

President's column: Seeing with Jewish Eyes by Bert Chessin

I recently traveled to North Carolina and Florida to take care of family and personal business, and I was struck by how my Jewish eyes saw those parts of the world. Surely, congregants from Har Shalom look with Jewish eyes at the places and homes they visit outside of our veltl (little world) here in western Montana. What do we see on the other side of the mountains?

Well, we may find real chopped liver served as an appetizer, matzah ball soup on the menu other than for Pesakh, or a new Jewish Community Center being built with money already in hand. In Florida, the demographic is dominated by people successful enough to have subtropical opportunities galore. My uncle's complex has a warm, outdoor pool for hundreds of residents, but my Missoula parents had the pool nearly to themselves during afternoon swims. At a nice hotel where we had lunch with another relative, a bat mitzvah was scheduled for that evening that probably cost both the host family and the attendees an amount that would make a nice dent in Har Shalom's debt! I was reminded of the South's premier Jewish Studies program in Chapel Hill and wondered what it would be like to have a local university with a Jewish studies program: history, language, literature, culture. But I also heard about congregations that still are split by factions because of ideological and personality differences.

As nice as it was to connect with family, friends, and community, it was nice to get back to Missoula. I still am heartened by the strength of our congregation. The energy and bright eyes of our children in *Atidaynu*, the warmth and sweet voices of Friday night services, Sam Parker's bar mitzvah, the upcoming events of Shabbaton, "With Earth and Each Other," and Festival of Lights, all make me get up every day and work in ways to keep and strengthen this enterprise we call Har Shalom.

Laurie's Letter: Festival of Lights, Indeed!

by Lay Leader Laurie Franklin

What image do the words "festival of lights" suggest to you: Dancing lights of Chanukah candles on a dark evening? *Latkes* frying, crisp and savory? *Dreydel* games in a candle-lit room? Gifts, gelt, chocolates and giggles? Until now, the Missoula Downtown Association's (MDA) Festival of Lights has been a Santa-centered, Christmas-season kickoff on the first Saturday of December and typically includes daytime activities such as craft projects, Christmas caroling, pictures with Santa, holiday cooking, holiday films and other public-participation opportunities. The crowning jewel of the day is the Parade of Lights, beginning after dark at the Missoulian Building on South Higgins and culminating at the XXX's, with a public tree-lighting ceremony.

This year, for the first time in its eight-year history, Missoula's Festival of Lights will also represent Chanukah. I recently met with Linda McCarthy, Executive Director of the MDA, and Jessica Daniels, coordinator of the MDA's Festival of Lights event, and both extended a warm welcome to Har Shalom at this year's event. Har Shalom will enter the Parade of Lights with a marching unit, "The Human Menorah", flanked with perambulating (or rollerskating) latkes and dreydels, and maybe even some fierce Maccabees!!! How about them apples (or should I say, sufganiyot*)?! Would you and your family like to be part of this celebration? Personally,

Board of President: Bert Chessin, 531-5193 **Directors** Vice President: Sherry Kolenda, 251-7996 Treasurer: Jeff Bendremer, 493-1908 Secretary: Kate Soukonnikov, 549-0503

Members:

David Iolles, 728-3344 Jack Cohen, 543-4409 Shirle Gray, 493-6932 Marlene Hutchins, 721-2425 Toba Winston, 777-3100

Nov-Dec'10

Atidaynu* News

by Sheehan Rosen

Har Shalom families are easing into another great year of Jewish cultural and religious studies and Hebrew learning. We have four full classes this year, preschool through b'nei mitzvah! Thanks to Jody Jakob, Jeff Bendremer, Bert Chessin, and Paul and Sheehan Rosen for volunteering to be class teachers. Laurie is joining us every Sunday to lead a short service at the beginning of our meetings, work with parents in a parallel education session while the kids are in their groups, and work with b'nei mitzvah students. All parents are strongly encouraged to return for the last half hour to help with Hebrew; please talk to Sheehan to volunteer at least twice this school year. Of course, all community members are welcome to join us for the service, sit in on a class, and help with Hebrew. Atidaynu meets from 10 am to noon; see the calendar for dates or email rosens@montana.com for more information.

