

Report to Har Shalom Board from August 4 to September 21, 2021

Rabbi Laurie Franklin



Abstract

- High Holidays well attended and felt good
- Atidaynu began 9/12
- Resuming Beit Midrash, Lunch with the Rabbi, Hebrew mid-October
- 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

Services and Special Observances

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|----------------------------------|---|
| -Selichot 8/28 | -Yizkor-Yom Kippur |
| -Erev Rosh Hashanah 9/6 | -Make a Local Lulav 9/20 |
| -Drive-in Shofar Service 9/7 | -Sukkah |
| -Rosh Hashanah service 9/7 | • get cornstalks 9/17 |
| -Tashlich 9/7 | • help build 9/19 |
| -Shabbat Shuva Across, MT 9/10 | -4th Friday 4 All, once/month |
| -Kol Nidre 9/15 | -First Saturday Torah service, once/month |
| -Yom Kippur Morning service 9/16 | -Musical Kabbalat Shabbat/once/month |
| -Chesbon Hanefesh 9/16 | |

Education, Adult and Youth

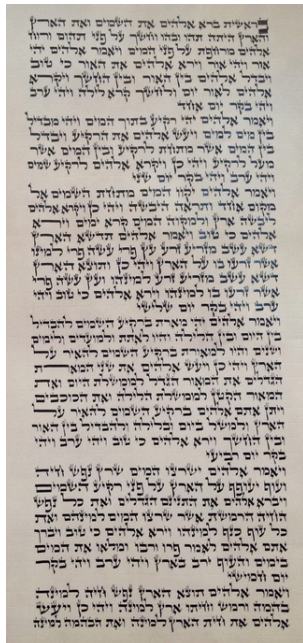
- Atidaynu, bi-monthly on Sundays, began 9/12
- Bmitz Hebrew, TBA
- Torah study, 2 to 4 ----Saturdays/month
- Special Torah study with Hebrew focus, once/month
- Beit Midrash, Mondays, weekly
- Lunch with the Rabbi, Wednesdays, weekly
- Biblical Hebrew for Beginners, Wednesdays, 20-week series, TBA
- Hebrew Cursive workshop, weekly on Wednesdays, finished 9/11

Har Shalom Administrative & Planning

- Weekly meet-up with Past-President Holly Kingsford and Dave Jolles, and sometimes Bert Chessin/Google doc with notes
- Content for weekly
- High holiday draft schedule
- Board retreat planning for 8/8
- Handwritten, personal notes for Yahrtzeit letters (monthly)
- Atidaynu planning for 2021-2022

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
- **Greater Community**
 - Rattlesnake Mutual Aid, 1x/month
 - Missoula Interfaith Collaborative Clergy meetings
 - MHRN Board: Montana Human Rights Network, hiring committee
 - Common Good Missoula, one-on one with Common Good Director Lisa Davey Aug 3
 - Missoularian Community of Faith column about High Holidays 9/4 (see column below)
 - Common Good Missoula: reminder not to schedule delegate's assembly on Yom Kippur in the future! Shared Hebcal link for Jewish Holidays calendar. (see statement below)



A journey of repentance and renewal

LAURIE FRANKLIN

Sep 4, 2021



The Jewish High Holidays are the most reflective time in the Jewish year, a time of discovery, self-correction, and reaching for oneness with God. The Jewish calendar allots ten weeks leading to the New Year to redefine our course|

and renew our spirit. Here are the road markers that guide us on this journey of transformation.

The path to the High Holidays begins with the "three weeks," the 21-day period in the Hebrew months of Tamuz and Av that leads to Tisha B'Av, the day we commemorate the destruction of both the First and Second Temples. The Ancient Israelites experienced the Temple sacrificial rituals as their direct path to God. In absence of the Temple, they sat in sackcloth and ashes, mourning their loss of connection to the Divine. Out of the ashes of the Second Temple, our great Sages built a new Judaism, based on prayer and Torah, that enabled the Jewish tradition to continue.

Next, we rise from the destruction of the Temples to the new month of Elul, a time the rabbis say, "The King is in the field." In Elul, Divine presence is immanent, close to us. The King has stepped out of the castle into our everyday lives, accessible, as near as breath. It is up to us to respond in return, to reach for the holiness that is so close. In Elul, we hear the call of the shofar daily to awaken our minds and spirit, and we recite Psalm 27, whose 4th verse says,

"Only one thing do I ask of You, Yah,

Just this alone do I seek:

I want to be at home with You, Yah,

All the days of my life."

At the end of Elul, we engage in Selichot, a service of prayers in which we apologize to the Divine for our shortcomings and ask for forgiveness.

When Elul ends, we arrive at Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, the first day of the month of Tishrei. On Rosh Hashanah, we say, "Today, the world was born!" and celebrate with 100 blasts of the shofar! We wish each other a sweet

and happy year ahead and eat celebratory meals, dipping apples in honey to signify the possibility of good things to come. On Rosh Hashanah, we celebrate the miracle of Creation and cultivate hope.

As the taste of honey fades, we turn our thoughts to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. In the ten-day period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we crystallize our Elul reflections by taking stock of those to whom we need to apologize for hurtful things we have done in the last year, and we make those apologies. Jewish tradition teaches that we apologize to God for transgressions against the Divine, but we must also seek forgiveness for acts we have committed toward another person. We may also find that others come to us seeking our forgiveness, so we prepare to be compassionate and forgiving. In this human exchange, we mirror Divine compassion, accepting each other's imperfections and wrongdoings and summoning forgiveness. Yom Kippur, a long day of fasting and prayer, helps us sort out what we must do and get it done. At the end of this journey of repentance and return, we feel relief, renewal and a sense of peace.

Rabbi Laurie Franklin is the spiritual leader of Congregation Har Shalom, Missoula. She can be reached at rabbilaurie@har-shalom.org.

Har Shalom's observances

Due to the current resurgence of COVID-19, Har Shalom is observing the High Holidays with a largely online format. The schedule is available at har-shalom.org

STATEMENT TO COMMON GOOD MISSOULA Erev Yom Kippur 5782/2021

Dear Friends and Friends-to-be,

I'm speaking to you as the spiritual leader of Har Shalom. I am excited about this Common Good Missoula delegates assembly tonight. The collective energy here is powerful, and the possibility of positive change-making in Missoula is greater because of it. I'm not with you this particular evening because it is also Erev Yom Kippur, the first hours of the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, which begins as the sun sets tonight.

Although it's unfortunate that this meeting was scheduled this evening, and I could not, in good conscience, recruit a team to attend, it's also fitting in one important way. During the Days of Awe, also known as the High Holiday, we re-assess our actions of the past year and renew our commitment to our highest selves and our highest ideals. Common Good Missoula stands for all the values we care about: supporting each other as we navigate difficult circumstances, working toward societal, systemic approaches to end poverty and environmental degradation, and promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity.

So, please carry on this evening knowing that your work is critical to the repair of the world, and Har Shalom is committed to being present and collaborating on this work when it's not Yom Kippur!

L'shalom--to Peace,

Rabbi Laurie Franklin