

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *by Bert Chessin*

Dealing with the Finances

One reality of serving on the Har Shalom board is the inordinate effort and time that are spent by many of us, to keep us in our building. We are growing in the breadth and depth of our efforts to create a solid Jewish institution in Missoula. Part of this growth is the effort by the board and others to put a doable development plan in place so that we are a more financially stable and thriving institution. We are thinking about membership and financial commitments. What follows are three sections that address various pieces of our financial situation, now and in the future.

Capital campaign

We are in our active period of fundraising this summer; but this is only one phase of our efforts. Over the past months we have put together a development plan to put Har Shalom on a more solid financial footing. This plan stands on three legs, representing a range of time-frames and targets of financial efforts.

The first leg is that of building a cadre of sustainers who will help us meet our annual obligation to repay the bank and individuals who lent us money to finance our building. Sustainers are those who are making financial commitments this year but are also pledging a level of support for the next several years. We celebrated our first house party on June 10, hosted by David Aronofsky. The Har Shalom Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Har Shalom has received to date a total of ten pledges in the amount of \$72,500 to be paid over two to ten years. This is a strong indication that individuals and families are stepping forward. A letter will be sent soon to the congregation and wider community announcing this effort and asking for commitments to sustain our Har Shalom.

The second leg is designed to reduce the needs of annual commitments on loans and to strengthen our position with the bank. In the future, this will help reduce our loan's interest rate and stabilize our cash flow and administrative demands. We have set a goal of raising \$300,000 to reduce the principal on our loans. Individuals and families are being approached to pledge gifts to Har Shalom to be paid over the next 5 years. We are hopeful that our dreams are realistic, on the basis of discussions with experts from the Reform movement. Our efforts in principal reduction have already born fruit and we have identified people who will be approached over the next few months.

Finally, we are planting seeds for the long-term goal of outright ownership of the building that houses Har Shalom. Individuals are encouraged to approach families, friends, and foundations about the need to sustain a thriving Jewish community here in the greater Missoula area. As we look forward to the day when our collective energies are directed to education, wide-ranging programs, and spiritual creativity, and not toward fund raising, we take the view that we cannot set an amount or timeframe for getting to that place. We know we need to continue to tell the story of Har Shalom, past, present, and future.

Membership

We are thinking about what it means to be a member. Given our need to be financially viable, we are asking households to make a financial commitment to our operations. Our capital needs and development plan have been outlined above; that plan is directed toward strengthening our ability to pay for the building. We also need to have the ability to pay for our employees, utilities, insurance, holiday celebrations, and support our services. Providing for

(continued on next page)

Board of Directors
President: Bert Chessin, 531-5193
Vice President: Sherry Kolenda, 251-7996
Treasurer: David Jolles, 728-3344
Secretary: Kate Soukonnikov, 549-0503

Members at Large:
Alex Fradkin, 549-2364
Marlene Hutchins, 721-2425
Holly Kingsford, 207-2078
Toba Winston, 777-3100

Atidaynu* News

by Sheehan Rosen

(Stay tuned; we are taking a summer break.)

**Atidaynu means "our future."*

Upcoming Bat Mitzvahs: June 23 and August 4

Hannah Fradkin will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 23, at 11 a.m. at Har Shalom. Alex Fradkin and Naomi Lichtenberg invite the community to celebrate with them as Hannah Fradkin is called to Torah. An Oneg luncheon will be hosted by Alex and Naomi. Alex has requested that you email him if you intend to attend so they can plan accordingly. Please contact Alex at alfrad3@gmail.com.

Elaina Wozniak Bendremer will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, August 4, at 11 a.m. at Har Shalom. Jeff Bendremer and Danielle Wozniak invite the Har Shalom community to celebrate this special occasion.

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

Next deadline: August 17 for Sep/ Oct Issue

these needs is the core of membership commitment. We have raised the suggested amount for the annual membership commitment in the past, but not this year. If there are changes in membership commitments in the future, it will be toward a restructured formula, more of a fair-share plan. Of course, no one will be turned away from membership on the basis of their financial situation, but we also want to be a congregation that lives by our core values. Expect to see a letter soon about renewing your membership commitments.

