



Har Shalom

P.O. BOX 7581, MISSOULA, MT 59807 HOTLINE 406.549.9595
WWW.HAR-SHALOM.ORG
STUDENT RABBI RACHEL ACKERMAN ACKERMAN.RACHEL@GMAIL.COM

May–Jun '08

From Rachael Ackerman, Har Shalom's student rabbi

Dear Congregation Har Shalom,

After nearly two years and 20 visits, my internship with Har Shalom is coming to an end. This ending is a bittersweet one for me. I am sad to be leaving this community who has welcomed me with warm and open arms, and at the same time I am excited to enter the next step of my rabbinic education, serving as an education intern at Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles, CA.

Prior to my first Rosh Hashanah visit, my second visit to Missoula, I met with the dean of my program, Rabbi Richard Levy. We talked about the services I would be leading and about what the weekend would be like in general. He asked me how I was feeling, and I told him that I felt like there was so much to do and so little time to do it, not to mention that I was terrified to lead a full-weekend of High Holiday Services when I was so used to being a participant. He reassured me that everything would eventually fall into place and that these senses of being overwhelmed and in complete awe of the situation are exactly what the High Holiday preparations are about.

And he was right. I was frantic in the days leading up to Rosh Hashanah until the moment I stepped off the plane in the Missoula International Airport. I walked outside, took a deep breath and felt at ease.

This pattern of feeling overwhelmed and then at ease is one that has followed me to each and every visit. The overwhelmed part of me prepares for services, text studies, Saturday evening programs, sermons, Atidaynu, B'nei Mitzvah tutoring, and so forth, hoping to provide you all with excellence. The part of me that feels at ease when I step off the plane is the part of me that knows that you will openly accept my best efforts, even though they are inevitably imperfect. I have been blessed these past two years with your understanding, your support in my growth, your constructive critiques, and your appreciation. Because of this support I have grown immeasurably I will forever be indebted to you.

In Talmud, Tractate Ta'anit 7a, Rabbi Chanina says, "I have learned much from my teachers, and even more from my peers, but I have learned most of all from my students."

Over the past two years I have learned much in my classes at school, I have learned much from my friends and their experiences, but what I have learned from all of you has taught me more about what it means to become a rabbi than any of my other experiences thus far in my education.

I can only hope that this sentiment is reciprocal. The liminal role of a rabbinical student has put me in the position of serving both as a rabbi and as a student, and as your student I can only hope that I have imparted half as much wisdom onto you that you have given to me.

In the Hebrew language there is no word for goodbye. When you part ways with someone you say, "Shalom," "peace," or "Lhitraot," "See you later." You never part ways with anyone in permanence. Therefore, I will not be saying goodbye to you, in part because what you have given me will always be with me, and in part because I look forward to crossing paths with you again in the future.

I wish you the best in the upcoming years.

*Shalom and Lhitraot,
Rachel Ackerman*

An Invitation

We invite the congregation to help us celebrate Har Shalom's first Bat Mitzvah in our own building! Hanna Smith will be a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m. Kiddush will follow. RSVP by May 3 to Lynne Robin and Mike Smith at 961-4277 or mtvet@cybernet1.com so that adequate food can be provided.

Announcements

- *Mazel Tov* to Trudy Pratt on becoming a grandmother. Her son, Aaron Green, had a baby boy on Feb. 26, named Ashur Jaxom Green, and the same to Grandfather Scott Green.
- *Condolences* to Lynne Robin and family on the recent death of her mother.

Todah rabah

Members of the Adult Hebrew Class who readied the synagogue for our Passover Seder, Kathy Good for her unwavering willingness to do just about anything, the Passover committee, Elizabeth Howard, Carolyn Goren, Adair Kanter, Kathy Good, Candy Miller, Kathy Witkowsky and Maeta Kaplan, Sheehan Rosen for organizing our Summer Camp again, Suzanne Aboufadel and Bert Chessin for organizing the Israel Fair, Laurie Franklin for her leadership of the ritual team, Skip Kahane for his work on our sound system, Bob Jaffe, Susan Reed, Jackie Cohen, Bert Chessin for their work together on our fundraising.

The Har Shalom newsletter is written and edited entirely by volunteer members of the congregation. You'll see a variety of writing styles, probably catch a few errors and sadly sometimes find some omissions. The purpose of the newsletter to keep you informed. With that in mind, your articles and suggestions are always welcome. Deadline for the following month is the 15th. We are DESPERATELY seeking folks to help gather articles. If you've always had a yen to wear a press pass, now's your chance. No fancy computer skills are needed. Contact Maeta for more info.

