

**Report to Har Shalom Board January 21, 2020, from December 11 to present** Rabbi Laurie Franklin

**Abstract:**

- *Excellent Shabbaton and rabbinic conference in CO Jan 10-16, organized to address the theme, “Lizcor et Habrit, Remember the Covenant” and focused on environmental action. Interested in bringing Rabbi Tirzah Firestone to Missoula to give a presentation about her recent book on intergenerational Jewish trauma, “Wounds into Wisdom”. Continued my learning about Selah leadership through my mentor and conference keynote Rabbi Ruth Gan Kagan.*
- *Selah rehearsals and services are uplifting and wonderful! Please come to the services!*
- *President David Cox and I are now exploring leadership development options with URJ, with the hope that we will have a URJ leadership workshop at Har Shalom (focus to be determined).*
- *Great turnout (500-600) at MLK Day celebration at St. Anthony’s; my keynote speech was well-received and got a standing ovation.*
- *Important events coming up: Faith and Climate Action MT monthly Climate Conversations series, beginning Jan 28. The March 24 event will be at Har Shalom. Will need help creating a simple dinner for participants, soup and salad style. Will have more info about numbers after Jan and Feb convos.*
- *Will be submitting a self-evaluation to the Board by the end of January as per President David Cox’s request. This action will fulfill the first bi-annual evaluation named in my contract. I am using a URJ booklet, “Mutual Review”. The board might also consider doing a self-evaluation, using an analogous process (see attached). We have much to gain by developing how we work together.*

**Attachment: Missoulian article (p. 2 of report)**

**Services**

- Kabbalat Shabbat 12/13, 12/20 with Selah
- First Saturday 1/4

**Education, Youth and Adult**

- Atidaynu sessions 11/17, 12/8
- B-mitz meeting, 12/11
- Torah study with Hebrew and regular Torah study: 12/21, 1/18
- Continuing Beit Midrash, Mondays 12/16, 12/23, 1/6
- Selah rehearsal 12/17, 1/7. Selah mentoring session with Rabbi Ruth Gan Kagan 12/16
- Torah trop lessons, individual, ongoing

**Har Shalom Administrative Planning**

- Weekly meet up with President David Cox
- Shalom Missoula planning meeting 1/8
- Handwritten, personal notes for Yahrtzeit letters (monthly)
- URJ follow up with R. David Fine, 1/3, to explore leadership training options
- Email exchanges with URJ specialist Gila Hadani Ward, to explore leadership workshops

**Pastoral, Outreach, and Greater Community**

- **Pastoral** (details are confidential) approximately 35 interactions, consisting of Individual sessions with congregants, phone calls and emails, responses to requests for information or services
- **Greater Community**
  - **Special events and meetings**
    - Fiddler on the Roof sing-along at the Roxy, Dec 15, co-sponsored by Har Shalom
    - Hanukkah Lighting, nightly program, 12/22-12/29
    - Hanukkah party 12/28
    - Sigrun Kuefner Mishpochah Megillah
    - Faith and Climate Action MT, 1/7
    - MLK Day invited keynote speaker, 1/20
  - **Antisemitism**
    - **Lolo Schools:** keynote presentation for special student research session, 12/11.
    - **Missoula County Public Schools:** Newly forming anti-bias working group, 1/16.
    - **Join for Justice, MT antisemitism project,** zoom meetings 12/13 & 12/18
  - **Press:** Missoulian Hanukkah column 12/21, “Hanukkah: sharing the light, honoring dedication”

# Hanukkah: Sharing the light, honoring dedication

You may have noticed the big Hanukkah menorah on South Russell Street, in front of Congregation Har Shalom and directly across from the Y. It's more than nine feet tall, a dramatic presence. One of our congregants jokingly calls it "the rusty candle" because of its surface, with the exception of the bright, silver-colored star, was designed to oxidize slowly to a rich, reddish-brown patina.



**Laurie Franklin**

Since its installation in 2014, we have created a sweet, local tradition: we invite congregants and friends to join us to light the Hanukkah menorah, aka our Hanukkah (ha-NOO-KEY-uh), to mark the eight nights of Ha-

## If you go

Come to light our Hanukkah Sunday, Dec. 22 through Sunday, Dec. 29, 5:30 p.m., at 3035 S. Russell St. The Har Shalom Hanukkah party and potluck on Saturday, Dec. 28 features latkes, live klezmer music, and dreidl games, starting right after the Hanukkah lighting. Gratitude to Levi Bessette, who designed and built the Hanukkah with fellow students in the Missoula College welding program, welding instructor Zach Reddig, and the many Har Shalom families who supported the Hanukkah project.

mukkah. Each evening, we gather outside Har Shalom under the tall branches of the Hanukkah to light the lamps, tell Hanukkah stories, sing Hanukkah songs, and adjourn inside to warm up with hot cider and treats.

Some days, there is a crowd in attendance and other days, just a few folks, but the magical quality is the same: we enjoy the moment that the bright, LED lamps flip on and bathe us in

light at the darkest time of year. We marvel at the miracle of the single pot of oil that lasted for eight days during the time of the Maccabee rebellion, when the ancient Israelites regained our Holy Temple from invaders and rededicated it.

The Hebrew word "Hanukkah" means "dedication." This year, when we light the Hanukkah, let's consider the principles to which we dedicate our-

selves. First is the principle of religious and cultural freedom. The ancient Israelites fought a civil war to overcome outside oppressors and their internal cooperators, who attempted to overturn traditional Jewish practice. Today, we treasure our tradition and claim our freedom to practice it as both a religious and cultural heritage. The light of the Hanukkah celebrates our identity.

Second, as we celebrate our identity, we also affirm the dignity of all peoples. The light of the Hanukkah is the light of freedom for all.

Third, we re-affirm our dedication to creating community, within our congregation and with our friends and neighbors. We commit ourselves to celebrating both our common ground and our differences. We will reach out to each other in

love. The light of the Hanukkah is the light of unity.

Fourth, we dedicate ourselves to hope. We now live in a world of uncertain outcomes, and we are concerned about climate, movement of people across borders, political upheavals, economic stability, food supply, health care, honesty, respect, and safety and security. In the midst of these worries, may we find hope in working together towards solutions. May the light of the Hanukkah broadcast our potential for deep understanding, our ability to see each other as a reflection of the Divine, and our capacity to strive together to build a better world. Let us share the light.

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