

A note from the Editor *by Pat Cohen*

This newsletter presents a summary of the activity going on in the Har Shalom community. Our intrepid leader, Laurie Franklin, is off to Israel in July and Har Shalom is busy finding ways to keep her many activities going while she is finishing her rabbinic training. See what's happening at Har Shalom and let us know what you think of our plans.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *by Bert Chessin*

Planning Ahead

As evidenced by this past winter or the summer to come, we never know how our summers or winters are going to turn out, yet we still make plans. Har Shalom is making plans, too.

We know what big shoes we have to fill while Laurie Franklin is changing gears to supercharge her rabbi-to-be ride. A mix of rabbinic and lay leadership is already arranged for the upcoming year and more is being explored.

We know what our financial needs are, both short and long term. B'nei mitzvah ceremonies and celebrations, summer camp, fun and fund raisers, holiday observances and parties, and cultural, social, and community programs are all on our to-do list for the next several months. I am continually encouraged by the energy and productivity of the board and other congregants to keep this place healthy and hopping. Without sounding like a broken record, (yes, the world spins and orbits and seasons come around again) there is always another opportunity for each one to be a part of the Har Shalom family of activities; this upcoming year especially so.

Just as I am perpetually on a quest to become a little more educated, a bit more effective in helping the congregation grow, to making this a healthier place for everyone; I hope we consider the challenges of the days ahead as more than a test, more than a stopgap effort. This is our own creation story. Help us to turn visions into realities. Help us change our potential into kinetic energy.

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

I need a few good people... for the Missoula Collaborative Service Project.

I need your help for a worthy and groundbreaking faith-based initiative in Missoula. We have a rare opportunity to shape an emerging community service project in its earliest phases. The Missoula Collaborative Service Project (MCSP) promises to harness the goodwill of a broad spectrum of Missoula faith communities and offers an opportunity to express our Jewish values. Tikkun Olam, anyone? Yes, repairing the world is at the core of our faith, and here is an opportunity to repair it both through works of tzedakah and by working closely with other faith groups.

Casey Dunning, a graduate student in the School of Social Work at UM, has been convening this interfaith group to address the need for expanded and well-coordinated human services in Missoula. The initial planning group, aka the steering committee, has been meeting regularly to brainstorm and develop an approach. I have been participating in the steering committee but can only do so until June when I will turn my full attention to leaving for Israel. So, I'd like to invite some of you to participate in the steering committee and to carry the work forward through summer and fall. If you sign on, you'll have an adventure of

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Atidaynu* News

by Sheehan Rosen

Another successful school year is coming to a close and we have a lot to appreciate including new families who joined us during the course of the year, advancement in Hebrew and liturgy, new skills in Israeli dancing, and two b'nei mitzvah. In the last month of school we will be wrapping up projects and doing some house and grounds keeping. Atidaynu will have an end of the year celebration on June 3rd. Thanks to all of the teachers and parents for volunteering your time and energy! Be sure to check the email news and future newsletters for announcements regarding summer camp and Ellie Bendremer's bat mitzvah. We hope everyone has a great summer and see you next fall!

**Atidaynu means "our future."*

Evan's Bar Mitzvah – May 26

Robin Abeshaus and Stephen Kalm would like to share our joy and gratitude with everyone in the Har Shalom community as we invite you to join us for our son Evan's Bar Mitzvah, on May 26, at 10:30 a.m. Because we are blessed with a very large family, we are having the ceremony at the University Congregational Church, 405 University Avenue.

We will serve lunch following services. If possible, please let us know if you plan to attend so that we can be sure to have enough food!

We also hope to see many of you at Shabbat services at Har Shalom on Friday, May 25. We will host a pizza oneg after the service.

RSVP by email to robinabeshaus@gmail.com or by phone: 542-7535.

