

## MONTHLY NEWS \* JANUARY 2015



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### Laurie's Letter: January and Dreams

In fall 2013, we planted a witch hazel tree in our backyard. This smooth, gray-barked witch hazel is *Hamamelis virginiana*, a native North American tree that blooms in winter when nothing else does. It didn't flower last winter, probably recovering from the trauma of its recent transplant. BUT this winter, she's a-bloomin', covered in pale, yellow flowers with fringe-like petals, miraculous in the snow and cold.

Our dreams for meaningful Jewish lives in Montana are like this little tree: durable, hardy in inhospitable climes, impossibly and unexpectedly beautiful. Somehow, despite our small numbers and distance from established Jewish infrastructure, we are finding our way here, building a community that treasures its children and transmits the fundamental values of Judaism in a loving, inclusive way. When I wake every morning, I give thanks for our intertwined lives, for the hope and support we give each other, and for the adventures of spirit we share. Har Shalom is becoming a place where we can dream and grow together.



*Witchhazel in the snow*

### President Holly Kingsford's Column The Channukah glow is still on me.

Har Shalom can certainly boast that we have great parties. The reason our parties are so much fun is that we love being together. Har Shalom is like Israel. The best part of living in Israel for me is the community. We all know what the holidays are and we communally enjoy each one together; so it is at Har Shalom. Friends come knowing that Chutzpah, our very own Klezmer band, will play beautifully, that the food will be delicious and that the company will be welcoming and fun. Daniel will stump us with his game of Jewperdy. Bert will be the amazing one without whom life wouldn't be as sweet. As we set up, I say again and again, "Bert, what is in your head now?" He always has it planned out and organized.

This year, we were also very blessed to have a huge Chanukkiah out front to light together every night. I have enjoyed the media coverage blasting, "10 feet tall and 11 feet wide!" Yes that is an amazing thing to see. And the light is so bright from each arm. Truly it is a sight to behold! And Laurie has done such a wonderful job of telling a story, teaching a lesson, sharing a song each night as another light is added.

This Chanukah was a reflection of the continued good energy of a blessed congregation as evidenced by the willing participation of so many. It is our connection that leaves a good feeling in my bones after spending time together. Thank you friends for leaving me with a Chanukah glow! May you be so blessed that your glow will continue through the dark days of winter and only wane as we prepare for the fun of Passover in the spring.



Holly Kingsford



## Atidaynu News

The children of Atidaynu put on a great Chanukah play at the party! They did a wonderful job pantomiming the story and had a few occasions to brilliantly improvise.

We will have had a long break from regular classes when we resume on January 11. We encourage parents to dig out the Hebrew books or Alef-Bet sheets to refresh memories of the letters if you can. We will be talking to the kids about opportunities to participate in the MLK walk on January 19; see the newsletter article for more details and watch the weekly for updates.

A survey to assess school structure and needs will be sent to current Atidaynu families this month, please watch your email for a link. And remember there is a kids' movie at Har Shalom on the 18th, free popcorn and time to hang out with your friends!

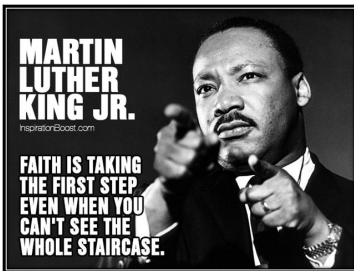
We hope everyone had a fun Holiday Break and look forward to seeing you on the 11th. As always, if you have questions or would like to visit or enroll, contact Sheehan at 406 642 6527.

## Kids' Film Festival

January 18 at 5 pm

Introducing our next Jewish Children's Film: Sunday, January 18th at 5pm! This film is a special treat and based off the classic tales of Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Real Shlemiel* is fun for the whole family... especially when there is pizza and popcorn to munch on while you watch! Please come join the fun watching the big screen in our very own Har Shalom theater! Hope to see you there!

Watch the trailer here: [The Real Shlemiel aka Aaron`s Magic Village #TJFF2014 Trailer](#)



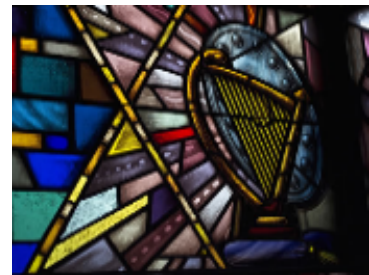
## MLK Walk Downtown meet at the Broadway St. Safeway, Mon., Jan. 19 at 4:15 pm

All are welcome, including families, children, and friends of Har Shalom members. We hope to make this a community event which brings people together for this uplifting and deeply meaningful day. Please come join us as we sing and walk together to celebrate the memory and message of MLK!



## Torah Study with a Sprinkling of Biblical Hebrew

If you want to spend some time with the Hebrew of the weekly Torah portion, come to Torah study one hour early-at 9 am rather than 10 am-on Saturday Jan 17. We'll do a close reading of the opening verses of the parsha (Torah portion), with the intention of deepening our experience of Torah. No prior Hebrew learning is required; just come and enjoy.



## Davennology\* Resumes!

Tues., Jan. 27, 7:15 pm

Please join us from 7:15 to 8:30 pm in the Har Shalom library, as we continue our journey into service-leading knowledge, competence, and confidence. The next two sessions will be about Shabbat morning services. These sessions encourage service leaders. Join us if you are interested in learning more about services.

*\*Davennology is a term coined by Reb Zalman Schacter-Shalomi to refer to the art and spirit of inspired prayer.*

## In Other Places

**The British theatre troupe**, 1927, is presenting a new play based on the Talmudic story of the golem. The play is a cautionary tale of technology gradually changing from tools subservient to our command into a position of domination. I'm don't know how or if this "Golem" is dispensed with, but if they ever bring the play to Missoula, I'll be standing in line for tickets. You can get a sense of this avant-garde play at [www.youngvic.org/whats-on/golem](http://www.youngvic.org/whats-on/golem). Click on "Watch the trailer" to watch the trailer.



**This article is from a woman living a Jewish life** in Moscow, Idaho. She describes the efforts required to raise a Jewish family in this part of the world. Her article was published in the weekly newsmagazine, *Forward*.

<http://forward.com/articles/209901/shes-living-in-her-own-private-jewish-idaho/>

## Todah Rabah to:

\* To Levi Bessette, Dane Stewart, Ryan Tripp and Zach Reddig for creating and building the Har Shalom Hanukkah. \* To Robin Abeshaus's preschool class for making applesauce for the Family Promise meal and served with the dinner made by the students' parents. \* To Atidaynu class for making dinner for Family Promise. \* To Bert Chessin, Barbara Gross, Daniel Harris, and *Chutzpah*, the klezmer band, for making the Chanukah party a success.



## Yahrzeits

### TEVET

12 ( Jan 3 ) Anna Glass  
Fern Glass-Boyd's mother 13  
( Jan 4 ) Bert Genstel  
Robbin Kusia's father  
18 ( Jan 9 ) Doris Rosenberg  
Ed Rosenberg's sister  
24 ( Jan 15 ) Leonard Moon  
Julie Moon's husband,  
Bei Ruetten's father,  
Madison and Julia Ruetten's  
grandfather  
24 ( Jan 15 ) Clemence Klein  
Lance Klein's father  
28 ( Jan 19 ) Beatrice Nashel  
Elizabeth Howard's  
grandmother 28  
( Jan 19 ) Marcia Fields  
Robbin Kusia's mother

### SHEVAT

3 ( Jan 23 ) Bertha Zoot  
Beverly Tatz's mother

## Donations and Tributes

### Contributions for Film Festival

Carolyn Goren  
Joyce Latimer  
Marc and Debra Steinberg  
Contributions for Chanukkah  
Melissa Baggett  
Bert and Carol Chessin  
Jack and Patricia Cohen  
Eve Franklin  
Thomas Kimmell  
Marc and Debra Steinberg  
Toba M. Winston  
Gary and Miriam Wolf

### Contributions for Gershon Baskin

First Presbyterian Church  
Holy Spirit Parish  
Missoula Friends Meeting  
Western Montana Spiritual  
Development  
Willow Mountain Veterinary  
Hospital  
Suzanne Aboufadi  
Denalie Bruins  
Bert and Carol Chessin  
Jack and Patricia Cohen  
Matt Ereksen  
Paul Isaac  
Stephen Kalm and Robin  
Abeshaus  
Joyce Latimer

### Contributions for Gershon Baskin (cont'd)

Heather Licht and  
Charles Vergeront  
Marc and Madelyn Semanoff  
Jana Staton  
Marc and Debra Steinberg  
Toba M. Winston

### Rabbi Fund

Melissa Baggett  
Paul Isaac  
Jeffrey & Karen Rosenthal

### Capital Fund

Albert Borgmann  
Jerry & Irena Kogan  
Toba M. Winston

### Event Contributions

Susan Nashel

### Honors and Memorials

anonymous in honor of  
Foster family  
Emily Darling in honor of  
Laurie Franklin  
Susan Nashel in honor of  
Elizabeth & Stan Howard  
Nina Resnick in honor of  
Mia Foster's Bat Mitzvah

### Donations for Operations and Building

Bernard Backer  
Aiden Harris  
David Jolles and Erin Craney  
Rachel & Deborah Schaffer

## 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](mailto: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 [harshalommsla@gmail.com](mailto:harshalommsla@gmail.com)

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