Board	President: Maeta Kaplan, 543-4322	Barry Good, 541-0528
of	Vice President: David Jolles, 549-3656	Larry Stahl, 493-6190
Directors	Secretary: Bert Chessin, 531-5193	Ty Brennan, 626-4479
	Treasurer: Bob Jaffe, 406-728-1052	

Send news, events, or letters to maetadan@hotmail.com. Newsletters publish after Board meetings.

Shalom to student rabbi Rachel Ackerman

by Maeta Kaplan

Has it really been two years since Rachel first led us in worship? On the one hand it seems like yesterday, but on the other hand so much has happened it's hard to believe it's been such a short time. Two years ago we first met Rachel at a service at the community center of the University Housing complex. She led our High Holy Day services at the Congregational Church and each month found us all guessing where we'd land next. Now we welcome her every month to our own wonderful space. She's taught several B'nei Mitzvah students, helped us through life-cycle events, celebrated holidays and festivals with us, conducted our first Passover Seder "at home," brought us rich commentary and always provocative discussion questions.

It is the nature of the student rabbi program; a congregation is lucky to enjoy two years with the same person, and we feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to grow together with Rachel. Her next year brings new challenges and a new congregation. Our next year will bring us a new student rabbi. It will bring us another year to examine our relationship with our spiritual leader and to continue to identify who we are and what we need for our congregation.

On behalf of the board and the congregation I want to use this newsletter to thank Rachel for the many gifts she has brought us: for her passion about education, for her rich understanding of the tradition and the texts of Judaism, for her flexibility, for the versatility of her programs and for all that she has shared with us each personally. Friday, May 9th will be Rachel's last Shabbat service with us and I encourage you to join us for the service and potluck. Whether you're part of the growing "regular" Friday crowd, or only an occasional attendee, please stop by that night for a celebration and farewell to student rabbi Rachel Ackerman. Services begin at 6 and we usually start dinner about 7:15. Remember, as always, you are welcome for all or part of the evening.

What's in a Hebrew name?

On Friday, May 9, please join us for a special Shabbat service where we will be giving Hebrew names to children (and adults) in our community who do not have one. Many Jewish people have a Hebrew name. It is the name that is used when people are called up to the Torah for an aliyah and a name used for those who are sick. A Hebrew name can be picked by one's parents or oneself (or by the student rabbi if you would like some help). Often Hebrew names are the Hebrew equivalent of one's English name. In Ashekezik (Jews from Eastern Europe) tradition it is customary to have one's name be after someone who has passed away. If you would like for you or your child to receive a Hebrew name, please email Rachel at ackerman.rachel@gmail.com and let her know what name you choose or if you need help picking one out. For a Hebrew name we also need one's parents' Hebrew names (if there is a non-Jewish parent, the English name works great). Everyone who will receive a name this evening will also get a certificate with his/her Hebrew name written on it. Please contact Rachel no later than May 5, if you would like to participate in this ceremony.

Israel Fair, Soul Train returns to Missoula! Thursday, May 8, 5–8 p.m.

Join us on Thursday, May 8, when our friends from Soul Train come to Missoula, to celebrate Israeli arts and culture. This year their visit happens to coincide with the 60th anniversary of Israel's statehood, so we will have a short ceremony in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaot (Israeli Independence Day).

We will be welcoming Hedva Ehud, presenting Israeli dances and art; Odeya Lieberman, a music program; Ofer Goren, mime; and Einat Kapach, a film maker who is returning to Missoula for her third visit. It will be a lively program, with games, arts and crafts, and a series of performances changing every half hour. The program is tentatively scheduled to run from 5 – 8:00 p.m.; feel free to drop in for any part of the program. Bagels and cream cheese will be available to quell the munchies. This is truly a family event, and open to the community, so tell your friends, and bring the children.

We still need some volunteers to help with set-up, clean up and hospitality for our Israeli guests. Contact Bert Chessin, 531-5193 if you'd like to help out.

Israel's "Soul Train" Summer Camp

As the school year winds down, we are excited to announce that we will have another Jewish Summer Camp presented by Soul Train! August 4–8. Two Israeli teachers will come to Har Shalom to share their love of Judaism with the kids.

Last year was a huge success! Activities included crafts, songs and stories about holidays, Israel, Torah, modern Hebrew and folk tales. We went on hikes, played new games and went swimming.

This year should be just as fun and exciting. Camp is offered as a full day from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. for ages 5-13. Extended-care hours may be offered if there is enough interest. Registration for members will be \$125 for 1 child, \$100 for each additional child; non-members will pay \$200 per child. All "campers" will bring a "kosher style" sack lunch. For more info, contact Sheehan at 642-6527.

Aytidaynu News

by Sheehan Rosen

It is hard to believe that we are almost done with another year of school. The children in Aytidaynu have had a great time learning Hebrew, exploring Jewish religion and tradition, meeting new friends, celebrating Holidays together, and watching our B'nei Mitzvah come up to the Bimah. As we look forward to next year, we find once again a need for enthusiastic members to teach classes pre-K through Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We continue to use the Union for Reform Judaism's CHAI curriculum and their self-paced Hebrew program, Mitkadem, as the basis of our programs, but supplementary materials are encouraged. A modest stipend is offered for all teaching positions. If you have ever considered passing on Jewish history, values and language studies to the children of our community, now is the time to step up. Time commitment is minimal, the rewards are immeasurable. Call Sheehan Ednie-Rosen at 642-6527 for more information.

A letter to the women of Har Shalom

By Sherry Kolenda

When I arrived in Missoula 18 months ago, I knew that one important way in which I would feel more at home here was to make a connection with women. I also knew that a connection with the Jewish community here was another essential component. After expressing these thoughts on my membership application to join Har Shalom, Maeta called and suggested leading a Rosh Chodesh group. I didn't even know what the term meant. After meeting with Maeta and Rhianne, it was clear that leading this group would be a way to incorporate both elements into my life and provide myself with a way to learn about our culture as Jewish women.

Rhianne and I started in co-leading Rosh Chodesh in December and, as I suspected, the experience has been one of learning, bonding, growing and generally coming away feeling filled up. The last meeting was in March and I was there, along with Maeta and Suzanne. The three of us had a lovely evening, sharing feelings and experiences as they related to our theme for Adar II, the story of Esther. Before preparing for the April meeting, however, Maeta suggested, and I agreed, that we contact women and see who was planning to attend, as it was becoming apparent that for many of us, committing to the time each month was not necessarily an easy thing.

I've so enjoyed the experience of Rosh Chodesh, as well as meeting some of us one-on-one and would love to continue leading the group (Rhianne has left the area...so it's only me at this point). However, I would really like to know who amongst us is truly interested in joining together once a month for what has proven to be a fulfilling, heart-felt and growing experience.

Please contact me at 251-7996 (home) or 544-5677 (cell), skolenda@gmail.com, so I know whether to plan our next meeting on May 5th.

I hope to hear from many of you.



And for the men of Har Shalom

Great news. The Temple Brotherhood is being formed. No firm plans are in place yet, so this is the time to make your voice heard, what would you like this group to become? How can it meet your needs, and the needs of Har Shalom? All men who are interested in joining or need more information should contact Barry Good at 541-0528.

Ritual Team to launch documentation and preservation projects

by Laurie Franklin

Do you know where our Torah comes from? Who designed the large, colorful canvas that hangs in our sanctuary? And why are there penciled notes inside my siddur (prayer book)?

Please come to the next Ritual Team meeting, Sunday, June 1, at 10 a.m., if you have an interest in documenting our ritual objects or preserving our siddurs! We are about to begin the process of gathering the histories of the Torah and its accessories, the ark, and other ritual items so their history becomes part of our collective memory and is preserved in a Har Shalom archive. If you think you might enjoy interviewing people to collect facts or writing brief historical descriptions from your or others' notes, this is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the ritual items of our congregation and record their stories; no prior experience is required!

Also, we need to protect our siddurs from wear and tear by either making or buying protective covers, reinforcing bindings, and erasing penciled notes on the siddur pages. We will, as a group, brainstorm about the book cover solution and enact it together—no doubt—while singing, discussing philosophy and partaking of refreshments.

So, come all ye who are game for a new variety of Ritual Team activity. All ages are welcome. Please call or email Laurie Franklin if you have any questions (543-6995, rossfranklin@msn.com).

From the Tikkun Olam Committee

by Suzane Aboufaddl

Har Shalom recycling:

By Thursday, April 17, we will have recycling bins in place in the kitchen area. The staff of Garden City Montessori has invited us to add our recycle-able items to theirs, and they will schedule monthly pickups by Missoula Valley Recycling.

Food Bank: One of the projects suggested by the Missoula Food Bank is collecting items for personal care kits (razors, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.) Committee members have already collected some of these items and welcome others to bring more of them to Har Shalom. The Food Bank staff suggest placing them in shaving kits or shower bags, or wrapping them in hand towels or gift bags because extra touches such as these can brighten someone's day. For more information on this, call Carolyn Goren (544-1060) or Pat Cohen (543-4409).

Yahrzeits

The Yahrzeit is the anniversary of a loved one's death according to the Hebrew calendar. The civil date varies from year to year. The Hebrew date is listed first, followed by the current year's civil date in parentheses. Yahrzeit candles should be lit the evening before the date specified. This is because the Jewish day actually begins at sundown on the previous night.

Iyyar

17 (5/22) Meyer Tuchinsky (Toba and Laura Winston's father/grandfather)

Sivan

18 (6/21) Gloria Belsky
(Jill Belsky's mother)

18 (6/21) Belle Zamosky
(Roslyn Chaitoff's mother)

19 (6/22) Al Rosenthal

22 (6/25) Dora Frankel Gross
(Barb Gross' mother)

2007-08 EVENT CALENDAR

Events with * denote they include student Rabbi Rachel Ackerman
Please note we hold weekly Shabbat Services at 6 p.m. A vegetarian potluck follows approximately once a month and always when the student rabbi is in town.

All events, unless otherwise noted, are at Congregation Har Shalom, 3035 S. Russell

student rabbi appointments:
Call or e-mail student rabbi Rachel Ackerman:
ackerman.rachel@gmail.com, 310-429-5419.

Thursday, 5/22 – 7 p.m. Tikkun Olam Committee (tentative)
Friday, 5/23 – 6 p.m. Shabbat and L'Ag B'Omer Service, family-centered and child-friendly, followed by Kiddush (no potluck)
Friday, 5/30 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)

May

Saturdays, 5/3, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31 – 10 a.m., Torah Study
Friday, 5/2 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (no potluck)
Monday, 5/5 – 7-9 p.m. Rosh Chodesh, please RSVP to Sherry by April 30 (see article)
Thursday, 5/8 – 5 – 8 p.m. Israel Independence Day Celebration with members of Israel's Soul Train (see article)
* Friday, 5/9 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service with Rachel (see article about naming ceremony) 7:15 p.m. – Vegetarian potluck.
*Saturday, 5/10 – 10 a.m. Torah Service, Bat Mitzvah of Hanna Smith (all are invited)
Sunday 5/11 – 10 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Atidaynu Religious School
Tuesday, 5/13 – 6-8 p.m. Har Shalom Board Meeting (note 1/2 hour earlier)
Friday, 5/16 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service, led by our Adult Hebrew Class followed by Kiddush (no potluck)

June

Saturdays, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28 – 10 a.m., Torah Study
Fridays, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20 (Family service) 6/27 – 6 p.m. Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush (potluck on 6/20 only)
Sunday, 6/1 – 10 a.m., Ritual Team Meeting
Monday, 6/9 – 7-9 p.m. Shavuot Celebration and welcoming the new moon. Join us for a celebration and cheesecake! All are welcome for this combination Rosh Chodesh and community event. Watch for details by email updates
Tuesday, 6/10 – 6-8 p.m. Har Shalom Board Meeting
Thursday, 6/19 – 7 p.m. Tikkun Olam committee (tentative)
Friday, 6/20 – 6 p.m. Family Friendly Shabbat Service followed by vegetarian potluck
June 27-29, 2008 MAJCO Shabbaton in Bozeman.
It is unlikely that we will hold any events in Missoula during that time. Registration materials are available at the synagogue or at our website.

We extend a very happy and healthy birthday to: May

2 Haley Green
9 Deborah Natelson
12 Alice Byrne
12 Jessie Howard
16 Michael Hollin
18 Susanne Woyciechowicz
19 Jeb Rosen
19 Zeba Etminan-Rad
20 Dori Gilels

22 Matthew Miller
22 Alex F. Schuldberg
24 Arthur Stevens
24 Leslie Meyer
25 Arthur Gorov
26 Bob Jaffe
27 Logan Wilder
28 Richard Goldberg
28 Anne Getzenberg

June

1 Leland Earls
1 Larke G. Schuldberg
1 Lauren Varney

2 Courtney Lotto
5 Sigrun Kuetner
6 Kathryn Witkowsky
10 Isaac Brooks Smith (Melinda Robin's son)
11 Miriam Kurinsky
17 Max Siebert
21 Josh Hollin
25 Joy Earls
25 Ethan Howard
26 Hannah Maile Smith
29 Michael Vergeront (Heather Licht's son)

30 Ed Brown
25 Maxine Stahl
28 Micah Jaffe
30 Robin Hollin
30 Margaret Kress

If your birthday is missing from this list, or a Yahrzeit of a family member is missing from the next list, it is because we do not have your info. If you wish a birthday greeting or a Yahrzeit remembered, please send us the info and we will be more than happy to include it in the newsletter. Call or email Beth Jaffe at 728-1052 or beth@cedarmountainsoftware.com



Har Shalom

P.O. BOX 7581, MISSOULA, MONTANA 59807

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MISSOULA, MT 59801
PERMIT NO. 569