Projected Budget

June is the month when our budget is put together. Over the past few years, we have been successful in developing realistic budgets that reflect income and expenses. This coming fiscal year will throw a few curves at us, given a more varied mix of rabbis, scholars, and programs that have been on the calendar in the recent past, and the increasing need for administrative support for our operations. We will continue to be as careful with our money as possible and will continue to build community through a healthy mix of paid and volunteer efforts. We have been blessed with the generosity of Rabbi Whiman and others for the coming year, so we don't anticipate a larger budget for this upcoming year, just a remix of where money is spent.

Thank you all for your consideration of time and money. Please call or email me with questions, thoughts, or concerns at 406.531-5193 or bchessin@aol.com.

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

As I write this, I am in the midst of the last few weeks of preparation before I leave for a year of study at Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. It's a whirlwind! I'm tying up loose ends, finishing projects, and recycling years of no-longer-useful papers, books and clothes.

I have great hopes for the next year, both for Har Shalom and myself. At Har Shalom, the new Ruach Team is creatively taking on the work of service planning and learning about liturgy and its associated music. This is a dream-come-true! Meanwhile, the board is working toward establishing a strong, functional leadership model for our community. Also, we eagerly anticipate five visits by Rabbi David Whiman during the coming year.

For myself, I expect a rich year of learning and new experiences. Even though I will be physically removed from Missoula, I will stay in touch. I'll blog on the Har Shalom web site regularly about the sights, sounds, happenings of my year away, and I will also work on an important Har Shalom project: creating "caring community" infrastructure (see urj.org/life/community/). And I'll be available via Skype for conversations and consultations.

When I return in June 2013, I anticipate that both Har Shalom and I will have gained invaluable experience and knowledge. I am grateful to everyone who is pitching in to help make a smooth transition, and I thank the Holy Blessed One for this singular opportunity. Next year in Jerusalem!

"Worlds Apart But Not Strangers" seminar returns to Har Shalom

Har Shalom again welcomes the "Worlds Apart But Not Strangers" seminar July 25 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and at services July 27. The workshop is a program for elementary and high school teachers in Montana to learn about the history and culture of both Jewish and Native American peoples so they can bring their rich stories to their students. The seminar covers both the joy and sorrows of both peoples' history. Har Shalom members are welcome at both events, to be held at the synagogue.

Laurie Franklin's Bon Voyage Party

Sun., Jun. 24, 2 p.m. at Har Shalom

Come and join us in wishing our beloved Student (soon to be *Ordained*) Rabbi as she heads off for the Promised Land. She *promises* to come back! This will be a cookout (weather permitting) in the Har Shalom Garden. Food will be provided but bring drinks of your choice.

Introducing Alex Fradkin

The Har Shalom Board of Directors welcome a new member, Alex Fradkin! Alex arrived in Missoula in 1988. He is originally from Brooklyn, NYC. He attended Cantorial program at Chaim Nachman Bialik Hebrew School in New York City. He has a bachelor's degree from the U of M in English/Public Administration. Alex has been employed by the U of M Office of Public Safety for 14 years. He is currently the Lock Shop Foreman. He also has his own business, Al's Lock and Safe, providing commercial and residential security. (10% discount to Har Shalom members, with a 10% tithe back to the shul.) Alex has two great kids, Hannah and Alora, and a wonderful girl friend, Naomi Lichtenberg! Alex enjoys fishing, hiking, camping, fellowship, and get this, he plays the harmonica!

Celebration of Summer Fundraiser

for Har Shalom, Tues., June 26, 6 to 8:30 p.m. at The Loft.

Arbonne International products for everyone and one-of-a-kind vintage costume jewelry from the 1920s to the 1980s. They are gluten free, won't wilt or die, non-fattening, and guaranteed to please! Everyone is invited to The Loft at 110 West Main Street, Missoula.

Har Shalom Summer Camp

Summer Camp takes place August 13–17 at Har Shalom. We are joined by Tamar and Rachel from Israel; both are excited to explore Jewish worlds with our children. Arts and crafts, games, learning Hebrew, and Israeli experiences will all be part of the week's experiences. Each day begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m., with possible extended hours if needed. Snacks will be provided, but lunches need to be sent with the camp attendee. Look for an email soon with the registration form for summer camp.

Annual Picnic, Sunday, August 26: Meet Rabbi David Whiman!

Our annual picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 26, beginning at 1 p.m. and lasting the afternoon. Rabbi David Whiman, who will be visiting us five times during the year 5773, will lead a service Saturday morning, August 25, and then have a chance to get to know us better at the picnic. Har Shalom will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, buns and soft drinks. Please bring a salad, chips or dessert to share and any other beverage you desire. We plan to set up a waterslide for the kids and have chalk drawing too. If the weather is inclement, we will be indoors in the shul. See you all there!