*Atidaynu means "our future."

Har Shalom's Chanukah party

Join us for our Annual Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 5th! Festivities include the ever-popular Latke Contest, music, dreydel games, *sufganiyot*, and family menorah lighting. The party starts at noon, and everyone is welcome!

(continued on next page)

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

Next deadline: Nov. 15 for Jan/Feb Issue

Laurie's Letter (continued)

I can't wait! I love parades, and I especially love the chance to help my beloved Chanukah tradition become part of our civic culture!!!

At press time, we are working on the details of our participation, which may include not only the parade unit but also Chanukah films at the Roxy (to supplement the usual Christmas features), a public craft or cooking opportunity, and a decorated store window or two! We'll keep you posted in the email weeklies as the final plan emerges. There will be many wonderful opportunities to participate in the fun. Please save the date, Saturday Dec 4, for a newly inclusive Festival of Lights!

*Sufganiyot are Israeli doughnut-like pastries, a Chanukah favorite

MAJCO Shabbaton: Nov 5, 6 and 7 at Beth Shalom, Bozeman by Josh Burnim, MAJCO President

We encourage members of our Montana Jewish congregations to attend the 2010 Montana Association of Jewish Communities (MAJCO) Shabbaton in Bozeman, MT. Register online at http://www.bethshalombozeman.org/majco-2010.php or print the attached form and mail it (the organizers prefer the former). Meals and events are included (unless noted) in the fee of \$30 per adult / \$10 per child / \$10 per student. The registration deadline is Wednesday, November 3rd.

In addition to inspiring services and Torah studies led by our great state's rabbis, lay leaders, and talented musicians, we have an interesting theme that hopefully will be of value to your community: *End of Life Holiness for Humans and Animals*.

For humans, this refers to the two-hour *Chevra Kaddisha* workshop on Sunday morning. When fellow Jews in our small Montana communities pass on from this life, we may not be prepared in our Jewish communities to properly dress the body according to Jewish law and custom. This workshop aims to train members of each of our communities. Participating in the *chevra kaddisha* is called the "*Mitzvah Chessed Shel Emet*", which implies that the motivation for such service is pure love without the expectation of any reward.

For animals, this refers to the eco-kashrut workshop on Saturday afternoon. Keeping kosher has been a central part of being Jewish over the millennia. This workshop explores the Jewish laws of kashrut, the intent behind them, and a modern example in which two rabbis raise lamb, following the laws of kashrut. Eco-kashrut focuses on the original intent of *kashrut*, which is to bring holiness to the process of slaughter and eating of animals, and is concerned with the use of pesticides, the ethical treatment of animals, and many other aspects of holiness.

Also, on Saturday afternoon, we will have a round table from congregations: "Where is your community at?"

If you would like to carpool from Missoula to the Shabbaton, please contact Jackie Cohen at cjackie 10@gmail.com. For questions about Shabbaton registration, contact Josh Burnim at (406) 579-8050 or joshburnim@gmail.com.

With Earth and Each Other: A Virtual Rally for a Better Middle East by Dalit Guscio

Sunday November 14, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

I am an Israeli by birth and by culture, living and raising my family in Missoula, MT, a place in so many ways as different as one could imagine from my home country. Israel is about 22,000 km2 with over 7 million people. Montana is almost 20 times bigger with one seventh of the population. Israel has what I consider four seasons: summer, hotter summer, less hot summer and comfortable summer. In Montana, I manage to complain that I am too cold in the winter while playing with that white fluffy stuff falling out of the sky, too hot in the summer wondering when the sun will finally go down, and enjoy fall colors and spring renewal. Montana borders only one country that, to my foreign eyes, isn't much different either culturally or linguistically. Israel has three neighboring countries. All speak different languages, all differ greatly culturally, and all would probably prefer that another neighbor take over Israel's spot on the Mediterranean Sea. This is the reality of this little country in the Middle East.

