, Montana Organizing Project, and Montana Food Bank Network. Some work as staff for dot.orgs like Habitat for Humanity and YWCA. Some of us help neighbors who need a hand. Many of us make us donations to support charitable causes, local, national and worldwide.

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**Board of Directors**

**President:** Bert Chessin, 531-5193  
**Vice President:** Sherry Kolenda, 251-7996  
**Treasurer:** David Jolles, 728-3344  
**Secretary:** Kate Soukonnikov, 549-0503

**Members at Large:**

Alex Fradkin, 549-2364  
Holly Kingsford, 207-2078  
Toba Winston, 777-3100

**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.

**General Donations**

Anthony Beltramo  
Rob and Elizabeth Natelson

**Honors and Memorials**

Jack and Patricia Cohen – In Honor of Laurie Franklin  
Valeri and Alexandra Poukachev – In Honor of Boris and Kate Soukonnikov

**High Holy Days Donations**

Melissa Baggett

Jack and Patricia Cohen – In Memory of Hank Butzel  
Boris and Kate Soukonnikov – In Memory of Hank Butzel

**Capital Campaign**

Melissa Baggett  
David Jolles  
Jerry and Irena Kogan  
Susan Silverberg



**Todah Rabah**

To Lisa Carter, Dave Jolles, Holly Kingsford, Bert Chessin for serving as our Service leaders.

To our Summer Camp teacher Hanna Minsky.

To Barb Gross for coordinating the Mah Jong games.

To Sherry and Richard Kolenda for providing Home Hospitality for the fly-fishing Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer.

To the World's Apart Workshop presenters: Laurie Franklin, Bert Chessin, Mike Chessin, Kate and Boris Soukonnikov, Jeff Bendremer and the Chutzpah Klezmer Band.

To Toba Winston and Esther Chessin for supporting Har Shalom through their events for Arbonne International and It's Raining Rhinestones.

**Atidaynu\* News**

by Sheehan Rosen

\*Atidaynu means "our future."

Atidaynu resumes our twice monthly meetings on September 29 with a family orientation. We hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to get back into the swing of Hebrew school! Each morning begins with a short service and songs, then we break into small groups for teachings, arts and crafts, stories and recreation. After a snack, we move on to Hebrew instruction which is provided by teachers and parents for the final half hour or so.

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 at Har Shalom. 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 expanding ways that parents and other congregants can be involved in the Har Shalom community. Please join us and share your ideas. Please contact Sheehan at rosens@montana.com for registration information or to volunteer.



The Har Shalom newsletter is written entirely by volunteers. Submissions are welcome. Next deadline: Oct 17 for Nov/Dec '13 issue. Send corrections or comments about this newsletter to Pat Cohen, editor, at cohenpc@aol.com

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## LAURIE’S LETTER *(continued from first page)*

I know that I’ve heard only a fraction of what we are doing as individuals and families, and I’m eager to hear your stories. Please share what you are doing by sending me an email at [laurief@har-shalom.org](mailto:laurief@har-shalom.org). Where do you volunteer and why?

Would you like to join with other Har Shalomians who share your passion for a particular cause?

May you have a good and sweet New Year, and together, may we increase shalom in year ahead.

### Laurie’s Office Hours

*I’m now holding regular office hours on Tuesdays between 1:30 and 4 pm at Har Shalom. If you’d like to drop in for a chat, or better yet, make an appointment (because the times fill up quickly), please contact me directly at [laurief@har-shalom.org](mailto:laurief@har-shalom.org). I’m available at other times by appointment. This office hours schedule will continue through the end of 2013 until my fall semester classes end. In mid-October, I’ll have surgery, so I may need to conduct office hours by telephone or Skype for a few weeks.*

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## High Holy Days and Fall Holiday Schedule 2013