High Holy Days

This year, the month of Elul runs from August 19 to September 16. Elul is a time of repentance in preparation for the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Tradition teaches that the month of Elul is a particularly propitious time for repentance. This mood of repentance builds through the month of Elul to the period of Selichot, to Rosh Hashanah, and finally to Yom Kippur. This year we will observe Selichot with a candlelight service and study together Saturday evening, September 8, from 10 p.m. to midnight. High Holy Days begin September 16 with Erev Rosh Hashana. Please see below and the attached September calendar for the full calendar of events.

The HHD schedule though Sukkot celebration

Friday, Sept 14 Home dinners, no service

Saturday, Sept 15 Torah Study 9–11 a.m.; Torah Service 11 a.m. with Oneg to follow

Sunday, Sept 16 Erev Rosh Hashana service begins at 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept 17 Children's service at 9 a.m., with the Community Service at 10 a.m.
New Year's apple and honey pot-luck luncheon; Tashlik to follow

Friday Sept. 21 Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 22 Torah Study 9–11 a.m.; Shabbat Shuva service 11 a.m., Oneg follows

Tuesday, Sept 25 Kol Nidre service begins at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 26 Yom Kippur service (*see upcoming September/October newsletter and weeklies for exact times of children and community services*)

Friday, Sept. 28 Lay-led Kabbalat Service at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 29 Torah Study 10–noon

Sunday, Sept. 30 Erev Sukkot, set up sukkah with service, potluck dinner with music

Shabbaton in Billings date change to Oct. 19–21

We invite you to share community, prayer and Torah Restoration. The date for the Shabbaton has changed so that we can accommodate the visit of Sofer Neil Yerman. As a "Sofer" Neil scribes and repairs Torah and will provide a unique education as well as an opportunity for participants to scribe a letter. <http://neilyerman.com/>

SUMMER DAYS by Rabbi David Whiman

Henry James wrote, "The two most beautiful words in the English language are *summer afternoon*." I would agree, with the addition of the phrase *on vacation*. For what real pleasure can there be in a glorious summer day if you cannot go out in it, if you can only view it

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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.

TAMUZ

9 (June 29) Flora Cohen
Jack Cohen's grandmother

16 (July 6) Samuel Nashel
Elizabeth Howard's grandfather

22 (July 12) Irving I. Schulberg
David Schulberg's father

AV

5 (July 24) Dorothy Cohen Martin
Marilyn Dayries' mother

11 (July 30) Betty Ann Schreibman
Sheryl Alexander's mother

16 (August 4) Barbara Goren
Carolyn Goren's sister

18 (August 6) Hank Butzel
Har Shalom community member

19 (August 7) Dora Spector
Ellen Silverglat's mother

21 (August 9) Morris L. Goren
Carolyn Goren's father

21 (August 9) Averil Sherman
Suzanne Aboulfadl's mother

Jewish Haiku

Deep inside you are
ten thousand flowers.
Each flower blossoms
ten thousand times.
Each blossom has
ten thousand petals.

You might want to see a specialist.

through the office window or see it reverse reflected in the sad blue-green glow of your computer screen? Summer afternoons are delicious. They are meant to be savored. We are meant to luxuriate in them. They are a foretaste of Paradise.

I do not know about the good folks of Montana, but my local paper, *The New York Times*, reported recently that an increasing number of Americans would rather give up their vacation days than absent themselves from the workplace. In this case there are no cruel Dickensian bosses or heartless company policies to blame. This is something they are doing to themselves.

For whatever the reasons—and there could be many—ambition, fear of being fired, a sense of indispensability, self imposed getaway guilt—increasingly, Americans seem incapable of enjoying or taking a vacation. A recent study showed that more than one-third of employees did not plan on using the full vacation time due them.

Work is good. It's a mitzvah to make a living. It's a commandment to provide for your family and to see to the financial needs and wellbeing of others. But it is also a commandment to take care of yourself, to rest and to be refreshed. In the Bible, the land, the soil, the dirt got to rest. Could the Good Lord have wanted anything less for you and me?