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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 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 or email info@har-shalom.org.

KISLEV

- •11 (Nov 18) Albert Ginsberg (Beth Leibowitz's father)
- 14 (Nov 21) Cherrie Steinebach (Tyler Steinebach's mother)
- •15 (Nov 22) Mildred Shulman (Joy Earls' mother)
- •18 (Nov 25) Bill Weisz (George Weisz's Father)
- •19 (Nov 26) Barbara Lumpkin (Candy Miller's mother)
- •24 (Dec 1) Morris Leibowitz (Gary Leibowitz's father)

TEVET

- •1 (Dec 8) Jonathan Kast (Sigrun Kuefner's son)
- •4 (Dec 11) Fanny Rosenberg (Ed Rosenberg's mother)
- •12 (Dec 19) Anna Glass (Fern Glass-Boyd's mother)
- •13 (Dec 20) Bert Genstel (Robbin Kusia's father)
- •18 (Dec 25) Doris Rosenberg (Ed Rosenberg's sister)
- •24 (Dec 31) Leonard Moon (Julie Moon's husband, Bei Ruetten's father, Madison and Julia Ruetten's grandfather)
- •24 (Dec 31) Clemence Klein (Lance Klein's father)

With Earth and Each Other (continued)

The longer I've lived outside of Israel, the more I realize that the world's perception about this tiny country is very emotional and somewhat oversimplified. Everyone takes a side, everyone has a solution, and everyone always has some advice. It seems very black and white; very clear. I wish I could see it that way too.

Missoula, home of The University of Montana, is somewhat biased, I feel. The school has an exchange program with several Arab countries and an average of 60 Arab students on campus. For all I know, I was one of only two Israeli students on campus until now. The university has a Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center, home to an Arabic language program and several Arab faculty members. When giving talks about Israel on campus, I always feel I need to defend Israel's actions and right to exist. It wasn't easy and frustrated me because, as I said before, I wish the conflict was that simple. I wish Israel was the "strong bad guy", the Palestinians were the "small good guys", and then, we all know what scenario we'd like to see happen.

I want to share with Missoulians another aspect of Israel and the Middle East, the one you don't hear about in the media, the one I belong to: one that deals with the present, thinks of the future, and does not linger on the past. I was a student at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and returned to teach there. This is a place were Jews and Arabs, Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, and Westerners all get together to study about our environment. It is an amazing place, raising the next environmental leaders of the Middle East that CAN WORK TOGETHER!!!

The virtual rally, *With Earth and Each Other*, on Sunday Nov 14th is an hour-long, internet-based, group-watching experience hosted by Emmy and Tony Award Winner Mandy Patinkin and will feature celebrities, special musical performances (including the legendary Pete Seeger), with segments highlighting many of the wonderful and moving examples of Middle East cooperation. *With Earth and Each Other* will demonstrate that there is more to the Middle East than conflict. For more information, visit http://withearthandeachother.org/

Please, join me and my family and watch this event at Har Shalom, Sunday November 14, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Invite your neighbors, invite skeptics and curious people. Invite people who know little about the Middle East. Invite people who know much about the Middle East. Just come and expand your horizon!

Shabbat Dinners Nov 19 and Dec 10

by Lay Leader Laurie Franklin

Ahhh, it's Friday. All you need is a couple of *challot* (plural for *challah*) and candles, a bottle of wine or grape juice, and a few friends to share it with. Welcome to Har Shalom's community *Shabbat* dinners in our own homes! Once each month, instead of Friday evening *Kabbalat Shabbat* at the *shul*, we encourage our members to get together in small groups in each other's homes to welcome *Shabbat*. The next morning, we have a full *Shabbat Shacharit* (*Shabbat* morning service) at Har Shalom and encourage everyone to attend.

