



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

## NOVEMBER Calendar of Events

### Friday, November 2

7:30 p.m.: Erev Shabbat service

### Saturday, November 3

10:00 a.m.: Torah study\*, par. Vayera

### Sunday, November 4

10:00 a.m.: Religious School\*\*  
3:00 p.m.: Board meeting

### Monday, November 5

6:30 p.m.: Adult Hebrew (cont.)\*

### Saturday, November 10

10:00 a.m.: Liturgy study\*  
10:30 a.m.: Shabbat morning service, par. Chayei Sarah

### Monday, November 12

11:45 a.m.: Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Block. Topic: Mussar\*  
6:30 p.m.: Adult Hebrew\* (cont.)

### Friday, November 16

7:30 p.m.: Erev Shabbat service

### Saturday, November 17

10:00 a.m.: Torah study\*, par. Toledot

### Monday, November 19

6:30 p.m.: Adult Hebrew\* (cont.)

### Monday, November 26

6:30 p.m.: Adult Hebrew\* (cont.)

### Thursday, November 29

7:00 p.m.: Book Group\*\*\* meets at CBA

### Friday, November 30

7:00 p.m.: Learning service for lay service leaders (see announcement)

## DECEMBER

### Sunday, December 2

3:00 p.m.: Board meeting

\*Liturgy Study, Torah Study, Lunch & Learn, and Adult Ed are open to CBA members and those who have received prior approval by Rabbi Block.

\*\*Religious school requires preregistration and membership in CBA.

\*\*\*The Book Group is open to CBA members only.

Congregation Beth Aaron/ 406-248-6412

[cbabillings@yahoo.com](mailto:cbabillings@yahoo.com)

## The Rabbi's Column

The Jewish month of Cheshvan and the American month of November, have no Jewish holidays. We have passed the "highs" of the High Holy Days, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. How do we nurture our Jewish lives when there are no holidays?

Those of us who practice yoga or meditation are familiar with the notion of having a "practice." While an occasional retreat or weekend workshop might enhance the practice, at the core is regular practice – ideally daily.

Judaism is no different. The most well-known Jewish practices are prayer and study. But there are other Jewish spiritual disciplines. One that is gaining in popularity is called "mussar." I am just beginning to study this tradition, which focuses on living an ethical life. Here is what Dr. Alan Morinis, a recognized Mussar scholar, has to say about this practice:

"Mussar is a thousand-year-old Jewish tradition that offers an insightful perspective on life. It is also a discipline for personal change. It provides a distinctively Jewish answer to the sorts of questions any thinking person asks about life.

- Why do I keep making the same mistakes over and over?
- Why do I cause pain to myself and others?

## Looking Ahead ...

Congregation Beth Aaron is at a very significant juncture in its history. We are completing a three-year experiment and must now decide on what path to take into the future and how to make the journey successful.

Many of the current Board of Directors feel the present "part-time resident rabbi" role nicely matches our particular needs and abilities. They also feel it is possible to make the position financially practical if we adopt a long-range plan for making it so. Such a plan might consist of a series of three-year increments requiring as long as 20 or more years for final success and must

## What a Wonderful Worldwide Website!

CBA has a beautiful new website, located at <http://cbamt.org/>. It has links to general and historical background information, calendars and activities, membership, back

- What steps can I take to bring my life closer to my spiritual potential?
- Are there templates to learn from the lessons of previous generations?

In that sense, Mussar is time-tested, practical Jewish advice for living. Early on in my own exploration of Mussar, when people asked me what effect I saw from the study and practice, I would answer truthfully, "I make fewer messes."

Through the practice of mussar, we study a variety of character traits -- truth, anger, kindness, gratitude and others -- that are the stepping stones on the journey toward holiness.

The November Lunch and Learn on November 12 will be an introduction to Mussar. If you cannot attend the noontime program but are interested in learning more about Mussar, let me know and I will schedule something at a different time later in the year.

Whether you practice through prayer, study, or Mussar, may your Jewish life and practice be rich in this time of no holidays!

L'shalom,  
*Rabbi Barbara L. Block*

involve a slow but increasing adjustment to membership contributions, fundraising, membership numbers, etc. It will, of course, be dependent on the congregation's acceptance, involvement, and support.

The input of all Congregants is welcomed and encouraged. The next Board of Directors meeting is on Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m. Some time before the meeting starts will be available for all those who wish to share their thoughts in as candid a manner as possible in the presence of only the Board of Directors.

issues of the *Tablet*, making donations, contacting someone for more information, and much more! A huge shout-out goes to everyone who contributed to this outstanding project.



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

*The deadline for submitting items for the December Temple Tablet is **Tuesday, November 20**. Send items to the editor, Rachel Schaffer.*

## Candle-Lighting Times

Friday, Nov. 2	5:40 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 9	4:31 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 16	4:23 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 23	4:17 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 30	4:13 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 7	4:12 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 14	4:12 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 21	4:14 p.m.

## Torah Portions for November

**11/3: Vayera** Pent. Gen. 18:1-22:24; Pr. II Kings 4:1-37  
**11/10: Chaye Sarah** Pent. Gen. 23:1-25:18; Pr. I Kings 1:1-31  
**11/17: Toledot** Pent. Gen. 25:19-28:9; Pr. Mal. 1:1-2:7  
**11/24: Vayetze** Pent. Gen. 28:10-32:3; Pr. Hos. 12:13-14:10

## Donations

### In honor of

\*the anniversary of Kathleen & David Wilt, good friends of CBA, by Brian Schnitzer  
 \*CBA, by Fraythda Bustos  
 \*Don & Ellen Alweis's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
 \*the birth of Alexa Tatro to Sara Roberts & Brian Tatro  
 \*Michelle Roberts' return to Billings to establish her orthodontic practice

### For the Building Fund

Saralee Melnick



## Book Group Meets

Now that we are all in the Book of Life for another year, let's start up our CBA book group again. Thank you to everyone who offered suggestions of books for us to consider. I decided to start with a book about some inspirational, courageous women in Anita Diamont's *Day After Night*, written in 2009.

Members of CBA who are interested in

## A Sukkah Thank You

Many thanks to all of you who helped take down our sukkah. If nothing else, we proved to ourselves that we could lift and carry the frame intact.

It took less than 15 minutes to remove the wrap and s'chach/roof. The fact that once placed on the cement pad at the back of the synagogue, the frame was dangerously unstable and we had to dismantle the entire sukkah as in previous years is neither here nor there. The entire process took less than 45 minutes. Our great, great, great (+100) grandparents could not have done

## CBA, Phone Home!

The current telephone system used by Congregation Beth Aaron no longer serves our purposes. Reaching the appropriate telephone mailbox in order to leave a message is overly complicated, and messages can occasionally be lost. The system does not accept changes to the out-going greeting/message easily, and dated

## Yahrzeits

In Jewish custom, the yahrzeit is the anniversary of a loved one's death according to the Hebrew calendar. The Hebrew date comes first; the civil date follows (and varies by year).

### Cheshvan

16 (Nov 1): Mildred Kraushaar, mother of Alan Kraushaar

17 (Nov 2): Les Alweis, father of Don Alweis, grandfather of Sheldon Alweis

19 (Nov 4): Joe Sax, grandfather of Marc Blum

20 (Nov 5): Berthe Perlmann, mother of Thelma Lakier

Ted Fahrenwald, father of Roxanne Fahrenwald

21 (Nov 6): Irving Sanders, father of Jeff Sanders

24 (Nov 9): Bess Misner, mother of Marilyn Kramer

25 (Nov 10): Hugh Ford, husband of Julie Coleman Ford

Richard Wexler, father of Diane Kersten

27 (Nov 12): Richard Civin, brother of Donna Healy

participating will meet at the synagogue on Thursday, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. I hope to see some familiar faces and some new ones so we can have another rich sharing of reactions and thoughts.

To ask questions, please email me (the CBA directory has my email address).

Alan Kraushaar

better building Pithom and Raamses!

Now that we have almost guaranteed our needing a new sukkah, everyone is encouraged to think about the others they have seen over the years. In the early months of the new secular year 2013, we will consider a new sukkah, making use of the unfinished "patio" at the back of the social hall. Perhaps we can construct something that could be used during the spring and summer and, at least in part, be converted to a sukkah in the fall?

Brian Schnitzer

greetings/messages have a habit of reappearing.

Temple Beth Aaron will soon have a new system. The telephone number will still be 248-6412. It will take a while to have the system set up as we truly desire; if you have difficulties, please share them with the CBA office so those difficulties can be corrected.

29 (Nov 14): Mollie Sanders, mother of Jeff Sanders

### Kislev

9 (Nov 23): Evelyn Jaffe Miller, mother of Heather Rio, grandmother of Jonathan Edward Rio

Bernice Samuels Schaffer, mother of Rachel and Deborah Schaffer

11 (Nov 25): Norman Alweis, uncle of Don Alweis

12 (Nov 26): Juanita L. Rio, mother of Andy Rio, grandmother of Jonathan Edward Rio

Vivian Civin, mother of Donna Healy

14 (Nov 28): Sherwood Schnitzer Kopelove, mother of Brian Schnitzer

15 (Nov 29): Morris Niss, founding member of CBA

17 (Dec 1): Rose Yoelin, grandmother of Sandy Sukin

# November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 10:00 a.m.: Torah study ☆ Vayera Pent. Gen. 18:1-22:24; Pr. II Kings 4:1-37
4 <b>Daylight Saving Time ends!</b> 3:00 p.m.: Board meeting  10:00 a.m.: Religious School 	5 6:30 p.m.: Adult Hebrew 	6 <b>Election Day</b> 	7	8	9 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service ☆ Shabbat	10 10:00 a.m.: Liturgy study 10:30 a.m.: Shabbat morning service ☆ Chaye Sarah Pent. Gen. 23:1-25:18; Pr. I Kings 1:1-31
11 <b>Veterans Day</b> 	12 11:45 a.m.: Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Block  6:30 p.m.: Adult Hebrew 	13 <b>Send in member news!</b> 	14	15	16 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service ☆ Shabbat	17 10:00 a.m.: Torah study ☆ Toledot Pent. Gen. 25:19-28:9; Pr. Mal. 1:1-2:7
18	19 6:30 p.m.: Adult Hebrew 	20 <b>Tablet Deadline</b> 	21	22 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> 	23 ☆ Shabbat	24 ☆ Vayetze Pent. Gen. 28:10-32:3; Pr. Hos. 12:13-14:10
25	26 6:30 p.m.: Adult Hebrew 	27	28	29 7:00 p.m.: Book Group 	30 7:00 p.m.: Learning service for lay leaders ☆ Shabbat	

## A Celebratory Weekend with Rabbi Shefa Gold

Congregation Beth Shalom and two co-sponsors invite interested people to a special weekend event: Rabbi Shefa Gold, founder of the Center for Devotional Energy and Ecstatic Practice (C-Deep), will preside over a series of services, a workshop, meditation, and chant on Friday, November 9-

Sunday, November 11, 2012. There are various fees for the different events and meals, with scholarships available, and an RSVP is requested by November 6 at [bethshalombozeman.org](http://bethshalombozeman.org). For more information, please visit the preceding website.

## Membership Reminder

Recently, I sent out our annual membership pledge forms, and as of this month, there are some who have not sent them back. I would like to remind you that I have to send in our annual membership to URJ this month, and if I have not received a pledge from you, I will not be able to renew your membership with

them. This also affects the budget that was approved at our annual meeting. I need to know what your pledge will be. Even if you do not send in your payment, please fill out your form and return to CBA as soon as possible. Thank you!

AI Page, Treasurer

## Congregation Beth Aaron

PO Box 187  
Billings, MT 59103

2031 Broadwater Ave.

### PHONE

406-248-6412

### EMAIL

cbabillings@yahoo.com

### President

Brian Schnitzer

### Vice President

Marilyn Kramer

### Treasurer

Al Page

### Past President

Jeff Simkovic

### Editor

Rachel Schaffer

(245-7811 (H), 657-2954

(W), fax 657-2187,

[rschaffer](mailto:rschaffer@msubillings.edu)

[@msubillings.edu](mailto:msubillings.edu))

### Production

Deborah Schaffer

### Rabbi

Barbara L. Block

([RabbiBlock10](mailto:RabbiBlock10@gmail.com)

[@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiBlock10@gmail.com))

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.cbamt.org](http://www.cbamt.org)

### Useful links on the Web:

URJ weekly Torah series

[http://urj.org/torah/#cprFor%](http://urj.org/torah/#cprFor%20Webmasters)

[20Webmasters](http://urj.org/torah/#cprFor%20Webmasters)

Weekly newsletter of the

Reform movement

<http://urj.org/eneews/jta/>

Weekly "Ten Minutes of

Torah"

<http://urj.org/torah/ten/>

## Special Opportunity for Lay Leaders

It is the privilege and responsibility of every adult Jew to lead communal wor-ship services. One meaning of bar/bat mitzvah is the celebration of a Jew attain-ing the ability to lead the congregation in prayer.

Of course, for most Jews, bar/bat mitzvah is a step on the path to being fully fluent in leading the service. On Friday, November 30, those who have celebrated a bar/bat mitzvah are invited and encouraged to attend a special

Shabbat service for lay leaders. We will create a safe space for learning as we explore leading the Shabbat service together. You will gain a deeper understanding of the service, hone practical skills, and gain confidence in your ability to lead. We will consider how congregants can team up to co-lead a service if they desire.

Please inform Rabbi Block if you are interested in this wonderful opportunity.

## A Shabbaton Thank You

A huge "todah rabbah" (thank you) to Diane Kersten, chair of the MAJCo Shabbaton event, and to committee members Al Page, Merry Prestridge, Rondel Smith, Tricia Williams, Ellen Alweis, and Brian Schnitzer for creating a fabulous weekend of events. We have

received numerous compliments from around Montana for the Shabbaton. We will cherish the memories of a great weekend!

## Hospital Visits Available

Rabbi Block wants CBA members to know that she would very much like to visit you if you are in the hospital. Since privacy laws prohibit hospitals from notifying her without your

permission, she would appreciate it if you would let her know if you are hospitalized so that she can visit.

## Update from Interfaith Hospitality Network

All of us at Interfaith Hospitality Network extend a most grateful thank you to all of you who helped make the 2012 Cardboard Box City a great success. Thank you to those of you who designed and decorated amazing boxes and slept out on a cold night. Many thanks to everyone who provided pledges and financial support to Cardboard Box City participants, and thank you to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make the event possible. We offer our deepest gratitude and thanks to Little Horn State Bank, the Presenting Sponsor of Cardboard Box City, and our many other

generous event sponsors.

Thanks to all of you, Cardboard Box City raised over \$40,000 to help IHN families rebuild their lives and move into and remain in their own homes.

We recently said goodbye to Terrah Hall, IHN's Case Manager for four and a half years, who left to take another position. I know I speak for the families as well when I say we will miss her very much. We are pleased to welcome our new Case Manager, Carlene Goodheart, to the Interfaith Hospitality Network staff.

Adela Awner, IHN Executive Director



Photo courtesy Brian Schnitzer

Dismantling the sukkah . . .

Photo courtesy Brian Schnitzer

. . . down to the ground!

## CONGREGATION BETH AARON

PO Box 187

Billings, MT 59103