For the last 24 years I have vacationed on Cape Cod, in the same town, and in the same house. Why do I return year after year? Because the place feeds my soul. Because the high dunes and scrub pines, the colonial houses and white steepled churches reflect a landscape of time-tested serenity. Because the ocean and bay are less than a mile apart and you can watch the sun come up and go down over water. Because my Cape Cod surroundings not only refresh, they instruct. I love the place not only for its ever-changing natural beauty but also for its low key lessons in exalted living, though the schooling is subtle, unobtrusive, discreet and sometimes easy to miss. My town has a moral curriculum, and its premiere one room school-house—Cape Cod's biggest and best Flea Market at the Wellfleet Drive-In Theatre.

I am an inveterate collector, and at the Flea Market, there are a lot of things to any of those who would collect. Quilts. Dressers. The hand-tools that produced them, to name just a few. Croquet balls, clocks, furniture. There are also photographs, diplomas, postcards, stock certificates, movie posters, tickets and trade cards—a category of collectable called ephemera—objects that were produced but not necessarily meant to last or to be retained. The word derives from the Greek meaning “of things lasting no more than a day.” There is a verse in the Hebrew Psalms *gaz cheesh v'naufah*: Our days are like the grass, they are speedily gone, they fly away.

There is a poignant quality to the light and the season in Wellfleet. There is also a sad sweet sense of slipping away. Because life in a summer resort is continually informed by the sure knowledge that summers do not last. Emily Dickenson wrote: The seasons flit.

In a way, my every acquisition at the flea market is also a testament to the evanescent quality of human life. We are here but for a moment, and then we—like those who sat so patiently over their patchwork quilts or who posed so stoically before the lenses of large lumbering cameras—we, like those who walked before us, pass into the shadow. And then someone else will get the croquet ball collection, or the photographs or the hooked rugs and antique tools—our hard won testaments to the work of our hands.

And that brings me back to where I began—to the workaholics and the sabbatically challenged among us. To those reluctant souls who feel that they cannot rest, who feel they can not enjoy, that they cannot take a break, who feel that they are indispensable at work—if I am describing you then I say that every item offered up at a flea market is witness to the transient nature of human productivity and acquisition. Our days are numbered. Our time is brief. Life is too short not to take time, to appreciate the opportunities we have to truly savor time.

The rabbis say that in the world to come, the Good Lord will hold us accountable for every legitimate pleasure we denied ourselves in this world because those pleasures were God's great gifts for us to enjoy. Vacation—rest—is a command and a gift, a gift made more precious by the urgency of time. To you I say, Please go away. And I look forward to meeting you in August.

Rabbi Whiman's transportation needs

If anyone in the congregation can spare a car during one or more of Rabbi Whiman's visits, please email info@har-shalom.org or call Kate Soukonnikov at 549-0503. We are not looking for anything fancy, just a reliable auto he can use during his work with us. Thank you!

Today rabah (*thank you so much*) to:

Ray and Sue Risho for providing a wonderful raffle dinner; **Emily Darling** and **Sherry Kolenda** for providing kitchen help. We raised over \$2000 through their work. **Marc Steinberg**, **Marie Morris**, **Holly Kingsford**, **Kathy Witkowsky**, and **Jonathan Gray** for bringing Onegs to services. **David Aronofsky** for hosting our first House Party capital campaign fund raiser with **Bob Marshall** providing the food. Both Bob Marshall and **Richard Kolenda** volunteered their time and expertise in preparing and serving the food. It was wonderful! **YMCA** for graciously providing showers for the Hazon USA riders.

Looking forward to Rabbi David Whiman!

Rabbi Whiman will be with us for five visits this upcoming year. His schedule is as follows:

August 23–27 for the Annual Picnic

September 13–27 High Holy Days

December 6–17 Chanukah

February 21–March 4 (or 5) Purim

May 16–27 (28) B'nei Mitzvot

(Howard and Licht Families)

If you would like to schedule an appointment with Rabbi Whiman during his time in Missoula, please email info@har-shalom.org or call Kate Soukonnikov at 406.549-0503.

Amazing Ruach *by Kate Soukonnikov*

One amazing opportunity and mitzvah that comes from Laurie Franklin studying in Israel is keeping the synagogue alive with ruach while she is gone. Ruach, from Hebrew, means wind, air, breath, and spirit. Ruach Ha’Kadosh means divine spirit.