If you would like help to create your own *Shabbat* group, please contact Laurie F. through info@har-shalom.org. We will happily match you up with a few others to enjoy a "heimish" (home-like, comfortable) *Shabbat* evening dinner. *Shabbat* dinners don't have to be fancy, especially if you work until the last minute on Friday afternoon. At our house, we often have "*Shabbat* pizza", but the chance to share it with others and begin the *Shabbat* with candles, *Kiddush* and *Motzi* makes it special. Also, please remember to invite a Hillel student or two to your table; Laurie can provide contact information.

The next two Har Shalom *Shabbat* dinners are Fridays, Nov. 19 and Dec. 10. Shabbat Shalom!

"Todah rabah" means "Thank You So Much"!

We extend heartfelt thanks to our members:

Robin Abeshaus, for bringing donations to the Missoula Food Bank, stocking the pantry with serving goods for onegs and parties, and shopping for the Sukkot barbecue. Anna Kalm and **Jeb Rosen**, for volunteer assistant teaching at *Atidaynu*. Erin Craney, for arranging snacks at Atidaynu. Stan Howard and his crew at Max-Tite Metal Roofing, for timely and attractive repair of the Har Shalom roof. Thomas and **Lauren Parker**, for a delicious. celebratory oneg following Sam Parker's Bar Mitzvah. Kate **Soukonnikov**, for planning the Oct. 17 concert featuring **Anna** Washburn and Barbara Blegen. Rya Hawks, Jackie Cohen, Boris and Kate Soukonnikov, for book donations to the Har Shalom library. **Pat Cohen**, for editing the HS newsletter. **Sheehan Rosen**, for organizing the Atidaynu supplies in the storeroom. Dave Jolles, for replacing a faulty faucet. Bert **Chessin**, for fixing the back door.

Kol ha-kavod (all honor!) to all those who *leyned* (chanted or read) Torah and Haftarah, and offered special readings, songs or *shofar* calls at the High Holy Days services: Rhonda Stahl, Roslyn Pinson, Lesley Lotto, Nate Levtow, Matt Semanoff, Keith Jakob, Kate Soukonnikov, Bert Chessin, Jackie Cohen, Jeff Bendremer, Pat Cohen, Ria de Neeve and Andy Laken, Levai Burns, Emily Darling, Sheehan Rosen, Paul Rosen, Shirle Gray, Jim Gray, Boris Soukonnikov, Marlene Hutchins, Jake Koplen, and others.

If we didn't mention your name, please let us know so we can have the pleasure of acknowledging your contribution to our community life in the next "Todah Rabah."

Har Shalom Committees by Bert Chessin

A few important steps have been taken to strengthen the internal workings of Har Shalom and to involve more congregants in activities. If you have ideas and want to help or be involved in some way, let us know. Here is a quick summary of committees:

Membership Members of the committee are touching base with all present and potential members. We will be reaching out to find out interests and needs of the Greater Missoula Jewish community. Gatherings are being planned to connect people who live in the same area or who may have similar interests and ideas.

Social Justice A mission statement is being drafted, reflecting Har Shalom's core values and the specific work of the committee. We have explored various internal and external efforts that should be of interest to a broad cross-section of the congregation. Laurie Franklin and Bert Chessin have each been involved in local and regional organizations that have strong social justice-tikkun olam* elements that Har Shalom will likely grow into.

*repair of the world

Capital Campaign We are about to launch into another phase of raising funds. Growing out of the board's core value work, we have identified efforts that will be necessary to insure our financial stability. The committee has been made up of board members, primarily, but we really encourage others to become members. It is not a huge time commitment and does not require any particular financial commitment, only a desire and ability to work toward the common goal of reducing our debt.

Ritual The committee will be exploring what additions or changes to services that the congregation may want to try. Do not be intimidated by ritual, but if you are interested, there is a place for you. We have not yet met this fall, so it is now time to join.

Caring (another committee about to be revived) We have a few interested folks already and need a couple more. This is the good work that we all like to do and just need an excuse and an organized group to be a part of. Here is your opportunity.

Food Bank Tzedakah* by Robin Abeshaus

After the High Holidays, Har Shalom delivered 89 pounds of food to the Missoula Food Bank. The Food Bank and its clients are very grateful for Har Shalom's generosity and help. During the month of September, 5,700 people visited the Food Bank (an average of 250 for each business day).

A collection bin for the Food Bank is in the lobby of Har Shalom. Nonperishable food items, as well as personal care items, are welcome at any time. Currently, the Food Bank is very low on "nicety" items, the things that brighten a meal, i.e., jam, cookies, crackers, baking mixes, and juice.

*Tzedakah means charity and justice.

How to make contributions and payments

To make a donation, pay membership dues, religious school fees, camp registration, or community seder, go to www.PayPal.com and send your payment to HarShalomMsla@gmail.com. Please specify the intention of your donation: High Holy Days, Membership, Capital Campaign, Memorial, or Honor. Your donation will be deposited directly into the synagogue account. If you use a credit card, please consider adding 2% to your donation to cover our credit card fees. Every donation, regardless of size, is deeply appreciated. If you send a donation by conventional mail, please remember to use Har Shalom's new post office box: PO Box 3715, Missoula 59806.

New Activity for the Cold Months by Sigrun Kuefner

Now that you have done your gardening, canning, golfing and other summer activities (even the famous Missoula Farmers Market is coming to an end), it's time to concentrate on something new and exciting: Torah Study.

Torah Study new and exciting, you ask? But think again. When was the last time you actually engaged in the study of Torah? For your Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Perhaps an occasional visit while one of your children prepared for their big day? In the section of the Talmud on the precepts that will give you rewards in this life (like honoring your father and mother, doing deeds of loving kindness, you get the picture), it states: "And the study of Torah is equivalent to them all." Ridiculous, you may say. But then again, perhaps not.

Those of us who gather at Har Shalom on Shabbat mornings have lively discussions on the Torah portion of the week. And each year, when we study the same passage as we did in previous years, one of us is bound to say; "Wow, I never thought of that before. This is just amazing." And so it goes. The Torah might be thousands of years old, and some readers might look at it as "the word of G-d dictated to Moses on Mt. Sinai," while others think "oh, they are just stories, told for a reason to the Israelites at various times in their history." I challenge all of you, where ever your thoughts on the Torah may stand, to come and join us sometimes. I almost guarantee you that you will not be bored, and that you will learn something new each and every time.

Chevruta Talmud Study

Chevruta meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm at Har Shalom. Laurie leads the students in a freeform study of the Talmud, bringing in writings and articles from other Jewish thinkers relating to the selected Talmud passages. Everyone is welcome for a thoughtful and lively discussion of the Talmud.

Recent Donations and Tributes

(Donations made after newsletter deadline will appear in the next issue)

Honors and Memorials

Steven G. Farber

 In appreciation of Maeta Kaplan's and Har Shalom's kindness to daughter Zoey at High Holy Days

Thomas and Lauren Parker

• In honor of Sam Parker's Bar Mitzvah

Tampa Orland Pinellas Foundation

- In honor of Sylvie Rose Sermanoff's birthday
- In memory of Beatrice Weltman, Jessica and Dr. Matt Semanoff's grandmother, and Sylvie Rose's great-grandmother
- In memory of Marsha Weltman, Aunt and Great-Aunt of the Semanoff-Weltman family

Kate and Boris Soukonnikov

• In memory of George Lorinczi and Rose Kaufman

High Holy Days

Mark and Janet Bloch Ari and Daniella Kotler Susan, Drew, and Jonathan Leff Bob and Felice Sachs

Concert October 17

Shirle Gray Barb Gross Maeta Kaplan Sigrun Kuefner Anonymous

General

Suzanne Aboulfadl Roseanne and Erika Bloom Laurie Franklin Jeff Bendremer and Danielle Wozniak

Building

Dr. Gary and Deborah Cohen
Jackie Cohen
Brin Kushner
Stan Howard, special donation of roofing
materials and labor
Ed Rosenberg and Trina Valencich
Gary and Lynne Willstein

Toba Winston

Calling All Who Knit, Crochet or Wannaknowhow

"Repairing the world, one stitch at a time" by Roslyn Pinson

I love to knit and crochet. I'd like to start a Har Shalom knit/crochet group, so that we can enjoy each other's creativity, knowledge, and company. This is the perfect weather for hot tea, good talk and yarn projects. Our output would be donated for *tikun olam*. E-mail: roslynpinson@yahoo.com to let me know if you are interested, and we can set up a date, time and place to get started.



P.O. BOX 3715, MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Har Shalom NOVEMBER 2010

| SUN | MOM | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|---------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| | 1 24 Cheshvan | 2 25 Cheshvan Election Day | 3 26 Cheshvan | 4 27 Cheshvan | 5 28 Cheshvan *Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm *MAJCO Shabbaton Bozeman | 6 29 Cheshvan *Torah study 10 am to noon *MAJCO Shabbaton Bozeman |
| 7 30 Cheshvan Atidaynu 10 am to noon | 8 1 Kislev | <i>9 2 Kislev</i> Board Meeting 6 pm | 10 3 Kislev Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm | 11 4 Kislev | 12 5 Kislev *Rabbi Winkler service 6 pm, followed by potluck and retreat | 13 <i>6 Kislev</i> *Torah study 10 am to noon *Rabbi Winkler Retreat |
| 14 7 Kislev With Earth and Each Other: Virtual Rally for a Better Middle East 10:30 am to 12:30 | 15 8 Kislev | 16 9 Kislev | 17 10 Kislev Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm | 18 11 Kislev | 19 12 Kislev NO SERVICE Shabbat Community Dinners | 20 13 Kislev *Torah study 10 to 11 am *Shabbat Shacharit 11 am |
| 21 14 Kislev Atidaynu 10 am to noon | 22 15 Kislev | 23 16 Kislev | 24 17 Kislev Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm | 25 18 Kislev Thanksgiving | 26 19 Kislev Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm | 27 20 Kislev Torah study 10 am |
| 28 21 Kislev | 29 22 Kislev | 30 23 Kislev | | | | |

Har Shalom DECEMBER 2010

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 24 Kislev Chanukah candle 1 | 2 25 Kislev Chanukah candle 2 | 3 26 Kislev *Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm Chanukah candle 3 | 4 27 Kislev *Torah study 10 am to noon * Festival of Lights Parade 6 |
| 5 28 Kislev *Atidaynu 10 am to noon *Chanukah Party noon to 3 pm, candle 5 | 6 29 Kislev Chanukah candle 6 | 7 30 Kislev Chanukah candle 7 | 8 1 Tevet Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm Chanukah candle 8 | 9 2 Tevet | 10 3 Tevet NO SERVICE Shabbat Community Dinners | pm, candle 4 11 4 Tevet *Torah study 10 am *Shabbat Shacharit 11 am |
| 12 5 Tevet | 13 6 Tevet | 14 7 Tevet Board Meeting 6 pm | 15 8 Tevet Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm | 16 9 Tevet | 17 10 Tevet | 18 11 Tevet *Torah study 10 am to noon |
| 19 12 Tevet Atidaynu 10 am to noon | 20 13 Tevet | 21 14 Tevet | 22 15 Tevet Chevruta Talmud Study 7:30 pm | 23 16 Tevet Thanksgiving | 24 17 Tevet Kabbalat Shabbat 6 pm | 25 18 Tevet Torah study 10 am to noon Christmas |
| 26 19 Tevet | 27 20 Tevet | 28 21 Tevet | 29 22 Tevet NO Chevruta | 30 23 Tevet | 31 24 Tevet | |