S’lichot	Saturday, August 31 9 pm Candlelight Service
Erev Rosh Hashana	Wednesday, September 4 7:30 pm
Rosh Hashana I	Thursday, September 5 9 am Family service 10 am General Service (Families welcome)
Rosh Hashana II	Friday, September 6 6 pm Potluck and Kabbalat Shabbat at Greenough Park
Yom Kippur	Friday, September 13 7:30 pm Kol Nidre
	Saturday, September 14 9 am Family service 10 am General service (Families welcome) 5:30 pm Yizkor 6:30 pm Mincha/Maariv/Neilah 8:30 pm Havdallah/Break the Fast
Sukkot	Friday, September 20 7 pm Service in the Sukkah, weather-permitting; Sukkot potluck
Simchat Torah	Friday, September 27 7 pm Service (we unroll the whole Torah!) followed by Oneg

Break the Fast: If you are planning to break the fast with Har Shalom, please contact Marc Steinberg at 406-459-0244 or [mpsteinberg2003@yahoo.com](mailto:mpsteinberg2003@yahoo.com).

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### Link for 2013 Missoula Jewish calendar: <http://bit.ly/10bJD02>

*Note: Customize the calendar for different locations, more or less information, Torah portions, Shabbat and Havdalah candle lighting times, major and minor holidays, and Hebrew dates.*

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## Thinking of others during the Holy Days

### High Holy Day Food Drive

Once again we will hand out empty grocery bags on Rosh Hashanah and ask that everyone bring them back on Yom Kippur filled with non-perishable food for the Missoula Food Bank.

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## Hebrew Classes at your local synagogue

There are many reasons we choose to study Hebrew; to expand our connection with Judaism, facilitate a visit to Israel, keep our minds nimble, enjoy conviviality with others. Whatever your motivation, this is the year to participate.

Laurie Franklin is setting up the Hebrew I class, beginning level. Contact her at [laurief@Har-Shalom.org](mailto:laurief@Har-Shalom.org).

Holly Kingsford will be teaching Hebrew II, reading level. This class meets Wed. evenings, 7:30 pm at Har Shalom beginning October 2.

Fees for the class are \$18 for Har Shalom members, \$60 for non-members.

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## Beginnings of Judaism starts Saturday, September 21

“Beginnings of Judaism,” an adult education class, will begin this fall. We will be using a DVD and book that has 24, 1/2 hour lectures by Professor Isaiah M. Gafni. He teaches history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Toba Winston will lead the class and discussion. The history begins around 20 centuries before The Common Era (BCA) and ends about 500 to 600 CE, the date the Babylonian Talmud was completed. The discussion will delve into these beginnings and the effects they have on modern day Judaism as a religion, a culture and a nationality.

The class begins September 21, from 1 to 3 pm, and continues on consecutive Saturdays (excluding first Saturdays), ending on January 11, 2014. That includes skipping 12/28 and all first Saturdays of the month. Cost for 12 weeks of classes for members of Har Shalom will be \$18; non-members \$60. Checks may be made out to Har Shalom, annotated “Beginnings of Judaism class” in the comments section of the check and mailed to Har Shalom, P.O Box 7581, Missoula, MT 59807.

Any questions or to register for the class, please call Toba at 406/531-9620, no later than Sept 15.

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## Annual Picnic and Shabbat Under the Stars

### Friday, Sept 6, 6 pm Greenough Park

We’ve combined occasions! Join us for the Har Shalom Annual Picnic followed by Shabbat under the Stars on Friday, Sept 6. We’ll meet at the Greenough Park picnic shelter at 6 pm. Bring a favorite dish, beverage, or dessert; Har Shalom will provide meat for the barbeque. Picnic/barbecue first, service follows. And because it’s the end of the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we have another Taslich opportunity (casting away sins) by the shore of Rattlesnake Creek.

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## Set up the Sukkah, Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck

### Sunday Sept 15, 10 am and Friday, Sept 20, at 7 pm

Sukkot is both a festival of agricultural and spiritual harvest. After the cleansing and renewal of the High Holidays, we rejoice under the sky in the flimsiest of structures, the Sukkah. We are grateful for the earth’s bounty that flows from the Divine.

**Setting up the Sukkah – Sunday, Sept 15, 10 am to noon.** Please come, and bring fresh or dried greens and flowers for decorations. We’ll also have arts and crafts supplies on hand for making sukkah decorations. Come and “take” the lulav, too!

**Sukkot Kabbalat Shabbat and vegetarian potluck – Friday, Sept 20, at 7 pm** Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat and a potluck in the sukkah. If the weather is wet, we’ll do it all indoors.

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## Simchat Torah: Celebrate, unroll the Torah and receive a blessing

**On Friday, Sept 27, we will observe Simchat Torah, beginning at 7 pm.** On Simchat Torah, we read the last words of Torah in Dvarim (Deuteronomy) and begin again at the beginning, Breishit (Genesis)! We’ll have a Kabbalat Shabbat service with music and dance, and if enough people come, we’ll unroll the whole Torah. It’s always amazing to see the whole scroll unrolled, visit the different books, recognize the unusual patterns in special sections, and appreciate the scribal oddities. This year, each person who holds the Torah will receive a blessing that is related to the place in Torah where they hold the scroll. Please come!

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## Har Shalom Annual Meeting Sun, Sept 29, Noon

Yipee, Annual Meeting! Come for a light lunch at noon on Sunday Sept 29, right after the first Atidaynu session and stay for the Har Shalom Annual Meeting, beginning at 1 pm. During lunch, Laurie Franklin will share stories and images of her past year in Jerusalem.

Board, committee chairs and project heads will report what we’ve been doing (adult and youth education, community work, services, and special events) and relate plans for this year. We’ll also elect new board members, and confirm those who are continuing. Last but not least, we want to hear your dreams and wishes for Har Shalom. Your voice is important.

Ask any board member for details or email [info@har-shalom.org](mailto:info@har-shalom.org) with questions. We will provide babysitting and activities for accompanying children.

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## MAJCO Shabbaton in Missoula October 4 – 6

Yo, Jews, let’s have a good time! This year, we host the Montana Association of Jewish Communities (MAJCO) at Har Shalom at the annual MAJCO Shabbaton on the weekend of October 4, 5 and 6. The Shabbatonim (shah- bah-TONE-im) give us a chance to schmooze, play and learn together, a rare and wonderful opportunity to build long-term relationships across the state. Among the workshop sessions: Jewish Meditation: Self, Text and Soul; Contemporary Israel issues in the American and Israeli press, The Temple Mount: History and Holiness, Parashat Hashavua, Teen group activities, and Judaica craft works for all ages. You have the honor of being welcoming ambassadors for Har Shalom. Please see the enclosed page for details.

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## 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](mailto:info@har-shalom.org).*

### ELUL

26 ( September 1 ) Jack Witkowsky  
Kathleen Witkowsky’s father

### TISHREI

3 ( September 7 ) Bernard Robin  
Melinda Robin’s father

5 ( September 9 ) William Sanz  
Mark Sanz’s father

13 ( September 17 ) Charles Stahl  
Larry Stahl’s grandfather

16 ( September 20 ) Charles Sherman  
Suzanne Aboufaddl’s father

21 ( September 25 ) Eva Stahl  
Larry Stahl’s grandmother

24 ( September 28 ) Francis B. Rosenzweig  
Frank Rosenzweig’s father

26 ( September 30 ) Leroy Bloomberg  
M.D., Staci Bloomberg’s father

### CHESHVAN

1 ( October 5 ) Joseph Goldberg  
Richard Goldberg’s father

4 ( October 8 ) Bill Martin  
Marilyn Dayries’s father

5 ( October 9 ) Flora Kaplan  
Maeta Kaplan’s mother

5 ( October 9 ) Frances Blindman  
Elizabeth Howard’s grandmother

9 ( October 13 ) Harry Komisar  
Melissa Porter’s father

12 ( October 16 ) Richard Albert Litfin  
Merce Litfin Zingmark’s father

17 ( October 21 ) Max Marshall  
Connie Campbell’s father

25 ( October 29 ) Donald S. Brown  
Ed Brown’s father