

MONTHLY NEWS * FEBRUARY 2015



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Laurie's Letter: Holy Community: Not just the bagel hole!

When I was a young adult with small children, I wrestled with my Jewish identity. I never doubted that I was Jewish, but I couldn't see a way to live and express my Jewishness that made sense. I tried to join a synagogue, but the services were foreign to me, the children's education program seemed vacant of content, and the rabbi did not have patience for my questions.

So, I engaged in DIY, do-it-yourself: I built sukkah dioramas with my kiddos, brought round challah to their school for the Jewish New Year, had a family seder, talked and walked in social justice circles, and avoided G!d language because I couldn't bear to use words I could not define. But it wasn't enough for me. I still wrestled: how can I bring my Jewishness into the world if I have no concept of Jewish religious practice, and my main connection is bagels and nostalgia? These do not form a sustaining foundation to "be" Jewish, live Jewish, or teach Jewish!

Fast forward decade or two: I read the biblical story of Jacob wrestling with a being, an "ish", or maybe a G!d-messenger, a malach, or angel; the same Hebrew word means "messenger" or "angel" (Genesis 32). Jacob is in a time of transition, confronting his past and trying to create his future. He has no clear idea of what or with whom he is wrestling. Even so, he overcomes the being, and the being blesses him and gives him a name, "Israel", G!d-wrestler. Bingo! That's me: a G!d-wrestler. I don't know what this mysterious force is, but I feel it challenging me. I am struggling with it, and I am not falling down. Even as I struggle, I receive blessing. The struggle gives me a place in the People of Israel. I don't have to understand everything, and I can continue to grapple with Infinite Presence.

At the same time I come to these awakenings, I connect with Har Shalom. Now I am in the good company of people from many paths within Judaism, who want to explore and wrestle together. I am on my way from creation to eternity, and I am not alone. This is holy community, and it's not just about bagels.



Laurie Franklin



Atidaynu News

Everyone is getting back into the swing of things after our long winter break. The children crafted a beautiful Tu b'Shevat collage for the community "New Year of the Trees" seder. We are



Next Jewish Film at the Roxy: "Transit"

February 1 at 5 pm

"Transit" begins and ends in an airport during a

also planning another meal for Family Promise later in the month.

Atidaynu kids and parents have been discussing tzedakah during our big group meeting. The children have started collecting money, and at the end of the school year they will decide where they would like to send their contributions. Maybe we will plant a tree in Israel, help the animals at a local shelter, or buy books for other children in need. There are lots of ideas. Through this revived tzedakah effort, along with our involvement in Family Promise, the children are beginning to really grasp and find joy in tikkun olam, repairing the world.

Questions, want to enroll your children, or would you like to volunteer your time? Please contact Sheehan at 406 642 6527.

father and son's transit flight from Tel Aviv to Manila. It tells the story of Moises, a Filipino single-dad working as a caregiver in Herzliya, Israel, who comes home to his apartment in Tel Aviv to celebrate his son Joshua's fourth birthday. It was on that day that Moises, together with their Filipino neighbors Janet, 40, and her daughter Yael, 11, find out that the Israeli government is going to deport children of foreign workers. Afraid of the new law, Moises and Janet decide to hide their children from the immigration police by making them stay inside the house.

Watch a short trailer [here](#).

Jackie's Book Review *by Jackie Cohen* Stations West by Allison Amend

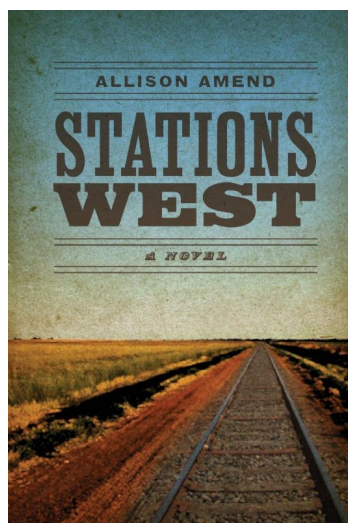
Just because my niece wrote Stations West doesn't mean I'm biased. Nor is my praise swayed by the novel's setting based upon my Oklahoma ancestors. Stations West stands on its own merit and was a finalist for the 2011 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature.

Oklahoma is a forgotten territory of "Indians, outlaws and immigrants" when its first Jewish settler, Boggy Haurowitz arrives in 1859. The book traces four generations of Haurowitzes through the challenges of creating a home amid betrayals, nature's vagaries and burgeoning statehood.

Boggy scrapes up a living as a peddler, marries a full-blooded Cherokee, and has four children. One, Moshe, is the only survivor. Moshe marries an Irish girl and they produce Garfield, named after the dead president. Garfield becomes the story's center and we follow his birth in the 1880s to his death in 1937; through Oklahoma's statehood in 1907, the railroad's prominence in connecting the hardscrabble West with the sophisticated East, and the advent and nadir of the Great Depression.

Abandoned by his father, forced to live with an uncaring mother who turns to prostitution in a small Colorado mining town, Garfield becomes a mean, angry, cruel and self-absorbed character. Garfield's father returns when the boy is 10 and carts him back to the Oklahoma acreage where Moshe grew up, hoping to bond and build a life together. But Garfield flees Moshe and the family of Swedes they share in the house the families built together. When Garfield returns at 19, he has discarded the Haurowitz name associated with humiliating, anti-Semitic incidences.

Amid the founding of the West, Stations West's generations struggle to forge and maintain their identities as Jews, as immigrants, and as Americans.



Allison Amend, author

In Other Places

There's some positive news coming out of Argentina!

There's nothing new about a Jewish director nominated for an Oscar, but Argentine director Damian Szifron has a new movie "Wild Tales" (Relatos Salvajes), nominated for Best Foreign Film, that looks interesting. The film combines humor, suspense and violence, featuring Jewish characters and details taken from Szifron's life. The final segment revolves around a Jewish wedding, complete with klezmer music. [Here's the link to trailer site](#). Don't let the subtitles discourage you. It looks like a fun film.

A Solar Tree? Well, of course, but...

This tree is more of an eTree. It's an innovation out of Israel using solar panels to power its various functions from phone charging station to drinking fountain. Oh, it provides shade too. Check it out [here](#).



Todah Rabah

Heartfelt thank you to **Marc Steinberg** upon his transition from Har Shalom Board Treasurer to private citizen, to **Lisa Carter** for assuming Marc's role as Har Shalom Treasurer, to bookkeeper-administrator **Marguerite Thurlo** for creating new job descriptions, to **Ari Margo** for cheerfully and creatively assuming Har Shalom office administrative duties. To **Toba Winston** for commissioning an eternal light (*ner tamid*) for our sanctuary, to the **Harris family** for sharing their custom-built Torah ark with Har Shalom, to **Queen Esther's Emporium**, for bringing color, craft and fragrant challah to the Har Shalom lobby, to **Marlene Hutchins** for designing thank you certificates for the student welders and their instructor who made our Hanukkah, to **Lida Running Crane** for organizing the Har Shalom-West Side MLK Day march to Caras Park, and to **Laurie Franklin** for rearranging her schedule to attend. To **Rabbi Ed Stafman** of Bozeman for helping us form our conversion beit din, to **Toba Winston** and **Lida Running Crane** for continuing the Har Shalom film series at the Roxy, to our generous **Oneg bringers** for delicious food, to **Robin Abeshaus** for stocking Har Shalom's pantry, and to **Jackie Cohen** for writing book reviews for the Har Shalom newsletter even though she lives in Colorado.



Yahrzeits

SHEVAT

14 (Feb 3) Harold Lurie
Diana Lurie's father
17 (Feb 6) George Shulman
Joy Earls' father
20 (Feb 9) Sharon Auerbach
Richard Auerbach's wife
21 (Feb 10) Lillian Shapiro
Tuchinsky
Toba and Laura Winston's
mother/grandmother

ADAR

2 (Feb 21) Michael Hendricks
Z'Eva Singer's husband
2 (Feb 21) Frank Spector
Ellen Silverglat's father
3 (Feb 22) Ethel Cohen
Jackie Cohen's mother
3 (Feb 22) Albert Belsky
Jill Belsky's father
5 (Feb 24) Peter Weil
Susanne Woyciechowicz's
uncle

Donations & Tributes

Capitol Fund

Jack and Shelly Meyer
Scott Green
Lawrence Schacht Foundation

Donations for Operations and Building

Bernard and Janice Silverman

Donations for Atidaynu

Susanne Woyciechowicz



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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