Har Shalom is a sacred space where we create spiritual community together, even as we are all on our own diverse spiritual journeys. A group of us has formed a team to keep the ruach going. The Ruach Team at Har Shalom is set to embark on a spiritual journey not only to keep services, holidays and life stage events going, but also to grow, ourselves, in understanding.

I have been lay-leading services only a few times at Har Shalom. And I can tell you, it is an amazing and humbling feeling. These are holy things, the jobs we take on to bring ruach into the synagogue. I would like to invite you to think about the Har Shalom Ruach Team as it begins to take up the task of administering services, b’nei mitzvot, conversions, the holiday and festival celebrations—all the essential duties related to worship and ritual here. In other words, all the responsibilities that are at the heart of Jewish tradition, with a rich history to explore.

These duties are holy ones and guess what—you are the perfect person to make it happen. Because we are all urged to keep on learning. Some of us know some traditions, but no one knows them all. The more we do, the more we learn together. And we will take time to make sure we experience the rich cycle of the year that has been given us to engage. If you are contemplating a deeper relationship with Judaism, please give some thought to joining the Har Shalom Ruach Team. Joining Ruach may move you to the next place on your own spiritual journey. You will find yourself making sacred events happen—even if you have never done it before—and working with an extraordinary group of fellow Har Shalom members. So here’s your assignment: help bring Ruach Ha’Kadosh to the Jewish community of Missoula. Let me know at katyasouk@gmail.com or call me at 549-0503.

Family Promise Missoula (FPM)

Family Promise Missoula (FPM) is up and running, and offering housing to up to 4 families at a time. Following is a note from Dean Thompson, FPM Director, about what Family Promise has been able to help with in its first four weeks of operation:

We are in our fourth week of helping families, and I want to thank all that have so generously given of themselves and their resources. Here are a few of the successes and joyful experiences you made possible for families in FPM:

** One family has moved into its own apartment, and many of their new furnishings have come from your efforts.*

** One mom started a job.*

** A teenage girl was able to celebrate her graduation from middle school at the graduation dance, made possible because many came together and made it happen, from dress to shoes to photos.*

Primarily you’ve given folks the opportunity to have a place to find balance, to work toward a more stable life in an atmosphere that is nurturing and reinforces their goals.

Many Har Shalom members volunteered in a number of ways during our first host week (the week of May 27). Members provided food for guests to make breakfasts and lunches. Others cooked a hot meal for dinner one night, and helped serve and clean up. Others spent the evening at host congregation University Congregational Church visiting with adults and playing with children. One member was able to talk with and support a Family Promise guest who is working toward her GED. Har Shalom members also provided sheets, blankets, towels, and other items to help transform the Sunday School classrooms at UCC into comfortable guest bedrooms. In a continuing commitment to Family Promise, Har Shalom is providing storage space for these guest bedroom items until they are needed again for our next host week.

Our next host week will be the week of August 5th. We will need volunteers to help with set-up on Sunday, August 5. We will need people to bring breakfast and lunch supplies (no cooking required); we will need people to help cook dinner during the week. We will need evening hosts—people to hang out with the guests from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.—and visit, play with kids, have dinner, etc. There are also overnight volunteer positions. Overnight volunteers sleep at UCC and are ‘on call’ in case of emergency, wake guests in the morning, and set out a cold breakfast before guests head to the day center at 7 a.m. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information about Family Promise, please contact Robin Abeshaus at robinabeshaus@gmail.com or 542-7535.

Family Promise is also in need of a stackable washer and dryer unit, either donated or at a reduced price. If you have suggestions/questions about this, please contact Robin, or Dean Thompson, FPM Director at director@familypromisemissoula.org. Thank you!

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.

Jewish Haiku

After the warm rain
the sweet smell of camellias.
Did you wipe your feet?

Quietly murmured at
Saturday synagogue services,
Phillies 5, Red Sox 3.

Today, mild shvitzing.
Tomorrow, so hot you’ll plotz.
Five-day forecast: feh

Jews on safari—
map, compass, elephant gun,
hard sucking candies.

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, use your bank's FREE "Bill Pay" feature, or mail your payment to Har Shalom at PO Box 3715, Missoula 59806. 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.

General Donations

Holly Kingsford

Honors and Memorials

Wayne Weisman—in memory of his father, Vinny Weisman

Capital Campaign

Esther Chessin

Jerry Kogan

Ed Rosenberg and Trina Valencich



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.



P.O. Box 3715, Missoula, MT 59806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED