

Report to Har Shalom Board from January 20 to February 16, 2021

Rabbi Laurie Franklin

Abstract

- Continuing robust program of online services and learning
- Collaboration with Holly, Bert, and Dave J for service leading, happy to include others!
- My calendar of Har Shalom activities and appointments is available to every board member, using your Har Shalom email address and password to gain access to the Har Shalom office suite.
- Active in MT legislative advocacy
- Thoughts about finances, communication plan (carried over from last month)



Services, Special Observances

- Musical Kabbalat Shabbat, once/month
- 4th Friday 4 All, once/month
- First Saturday Torah service, once/month
- Discussions with MAOR rabbis about do more joint programming
- Tu Bishvat seder on Fri Jan 29
- Memorial service Feb 14, Zachary Bloom
- Preparing Purim Megillah
- Preparing Pesach cooking session(s) and Haggadah



Sfat Synagogue

Education, Adult and Youth

- Atidaynu, Sundays, twice/month
- Bmitz Hebrew, Tuesdays weekly
- Torah study, 3 or 4 Saturdays/month
- Special Torah study with Hebrew focus, once/month
- Beit Midrash, Mondays, weekly
- Lunch with the Rabbi, Wednesdays, weekly
- Biblical Hebrew for Beginners, Wednesdays, 20-week series
- Individual learning support, weekly
- Bmitz support for Scarlett Chajet, Mar 25 dress rehearsal, Mar 27 bmitz

Har Shalom Administrative & Planning

- Weekly meet-up with Past-President Holly Kingsford/Google doc with notes
- Content for weekly
- Handwritten, personal notes for Yahrtzeit letters (monthly)
- Thoughts about retreat (attachment #1)
- Communication plan, financial plan (attachment #2)
- Coming up: Rabbi Contract Renewal Committee meets Thurs Feb 17, 4:30 pm (Holly K., Bert C., Crystal K., Dave J.)

Pastoral, Outreach, and Greater Community

- **Pastoral** (details confidential): Individual sessions, phone calls and emails, responses to requests for information, and other services, 5 to 10/week
- **Media:** Faith leader letter opposing death penalty
- **Greater Community**
 - Rattlesnake Neighbor-2-Neighbor network, monthly
 - Missoula Interfaith Collaborative Clergy meetings
 - MHRN Board: Montana Human Rights Network, hiring committee
 - Clergy group, "Truth to Power", to lobby legislature, ongoing

Attachment #1: Sample questions we might ask ourselves about vision, mission and goals

CONGREGATION HAR SHALOM VISION, MISSION AND GOAL STATEMENTS

VISION

We envision a cohesive, holy community united by Jewish values and traditions, a “makom”, a sacred space, to create meaningful Jewish life for current and future generations.

- *Are we working towards "cohesiveness"? If so, how? If not, what actions might we consider?*
- *How are we working towards holiness?*
- *How are we honoring our commitment to the youth and their families in the congregation? Are we devoting enough planning, resources and personnel to that effort?*
- *Is there anything else we should be asking ourselves about vision?*

MISSION

We will create opportunities to engage in spiritual exploration and worship, Jewish learning and culture, and the pursuit of justice.

- *Is our Zoom and limited F-2-F presence providing opportunities for people to connect with Har Shalom and find value in that connection?*
- *Are we creating opportunities in each area?*
 - *Spiritual exploration and worship*
 - *Jewish learning and culture*
 - *Pursuit of justice*
- *Is there anything else we might want to consider?*

Goal 1: Financial stability for the near-term through positive cash flow, matching grants and networking in order to achieve a cash reserve by the end of the fiscal year.

- *What progress have we made on this goal?*
- *What are our strategies for continuing progress?*

Goal 2: Increase net membership by at least five family units in 12-18 months by energizing the Membership committee and through collaboration with the rabbi.

- *What progress have we made on this goal?*
- *What are our strategies for continuing progress?*

Goal 3: Expand our educational, cultural and social justice programming during this fiscal year resulting in greater membership/volunteer engagement (measured in volunteer hours).

- *What progress have we made on this goal?*
- *What are our strategies for continuing progress?*

Attachment #2: Thoughts about Communication plan, Finances

Communication plan

Create a plan for updating web site, Facebook, using instagram account, involve volunteer or Ari?

- Policy: no emails from Constant Contact on Shabbat
- Policy: nothing new in weekly that we do not all see--all contributors must copy to all
- Policy: Use HS calendar for scheduling Zoom use, if multiple users

Finances

- Follow up for end-of-year appeal letter (in weekly, free-standing appeal, web site)
- With only a few months reserve in the bank account, seems appropriate to think about back up plans and discuss as a professional consideration with rabbi

This new month of Adar stems from
the Akkadian word *adaru*, meaning to obscure.

It is a month of obscuring reality,
of turning things on their head,
and of increasing our joy.

We learn in the Talmud,
“As soon as Adar has entered, we increase in happiness.”

What does it really mean to increase our happiness?
Perhaps the Talmud isn't instructing us to force ourselves
into a state of joy, but rather to tend to the seed or spark
of joy that is always within us.

How can we allow more room for our inner joy
to breath during this month of Adar?

Try putting some time aside each day for play,
dance, and laughter.