Board of Directors

President: Bert Chessin, 531-5193

Vice President: Sherry Kolenda, 251-7996

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Marlene Hutchins, 721-2425

Holly Kingsford, 207-2078

Toba Winston, 777-3100

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

Next deadline: June 17 for July / Aug Issue

LAURIE'S LETTER (CONTINUED)

a lifetime, the chance to work with givers and doers from an unusually broad alliance of faith communities, all sharing the common goal to do good work in the world. This is no small thing. The sense of holiness that participants bring to this project is awe-inspiring.

We are now focusing on how to best define MCPS' role. The consensus among those in the steering committee is to create an organization that might act as a clearinghouse for community services. Possible goals might be to catalog the types of programs available and to identify gaps in services offered. Also, we are excited about the prospect of connecting service providers with a cadre of volunteers to further their missions. We see challenges in creating new relationships of trust between organizations that have not worked together in the past. Casey has been providing a step-by-step process for defining shared goals and desired outcomes. The project "feels" right; it is developing in a way that encourages me to think that we will move beyond the initial planning and become a viable community asset.

Please let me know if you would like to test the waters and attend the next steering committee meeting. If you do, you will be making an important contribution to Har Shalom and to the world.

Rabbi David Whiman

Laurie Franklin will be going to Israel for a year to further her rabbinic studies beginning July 1st. The board is looking for input from you to determine how much of a visiting rabbi's services Har Shalom might need while she is gone.

We have found a wonderful rabbi who—miraculously so it seemed—is retiring from his pulpit in New York and offers to be with us during Laurie's absence. He is David Whiman, a leading scholar and respected Reform rabbi.

Rabbi Whiman is acknowledged as a creative and challenging speaker. He has a particular interest in organizational learning and change management and is co-author of "Learning While Leading: Increasing Effectiveness in Ministry," published by The Alban Institute. He is completing work on a companion book "Seven Habits of Highly Dysfunctional Synagogues and What To Do About Them," designed to help synagogue lay leaders undertake projects of transformational change.

Rabbi Whiman is pleased to assist the Har Shalom community while Laurie Franklin is away. His question to us: what do you need?

Here's one scenario: David comes for several visits.

- He would first meet with us over a long weekend at the end of August, when we have our congregational picnic on Sunday the 26th.
- Then we are thinking of four 'residencies' where he stays long enough to include two Shabbats, including one over the High Holy Days.

We hope the staggered visits will allow for planned and unplanned needs.

Financially, we are keeping it very simple. We have a donation of frequent flyer miles (could always use more) for his airfare, we are offering him home hospitality during his stays, and we will be giving him an honorarium for his time.

Is having a rabbi important to you? Could you pledge, say, \$100 toward bringing him to Missoula?

He can marry folks, do conversions, b'nai mitzvah, memorials, baby namings ... do you have anything coming up next year that you would want a rabbi for? Send your thoughts to info@har-shalom.org.

Introducing Holly Kingsford

Holly Kingsford enjoys a warm welcome back to Missoula, joining the congregation of Har Shalom and the Har Shalom board.

Holly and Paul Kingsford returned to Missoula after 15 years on the East Coast in time to celebrate the birth of their 2nd grandchild. With a son and a daughter both in Missoula, it made sense to return to this beloved city. Holly and Paul are working hard to get settled and establish their livelihoods; Paul in advertising and marketing and Holly in insurance.



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Capital Campaign

Our capital campaign is in full swing, raising funds to ensure the mortgage loan renewal for this year and beyond. We are asking our members to pledge \$1,000 per year to our capital campaign. This pledge will not only help us keep our home for the long haul, but will provide leverage with First Security Bank, which could mean better terms on our loan going forward. Contact Sherry Kolenda (251-7996, skolenda@gmail.com) if you are able to help Har Shalom meet its financial obligations.

Time is running out to purchase raffle tickets for the Ray Risho dinner.

Har Shalom is raising funds by selling raffle tickets to a Ray Risho dinner at the Rishos' home. The theme of the meal and evening is *A Taste of Jerusalem: Jewish Culinary Heritage*. This will be a five-course dinner with wine on Saturday, May 19, 2012. This is one of those special Missoula events for which Ray and Suzie Risho have become legend. There will be four winners. Each winner has two seats at the table. Each of the four winners will be drawn on a different evening; you do not need to be present to win. This is an opportunity to help Har Shalom and to win an unforgettable evening with the Rishos. Tickets are \$10 each, 6 for \$50, or 12 for \$100. Purchase tickets through the Har Shalom office (549-9595). Or, by email request at info@har-shalom.org. Or, contact a Har Shalom board member.

The drawings began in April but there is still a chance for you to win. Remember, you have to purchase a ticket or two to have that chance!

Shhhh, an Israeli Mime is coming...

On Tuesday, May 1, at 7 p.m., Ofer Goren, Israeli mime and entertainer, presents a program at Har Shalom. Mr. Goren "speaks" about the relationship of the individual and society. Come hear what he has to say. Sponsored by Soul Train.

HOLLY KINGSFORD *(continued)*

Holly attended Hebrew Day School in Portland Oregon with three other students in her grade. Being one of six children, Holly's family made up the majority of the tiny student body. When Holly was 18, the family moved to Israel. Holly studied at the University of Tel Aviv and served as a sergeant in the Israeli army before marrying Paul. Paul hails from England. They have lived in England, Chicago, Missoula, Connecticut and Boston. Paul and Holly hope to find enough success to be able to remain in Missoula to their final days on earth.

Holly has experience with chairing membership committees for a business networking group and the Chamber of Commerce. She would like to work closely with Congregation Har Shalom to increase membership and help with member retention. Holly was on the faculty at her temple in Connecticut, teaching grade six for many years.

As a Farmers Insurance agent, Holly is donating to Har Shalom 10% of the first year's commission on any insurance she helps any member with. Holly can be reached at 207-2078.

Hazon Cross-USA Ride coming to Har Shalom

WHAT: Har Shalom will host Hazon's Cross-USA Ride, a bike trip promoting environmental awareness, sustainable community agriculture and youth leadership. "Hazon" means vision and is the name of America's largest Jewish environmental group. (See Hazon's web site at <http://www.hazon.org/about/vision-and-mission/>)

While in Missoula, Hazon will volunteer at Free Cycles Missoula, visit Adventure Cycling, and visit some of Missoula's sights (museums, galleries, Rattlesnake wilderness, PEAS farm and Garden City Harvest). Har Shalom will host a lunch with Mayor Engen on Wed., June 20, at noon, and a community-wide program that evening. Watch for details.

WHEN: The group will ride in to Missoula on the evening of June 19, and ride out on the morning of June 21.

HOW: The Cross-USA Ride has a support crew that arrives early, and with our help, will set up meals and other amenities for the riders. The group of 25-30 will sleep in the sanctuary, use the showers at the YMCA, and dine at Har Shalom. We will kasher the kitchen for the occasion.

MORE: You can join them for some, or all, of the trip; visit the web site at <http://www.hazon.org/programs/cross-usa-ride/>. Hazon is offering a reduced rate to those from Missoula who want to join the next leg of the ride; contact Wendy Levine at wendy.levine@hazon.org for details.

Shavuot: The festival of cheesecake *by Atidaynu*

The two-day festival of Shavuot (translated, it means "weeks") concludes the counting of the Omer which began on the second day of Pesach. On Shavuot we celebrate receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai. On the first night, Jews will gather in synagogues and homes to stay up all night reading Torah, and many families begin teaching the youngest children who are ready to begin reading. After reading letters of the aleph-bet, honey is spread on the page and the children lick it off so they remember that Torah is sweet.

The Torah states: "And He gave us this land flowing with milk and honey," so it is a custom to eat sweetened dairy foods like blintzes, strudel, atair with cream and cheesecakes during the holiday. Interestingly, the numerical value of the word *chalav* (milk) is 40...the number of days that Moses was on Mount Sinai when he received the Torah. Shavuot is also the festival of first fruits; in the days of the Temple, farmers would make offerings of the first picking of figs, dates, olives, pomegranates and grains. Today, many people honor this by preparing fruit puddings, pies and cakes. Be'te avon!

Experience Shavuot at Har Shalom

Join us at 8 p.m. on May 26, as we experience "Matan Torah," the gift of Torah, through song, movement, study, prayer and, YES, cheesecake. This Shavuot will nourish body and soul!

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.

IYYAR

17 (May 9) Meyer Tuchinsky
Toba and Laura Winston's
father/grandfather

SIVAN

4 (May 25) John M. Winston
Toba and Laura Winston's
spouse/father

18 (June 8) Gloria Belsky
Jill Belsky's mother

18 (June 8) Belle Zamosky
Roslyn Pinson's mother

19 (June 9) Al Rosenthal
Har Shalom community member

22 (June 12) Dora Frankel Gross
Barb Gross' mother

Prayerbook Hebrew continues.

We meet every Wednesday evening at Har Shalom and make friends with the alphabet and the prayerbook. Arrive at 7 p.m. for new learners and those seeking review of basics, 7:30 p.m. for those who already know the alphabet well. Last class of the 10-week series is May 30. Materials fee for members is \$5; nonmembers pay \$50/series, pro-rated if you begin later than the 3/21 start date.

Another full house for the Community Passover!

Laurie Franklin led about 100 people out of Egypt during the Passover Seder and we all had a great time. Meaningful *and* delicious.

Work continues toward opening of Missoula Family Promise *by Robin Abeshaus*

It was more than a year ago the board decided that Har Shalom should sign on as a support congregation for the new Missoula Family Promise program, and I agreed to be our “family promise coordinator.” For the past year, I have been meeting with other congregation coordinators as we work toward getting Family Promise Missoula up and running. For many families, one unexpected event—an increase in rent, a sudden illness, the loss of a job—can drive them into homelessness. Over 20 Missoula area congregations have come together to offer these families a safety net, a place to eat, sleep, and stay together as a family while they get back on their feet.

Family Promise offers so much more than just a place to stay. The Missoula Family Promise board of directors recently hired Dean Thompson, formerly of the Missoula Food Bank, as Program Director. Dean will work with the families in the Family Promise program to help find jobs, affordable places to live, and any other necessary support. He will make sure that children are able to continue attending a consistent school and their after-school activities, as their family works to get back on its feet. During the evenings, Family Promise offers families a caring community. Evening host volunteers welcome families “home” each evening; help serve dinner; and then eat and visit with the families.

For those who are interested, there are many ways to volunteer with Family Promise. Opportunities include preparing dinner; evening hosting (approximately 5:30–9:00 p.m.); overnight hosting (sleep at the host church—University Congregational Church, wake guests, and serve breakfast in the morning); supply breakfast and/or lunch food; wash sheets and towels (happens on Sunday at the end of host week; possibly once during week); help move and set up at next host church (Sunday afternoon).

If you are interested in signing up for any of these positions, please contact Robin Abeshaus at robinabeshaus@gmail.com. In addition, watch the weekly email list for any additional supplies needed.

Har Shalom will help with a host week 4–5 times per year. Because the Family Promise board of directors is still ironing out some details of the program, we do not yet have a firm start date but anticipate that our first host week will fall somewhere between the end of May and the end of June. If you sign up to volunteer and then find out that our first week dates do not work for you, don't worry, you can back out and I'll contact you again next time around.

Beth Shalom, Bozeman, announces Summer Camp for Teens

It's that time of year: planning summer for your kids. Congregation Beth Shalom will again be hosting a summer camp for young people ages 11–18 during the week of August 13 to 17. This camp is designed for an older group of Jewish kids, providing them with the opportunity to meet with peers, learn more about their Jewish culture, heritage and traditions, and to just have fun! It is open to youths all over Montana.

Participants from outside Bozeman will stay with families of their Beth Shalom peers. The camp is \$175 for the week. Registration is due to Beth Shalom by July 1. For more information and to register, contact Jenny Rassaby (406-579-3846, rassabies@gmail.com).

From the Missoula Food Bank

Todah Rabah from the Missoula Food Bank to Har Shalom.

During the months of March and April, we delivered 24 pounds of food to the Missoula Food Bank. There is a collection box in the lobby of Har Shalom, and the Food Bank is always grateful for any non-perishable donations.

From the Har Shalom Library *by Toba Winston*

Sarah's Key *by Tatiana De Rosnay*

Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten year old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup. In a desperate effort to save her younger brother, she locks him in a secret cupboard in the family's apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours.

Sixty years later, Sarah's story intertwines with that of Julia Jarmond, an American journalist investigating the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup. In her research, Julia finds a trail of secrets that link her to Sarah, and to questions about her own future. It is a mesmerizing story in which a tragic past is unfolded, the present is torn apart and the future is irrevocably altered.

As one reviewer, Jenna Blum, stated, “It will make you cry—and remember.”

In 2010, the author was named one of the top three fiction writers in Europe.

Hillel Seder at Har Shalom

The University of Montana Hillel held their very own Passover Seder at Har Shalom on Wed., April 11. The students organized, cooked, cleaned, and had a wonderful turnout. It was wonderful to see them create their own living tradition! Har Shalom was proud and happy to host them.

Todah rabah (thank you so much) to:
Bert Chessin, Sue Fortner, the Atidaynu class for organizing and getting the Shalakh Manot (Purim) bags filled and ready to be delivered; **the HS Board** for getting all of the bags delivered. **Bert Chessin, Sue Fortner, Hillel, the band Chutzpah** for organizing and putting on a great Purim Party. **Bert Chessin** for Passover set up. **Sherry Kolenda** for Passover catering coordination. **Laurie Franklin** for a wonderful Passover service filled with music. **Bert Chessin, Sonia Chessin, and Scott Milner** for spirited post-seder music. **Jackie Cohen and Toba Winston** for cleanup after the Seder. **Marc Steinberg** for donation of air miles to bring R. Whiman to Missoula. **Dalit and Greg Guscio of Resource Energy** for consultations to upgrade Har Shalom energy efficiency. **Pat Cohen**, for her patience and persistence in coordinating and assembling the newsletter.

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, mail your payment to Har Shalom at our new post office box: PO Box 3715, Missoula 59806. Or, use your bank's "Bill Pay" feature.

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.

Seder Donations

Marshall Bloom
Joyce Latimer
Toba Winston
Marc Steinberg
Jack and Pat Cohen
Anita Aronofsky
Sherri Davidoff

Honors and Memorials

Joan Kuchel – In Memory of Dr. Zangwill H. Freed



Know anyone from Sinai Temple, Michigan City, Indiana?

Sinai Temple of Michigan City, Indiana is searching for prior members, children of members, others who have been associated with their Temple. They will be celebrating 100 years of existence in 2013 and are looking for those connected with their history. If so, contact Eileen S. Heisler (heis4@aol.com, 219-874-4477) or Don & Caryn Glossinger (caryn432comcast.net, FaceBook: "Sinai Temple of Michigan City's 100th Anniversary")
May Har Shalom's grandchildren and great-grandchildren be burdened with such a task!

A Har Shalom Book Club?

If you are interested in being a part of a Har Shalom Book Club that will meet once a month, please let Toba Winston know by email at tobawinston@hotmail.com, or call her at 406-777-3100. We can begin by selecting one day a month, and deciding what books to read and discuss. Any questions, please call Toba.

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.

Photos of our first Purim Masquerade Party

Visit har-shalom.org, select the "Learning and Activities" drop-down menu, and click on "Photos." Scroll down to the bottom of the page for the Purim Party photos. We all had a wonderful time, dancing, eating and laughing together. It's a must-event—plan to join us next year.



P.O. Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED