

Atidaynu* News

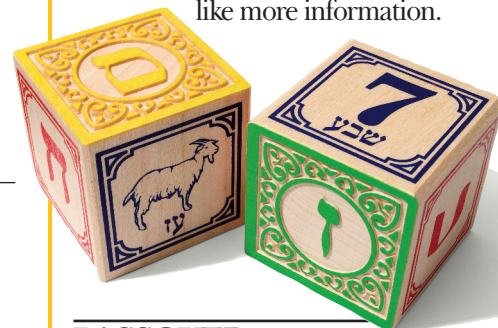
by Sheehan Rosen

*Atidaynu means "our future."

Things are moving along in Atidaynu. We celebrated a very nice Tu b'shevat Seder complete with four cups of juice, nuts and fruit of all kinds, and good conversations. We look forward to spring holidays and more large-group activities.

Winter and early spring is usually a slow time for us, with many children participating in winter sports on the weekend. Parents are reminded *and* encouraged to get their children looking at their Hebrew lessons at least once a week so they can keep in practice and not fall too far behind.

New families are welcome at any time. Please contact Sheehan at rosens@montana.com if you'd like more information.



PASSOVER

Celebrate Freedom!

Har Shalom's Community Passover Seder

March 26 at 6 p.m.

Wonderful food, good friends and a guarantee the Red Sea will part once again.

Look for the Reservation Form in this newsletter, or request one via email at info@har-shalom.org. You may also pay for your reservation securely at har-shalom.org. Please send in your registration by March 19 to reserve your place.

As a mitzvah from our congregation we are asking people to bring non-perishable food for the Food Bank when you come to the seder.

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

Next deadline: Apr. 17 for May/June '13 Issue

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Bert Chessin

Recently, I have had conversations that caused me to consider the differences between what I experience and understand about Jews and Judaism and what other Jews have come to believe. Though the stereotypes that Jews are about money and professional success and keeping to ourselves are neither new nor completely without basis, we continue to be challenged to teach our children, families, friends and communities about this civilization called Judaism. Buffering the swirl of forces that work against maintaining and building stronger Jewish communities is a daily effort.

Har Shalom continues to slowly build and grow through child and adult education, holiday and social programming, Shabbat and life-cycle services, and caring for those in need. We are blessed with the growth and commitment of Laurie Franklin toward her and our Jewish future. We are blessed with the generosity of so many in our community and those connected to our community towards keeping this "enterprise" spiritually, functionally, and intellectually healthy. Scattered throughout this newsletter are names of those righteous individuals (tzaddiks) who make this place what it is.

Yet, we still are not whole; we still strive for peace, wholeness, Shalom, and a greater understanding. Those who are hurting, lonely, blaming and angry with their Jewish roots live within our midst. To paraphrase – though we cannot turn everyone towards the Jewish light, nor can we help individuals completely embrace our community or our traditions; that does not free us from trying. All of us have doubts about who we are as individuals or as a community, but that journey, to find life's truths among the Jewish experience, is one worth traveling.

Our common journey is one that relies on each one of us. Keep finding ways to grow with Har Shalom. Keep finding ways to help Har Shalom grow. Join us when you can and stretch a little more to provide a warm touch. We all benefit.

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

This year in Jerusalem

This year, for the first time, I will spend Pesach in Jerusalem. Just saying it is magical because it resonates with the words we say each year at the conclusion of the seder: "Next year, in Jerusalem." And no question, I experience every holiday in Jerusalem with heightened feelings.

In the Hagaddah, however, these powerful words don't refer to an upcoming seder in Jerusalem but instead to the coming of the Messiah and the re-establishment of the sacrificial Temple. And so, for contemporary, liberal Jews (that's us, folks!), they are a part of our mesorah (tradition) that we struggle with. I'd like to argue that the idea of Messiah and Third Temple are worth a wrestling match because they are so central to our tradition. Like Jacob, who wrestles with an "ish" (maybe a messenger of G'd) in Exodus:25-33, we can wrestle with the mysteries of our faith, and maybe we can begin to understand how these big ideas of Judaism might work in our personal lives.

Do you await the coming of a flesh-and-blood man who will show up, never die, establish a Third Temple and revive all the dead, literally? If you don't, you are not alone. Instead, Reform theology posits that each of us has a role in healing the world, in creating a place that reflects the properties of a messianic age: freedom from want, universal peace and good health. Rabbi Joseph Meszler, Temple Sinai, of Sharon, MA, writes, "A point of distinction between Reform and other denominations of Judaism is the complete rejection of a personal

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LAURIE'S LETTER *(continued from first page)*

Messiah, resurrection, and the restoring of the sacrificial rite of a Third Temple. What do these decisions mean? Do they mean that we have no faith in the future, that humanity is fated for a tragic end with no one to save it? ... On the contrary, the Reform Jewish belief is that humanity must and can save itself."

So, Reform Judaism asks us to ask ourselves, "What can we do to bring about a better world, one that reaches for the ideals of a messianic age." This year, at our seders, as we remember the coming out from Egypt, let's also remember that it's our job to make the world a better place, and it begins at home. Within our walls, let's open the windows, let fresh air and light into all our relationships, and experience that good that comes from freeing ourselves from our personal "mitzrayims", the narrow places that hold us away from being our best selves. When we step out into the world, let's carry the same intention into our communities, where we can work with each other to accomplish beautiful things: creating community, taking care of each other, and making a healthier, safer, more just and peaceful world.

THOUGHTS *by Rabbi David Whiman* *You Shall Not Stand Idle*

Rabbi Whiman regrets not being able to come to Missoula for Purim. He thanks Har Shalom for the notes of condolence and plans to be back at the shul as soon as possible.

The Passover journey begins not when the Israelites took their first steps towards the Promised Land but actually when God spoke to Moses at the burning bush and commanded, "bo el paro, Go to Pharaoh." Moses, leave the security and safety of Midian, abandon the comfort of your father-in-law's house and return to Egypt. For Moses, the decision to undertake that summons took not only faith but guts.

On a recent trip to San Diego, for some reason I found myself actually paying attention to the pre-flight safety announcements. You know, the "Those seated in an exit row may be called upon to open the hatch in case of emergency. Please inform a flight attendant if you are unable or unwilling to perform this function." Listen to the word; unable or unwilling to perform this function. Unable, OK. But unwilling?

Guts. Courage. Heroism. We recognize it. We admire it, and we laud it in others. Plato included courage in his list of the four cardinal virtues alongside wisdom, justice and moderation. Courage in its highest form has frequently been associated with war and martial undertaking, but it need not be so. Courage and fear are also not mutually exclusive. Courage is "behavioral approach in spite of the experience of fear."

I remember a pizza dinner preceding one of my former Temple's Religious School sessions. A 7th grader engaged in a happily animated, loud, laughing conversation with his friends got up, walked over to a kid sitting by himself at the next table and said, "Would you like to come over and sit with us?" Eyes downcast, never looking up, the second kid answered softly, "No. That's OK." "Really," the first kid said. Again, "No" was the response. "It would really be nice if you came and sat with us" the first kid repeated. Now that's courage! On the part of the boy who extended the invitation and on the part of the second who eventually accepted it.

Later, I asked the first 7th grader, "Why did you do that?" He replied, "Did what?" "Why did you go over and invite that other kid to join you and your friends? Did you know him?" "No," said the first kid. "So why did you do it?" I asked again. "Because it was the right thing to do," he said.

During World War II, the residents of the French town of La Chambon gave shelter to large numbers of Jews. It is estimated that the townspeople saved somewhere between 3,000 and 5,000 souls from deportation to the death camps. After the war, the people of La Chambon were asked why they did it. But the question seemed a strange one to them. They did it, they said, because it was the right thing to do. Then they turned the question on their interviewers, "Wouldn't you have done the same thing?" they asked.

The Rabbis teach that he who saves a single life it is as if he had saved the entire world. I suspect that for each of us there will come a moment when we, too, will be presented with an opportunity to save a single life—perhaps not in a physical sense—but save a life still—from loneliness, embarrassment, from ignorance, error or despair. The Midrash relates that when Moses, then Prince of Egypt, went out and saw the suffering of the Hebrew slaves he wept. He said, "Woe is me on account of your suffering." And by his compassion he saved the Israelites from despair long before he delivered them from their slavery.

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Holocaust Remembrance Day Sunday, April 14

Har Shalom is hosting a community observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 14, beginning at 1 p.m. It is an opportunity for members of our western Montana community to hear, reflect and recognize the Third Reich's unprecedented impact on European Jewry and the world.

The program begins with candle lighting, readings and music to honor those who perished and suffered during those darkest days. Michael Vergeront will talk and show pictures from his visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., fulfilling part of his bar mitzvah service commitment. A local resident has been invited to speak about their personal experience. A Holocaust-related film will be shown as the final portion of the program.

This observance is family-friendly as there will be an arts and crafts project for the younger attendees.

Hebrew Lessons Wednesdays at 7p.m.

Holly Kingsford continues to lead the adult Hebrew class in our studies. We have a firm grasp on the aleph bet and are sounding out new vocabulary words. If you have vague memories of your B'nai Mitzvah lessons and would like to start reading from the right side of the page instead of using the transliteration in our Siddur, join us every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in the Har Shalom library.

Shekels for the Rabbi

Rabbi David's time is winding down with us as Laurie's year in Jerusalem is coming to an end. What have his visits meant to you? We would like to honor and thank him with some financial recompense for his time and a gift. Thoughts? Checks? Please respond as you see fit. Checks can be sent to the shul with "Rabbi David Fund" noted on the check. Todah Rabah.

RABBI WHIMAN *(continued)*

There will come a time when each of us will—literally or figuratively—be called upon to provide a way out, an escape for those in difficulty, the rescue of a soul in need. My friends, when that moment comes do not be counted among the unwilling. The Torah commands: You shall not stand idle when your neighbor bleeds.

Assuredly, life will present you with a moment that calls for the exercise of at least quiet courage and ordinary heroism. In that moment there will be opportunity and there will always be a reason not to seize it. There will always be mitigating circumstances, but if you do the right thing and act courageously, at that moment it may be said of you, too, it is as if you had saved the entire world.

Family Promise NEARS 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Family Promise is a national program that brings religious congregations in a community together to help families who are facing homelessness. Family Promise Missoula opened in May 2012. Homeless families with children are referred by social service agencies to the network of congregations in Missoula. Once in the program, adult family members work on finding housing, employment, childcare, and needed resources to help stabilize the family. While in the Family Promise Program, families are housed for a week at a time in host congregation churches. Support congregations, such as Har Shalom, work with their partner host congregation to provide meals, food, companionship, and a compassionate ear during each of our assigned host weeks. As families transition into permanent housing, members of host and support congregations often volunteer to help get households established with bedding, towels, and basic kitchen and cleaning supplies.

Dates for our next host week will be announced via email in the Har Shalom weekly. If you would like to be contacted directly regarding the next Family Promise host week and volunteer needs and opportunities, please contact Robin Abeshaus at robinabeshaus@gmail.com or 542-7535 and she will add you to the Har Shalom Family Promise email list. Robin is also the person to contact if you have questions or would just like to know more about the Family Promise program.

How Fun is Mah Jong!?

1st and 3rd Saturday of the month

We have begun a twice monthly mah jong class on Shabbat afternoons and it is so fun. On First Saturdays we begin at 2 p.m. and on the third Saturday of the month, we start at 3 p.m. We have several teachers and mah jong sets, so there is always room at a table. Mah jong is a board game that is a bit like gin rummy played with tiles. You compete to build a hand of selected or drawn tiles. Board games have long been a Shabbat day staple and mah jong has long been known as a classic Jewish game. (There is also a Chinese version, but we play Jewish.) All skill levels are welcome.

Purim Party

Har Shalom celebrated Purim with magic, music, dancing, food and drink. The Story of Esther was told in a raucous rendition with Haman being roundly booed. We had Ninjas, cheerleaders, seers, rajas and babies; a few whom could be identified. If you were not there, and only you would know, plan to attend the party next year.

Provide Oneg in Commemoration

Do you have a celebration to commemorate or a Yahrzeit to acknowledge? Why not provide Oneg after a Har Shalom service? Contact Marc Steinberg (406.459.0244 or mpsteinberg2003@yahoo.com). He can guide you on what is needed.

Har Shalom's Library is YOUR Library

There are many many wonderful books to select from, for children and adults, fiction and non-fiction. Please take the time to stop by our library, find a great read, sign your name in our check-out log, take the book home and enjoy it!

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.

ADAR

19 (March 1) Dr. Zangwill H. Freed
Joan Kuchel's father

21 (March 3) Sophie Goren
Carolyn Goren's mother

27 (March 9) Gabriel Jolles
David Jolles' father

28 (March 10) David Kooris
Jeff Kooris' father

NISAN

21 (April 1) Edward Cohen
Jackie Cohen's father

IYYAR

17 (April 27) Meyer Tuchinsky
Toba Winston's father; Laura Winston's
grandfather

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

Dr. Marshall and Tonia Bloom
Gharrett Wilson

Honors and Memorials

Flo and Mike Chessin – In Honor of Kate Soukonnikov
Joan Kuchel – In Memory of Zanzwill H. Freed

Capital Campaign Donations

Ed Rosenberg and Trina Valencich

A "thank you" for Rabbi David

Har Shalom has a "Rabbi David Fund" to which anyone may donate in thanks or honor to Rabbi David Whiman. Checks may be sent to Har Shalom, PO Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806. Please mark "Rabbi David Fund" on your check.



Todah Rabah

Todah Rabah to Temple Israel in Charleston, West Virginia for so generously offering and sending children's books from their library. We are so grateful for their generosity. Now the children's section of our library is expanding to meet the needs of our growing Atidaynu program.

Mugging it for the Poverello

Thanks to all who donated coffee mugs for the Poverello Center. The Pov was thrilled to be able to restock them, as they said mugs seem to go on walkabouts from time to time. They also need sturdy aprons. Look for our donation box by the temple's office.

Todah Rabah to Marc Steinberg for organizing Onegs; to Holly Kingsford, Maeta Kaplan, Bert Chessin and Kate Soukonnikov for leading services; to Boris Soukonnikov and Toba Winston for D'var Torah talks; to Jeff Bendremer and Bert Chessin for music at Friday night services; to Marc Steinberg for Rabbi's airline tickets; to Holly Kingsford and Rhonda Stahl for Tu B'Shvat service and seder; to Dave Jolles, Sue Fortner, Bert Chessin, Melissa Baggett, Marc Steinberg, Kate Soukonnikov, Holly Kingsford, Toba Winston, Magda Podlipny, the Weltmans and Lida Running Crane for organizing and producing our Purim party and delivering Purim bags; to Chutzpah for the awesome music: Bert Chessin, Sonia Chessin, Jeff Bendremer, Paul Rosen and Mitch Hall; to Pat Cohen, Carolyn Goren, Alice and Charlie Byrne, Maeta Kaplan, Toba Winston, and Karen Welt in support of Family Promise; to Danielle Wozniak for her talk on changing attitudes about sexual violence at the University.



P.O. Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED