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NOVEMBER 2014

Laurie's Letter

The Jewish month of "Mar Cheshvan" began on Shabbat Lech Lecha, October 25. Some of us know it by the shorter name Cheshvan. "Mar" means bitter, and some say we call it bitter Cheshvan because it contains no celebrations other than Shabbat.

True, after the fullness of the High Holy Days, plus the festival of Sukkot, and the final flourishes of Simchat Torah, the quiet calendar of Cheshvan looks remarkably austere! For a pulpit rabbi, it is a time to exhale and get back to life as usual, and I would argue that it's the same for all of us. Now we have an unbroken palette of weeks to assimilate and enact the lessons we might have garnered during the Days of Awe. We can settle in and live them.

Some of my friends take on an additional gratitude practice in Mar Cheshvan. I say "additional" because our daily prayers are certainly a gratitude practice; this additional practice is a personal, daily recognition of things for which we are grateful throughout the month.

But what about this word "mar", bitter? I don't find Cheshvan to be bitter at all! It's a relief to have an interlude of quiet time. Instead, I turn the first word backwards to spell "ram", meaning "high" or "elevated". In Ram Cheshvan, we can find the space to experience the elevation of the everyday stuff in our lives. Now, it's up to us, without the continual prompting of special observances, to see the glow of holy sparks in the regular events of our lives. Even the ordinary is extraordinary, thank G!d.



Laurie Franklin

What is my "Money Is No Object" vision for Har Shalom?

At the Annual Meeting, we did an activity where we brainstormed just that question. This is an activity that I enjoy engaging in. I thought you might like to see inside my head as to what that vision is for Har Shalom.

I would add a second story on the building and dedicate the upstairs to Hebrew education.

I would tear out the downstairs and have it rebuilt with a commercial kitchen and a big, bright sanctuary with floor to ceiling windows opening onto a beautiful garden. I would give the Rabbi her own well-lit office.

I would remove the garage and in its place, create a space for Bev to expand her Montessori school.

I would put the teachers on salary and give each one his or her own classroom to decorate and have storage for projects.

I would rent out our commercial kitchen space to vegetarian food cart owners.

I would purchase a second Torah and replace all the covers.

I would make certain that the Rabbi's discretionary fund was well-stocked with money to help our community.

I would open a gift shop and display beautiful Judaica and handmade crafts for sale to the public.

I would support a Kosher butcher so we could have a locally raised source of meat for sale out of our commercial kitchen. Perhaps we could learn how to make New York Style Pastrami?

Laurie will remain eternally youthful and energetic. I would freeze time so we could keep her forever.

Finally, I would have abundance for the membership so we can all attend seminars, conferences and other avenues of growth. We will learn together.

I'm sure others have ideas of what you would do "If Money Were No Object?" I'd love to hear them. Maybe you will post yours on Facebook?



Holly Kingford



Atidaynu News

Classrooms are full and busy already this fall. It's great to see everyone again and welcome some new families into our growing group of chaverim (friends). We have three groups this year, pre-kindergarten to 7 year olds, 8 to 10 year olds, and 11+; and we are very happy to have two older students return to help their peers and younger kids with Hebrew. A couple of students are working toward their bar and bat mitzvah in 2015 and everyone else is getting back into the swing of regular Hebrew study. Volunteers have come forward to help coordinate some large group projects and holiday activities, and the children will help lead a service or two this year, so watch the weekly! We always have room for new families, so if you are interested or know someone who might be, please stop by on an Atidaynu Sunday to check it out or contact Sheehan at 406-642-6527 for more information.



Gershon Baskin

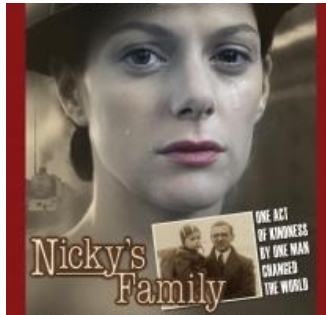
Sun., Nov. 9, 2-4 pm, University Center Theater, 3rd floor of the University Center at the University of Montana

Do you remember the young Israeli soldier captured by Palestinian fighters from his army base in 2006? His fate held the attention of the world for five long years. Gershon Baskin began working for this young soldier's release beginning with contacts he had made working toward peace between the Palestinians and Israel. Through his expanding list of Arab contacts Gershon Baskin worked to open doors of communication. He will be speaking at the UC Theater November 9.



Craft Club on Sundays, 1-5 pm, Nov. 2, 16, 30

Express your artistic side. Come to Har Shalom for a Sunday afternoon of crafting or just come for the fellowship.



Movie at the Roxy, Sun, Nov. 2, 5 pm

Nicky's Family tells the nearly forgotten story of Sir Nicholas Winton, an Englishman who organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the outbreak of World War II.

To watch the trailer, go to:
<http://www.menemshafilms.com/nickys-family>



Kids' Film Festival

***An American Tale: Feivel Goes West* at Har Shalom, Sunday November 16, at 5 pm.**

A family of Emigre mice decide to move out to the west, unaware that they are falling into a trap perpetrated by a smooth talking cat.

To watch the trailer:
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0101329/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7

10 am - 2 pm, Strategic Planning meeting
5 pm, Movie at the Roxy: *Touchdown Israel*

Chanukah begins December 16 (eve) through December 24

5 pm, Saturday, December 20, HS Chanukah Party

December 4

Laurie Franklin will speak at the UM Library exhibit and Lecture Series, *Fighting the Fires of Hate*
Background: <http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/fightingfires?destination=node/872>
Schedule: <http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/content/schedule-events>

Mazel Tov! It's a Girl!

We welcome the birth of Talya Jane to Josh and Ilana McCloud.

Todah Rabah to:

* Lisa Carter for Elul cards with red string to help us remember our focus for the High Holidays * The people who made phone calls and social contact for the High Holy Days: Mona Bachmann, Lisa Carter, Barb Gross, Kate Soukonnikov, Marc Steinberg, Toba M. Winston * Lisa Carter, Marguerite Thurlo, Toba M. Winston for greeting people on the High Holy Days. * Bert Chessin for serving as Ba'al Shofar during Selichot, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur * Bert Chessin, Keith Jakob, Holly Kingsford, Madelyn Semanoff, and Matt Semanoff for Torah reading during High Holy Days services * Marc Steinberg for bringing Larry Stineford to Rosh Hashanah services * Fern Glass Boyd for exceptional rendering of Max Bruch's Kol Nidre for cello * Miriam Hertz for singing a beautiful Kol Nidre with Scott Milner providing expert guitar accompaniment * Bob Marshall for High Holy Days wines * Nate Levto for book donations to Har Shalom's library * Mia and Elise Foster for volunteering to provide Hebrew help at Atidaynu * All the helping hands at the annual picnic/Rosh Hashanah II Kabbalat Shabbat and to the sukkah builders * Many thanks to donors to the rabbi fund, allowing us to help our members and fellow travelers * The lay service leaders, those who attended the Annual Meeting, and those who provided Oneg * Kate Soukonnikov for serving on the board for six years and the two new board members, Lisa Carter and Pat Cohen * The people who brought meals to Rhonda & Larry Stahl and Ilana McCloud & family: Robin Abeshaus, Suzanne Aboufadi, Alice Byrne, Pat Cohen, Laurie Franklin, Tzofiya Harris, Marcia Heydt, Maeta Kaplan, Sherry Kolenda, Kate Soukonnikov, Toba M. Winston.



Yahrzeits

CHESHVAN

9 (Nov 2) Harry Komisar
Melissa Porter's father
12 (Nov 5) Richard Albert Litfin
Merce Litfin Zingmark's father
17 (Nov 10) Max Marshall
Connie Campbell's father
22 (Nov 15) Christopher Tucker
Catherine Tucker's spouse
25 (Nov 18) Donald S. Brown
Ed Brown's father
29 (Nov 22) Jacob Cohen
Jack Cohen's grandfather

KISLEV

2 (Nov 24) Raphael Ben
Mordechai
Marlene Hutchins' father
3 (Nov 25) Harry Arthur Saroff
Steve Saroff's father
8 (Nov 30) Joseph Cohen
Jack Cohen's father

Donations and Tributes

We are grateful to Arnold Finklin
for his generous bequest to Har
Shalom.

High Holy Days Donations

Suzanne Aboufadi
Lisa Carter & Matthew Theil
Rachel Gooen
Paul Isaac
Mary Kaplan
Bonnie & Scott Kirsch
Joyce Latimer
Rob & Elizabeth Natelson

Capital Campaign

Aime Golda Avniel
Jack & Patricia Cohen
Stewart Dobozi
Paul & Sheehan Rosen
Rabbi Fund
Melissa Baggett
Jack & Patricia Cohen
Boris and Kate Soukonnikov
Michael & Laura Stevenson

Atidaynu and Outreach

Elise & Stephen Foster
Barry & Kathy Good

Honors and Memorials

Suzanne Aboufadi
-in Honor of Laurie Franklin
Linda & Steve Kaplan
-in Honor of Laurie Franklin for
naming of Elliott George
Silverman
Craig R. & Joan Kuchel,
-in Memory of Bluma Anne
Duboff Freed
Tampa Orlando Pinellas Jewish
Foundation
-in Honor of Dr. Matthew
Semanoff, Jessica Weltman
and Sylvie

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 harshalommmsla@gmail.com

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