



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

## Calendar of Events

### December

#### Monday, December 2

12:00 p.m.: MAJCO  
Chanukkiyah lighting at Helena  
State Capitol  
NO Adult Hebrew

#### Friday, December 6

7:30 p.m.: Shabbat p.m. service

#### Saturday, December 7

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

#### Sunday, December 8

10:30 a.m.: Religious School\*\*  
1:00 p.m.: Board meeting

#### Monday, December 9

11:45 a.m.: Lunch and Learn\*:  
Mussar  
2:00 p.m.: Adult Hebrew\* (cont.)

#### Saturday, December 14

10:00 a.m.: Liturgy Study\*  
10:30 a.m.: Shabbat morning  
service, par. Vayechi

#### Monday, December 16

2:00 p.m.: Adult Hebrew\* (cont.)

#### Friday, December 20

7:30 p.m.: Shabbat p.m. service.

#### Saturday, December 21

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

#### Monday, December 23

11:45 a.m.: Lunch and Learn\*:  
Judaism and Spirituality  
2:00 p.m.: Adult Hebrew\* (cont.)

#### Tues. & Wed., Dec. 24 & 25

5:00 p.m.: Family Promise (IHN)  
at Lutheran Church of the Good  
Shepherd

#### Wednesday, December 25

1:00 p.m.: Open house at Rabbi  
Block's

#### Monday, December 30

2:00 p.m.: Adult Hebrew\* (cont.)

\*These events/activities are open to members and those who have received prior approval from Rabbi Block.

\*\*Requires preregistration and membership in CBA.

## The Rabbi's Column

American Jews are engaged in a great discussion. On October 1, the Pew Research Center published "Portrait of Jewish Americans." The report begins, "American Jews overwhelmingly say they are proud to be Jewish and have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people, according to a major new survey by the Pew Research Center. But the survey also suggests that Jewish identity is changing in America, where one-in-five Jews (22%) now describe themselves as having no religion."

Martin Kavka writes that "having no religion" needs to be understood as a complex category. He points out that "almost 20% of Jews who do not identify as religious claim to "believe in God or universal spirit" with absolute certainty, and when one adds in the proportion of interviewees who believe with less certainty, we have the fascinating

statistic that almost half of "Jews of no religion" are nonetheless "believers."

These Jews will often describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious." What does it mean to be a Jew who is spiritual but not religious? And what does it mean for our community and the broader Jewish world that an increasing number of Jews describe themselves that way? Some Jews despair; others see reasons for hope.

We will discuss the idea of Jews who are "spiritual but not religious" as part of the larger topic of Jews and Spirituality at our Lunch and Learn on Monday, December 23. I hope to see you there!

L'shalom,  
Rabbi Barbara L. Block

## Not in Our Town Summit on Hate Update

A group of several congregants attended the Summit on Hate at Rocky Mountain College on November 16 organized by the Billings chapter of Not in Our Town. Some of the most powerful messages came from those most closely affected by the challenges faced by and posed by transgender individuals – the individuals themselves and their families. And I was reminded again that the quest for acceptance, equal rights and equal opportunity is ongoing, and that equality for one group does not guarantee equality for others of different groups or peoples.

I was also able to take some of the very

personal stories and use them to examine how we look at "us and them." It was a reminder to everyone who attended that anytime we come face to face with those who are different, the differences diminish when we allow ourselves to listen to the personal histories and are open to the similar aspirations we all have for our own lives and for those of our children and family members. My hope is that we can each take away what we learned and use it to make Beth Aaron a more welcoming congregation in the pursuit of Tikkun Olam.

Tricia Williams

## Adult Hebrew News

If you know the Hebrew alphabet and have wanted to study more, but have been unable to make the evening class, you are in luck! We have moved the time of the continuing adult Hebrew class to 2:00 p.m. on Mondays. We are

currently studying from the text *Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way*. Please contact Rabbi Block if you might be interested in joining the class.

## Chanukkah Supplies

Chanukkah candles made in Israel—kosher, no less—are available at Beth Aaron for members.

In addition, a variety of Chanukkah novelty items are available in Van's

Evergreen IGA (on 13<sup>th</sup> St.) in a small stand near the laundry detergent and Christmas tchotchkes; included are paper plates, lights, gift bags, menorahs, candles, and quite a bit more.



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

*The deadline for submitting items for the January Temple Tablet is **Thursday, December 19.** Send items to the editor, Rachel Schaffer.*

### Candle-Lighting Times

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Friday, Dec. 6  | 4:12 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 13 | 4:12 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 20 | 4:13 p.m. |
| Friday, Dec. 27 | 4:17 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 3  | 4:24 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 10 | 4:31 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 17 | 4:40 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 24 | 4:50 p.m. |
| Friday, Jan. 31 | 5:00 p.m. |
| Friday, Feb. 7  | 5:10 p.m. |
| Friday, Feb. 14 | 5:20 p.m. |

### Torah Portions for December

- 12/7: Vayigash** Pent. Gen. 44:18-47:27; Pr. Ezek. 37:15-28
- 12/14: Vayechi** Pent. Gen. 47:28-50:26; Pr. I Kings 2:1-12
- 12/21: Shemot** Pent. Ex. 1:1-6:1; Pr. Isa. 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23
- 12/28: Vaera** Pent. Ex. 6:2-9:35; Pr. Ezek. 28:25-29:21

### Donations

Many thanks for these generous donations to CBA.

\*Bob & Sandy Sukin in memory of Rose Silver, grandmother of Jack & Bob Sukin



### Chanukkah Events

The annual CBA Chanukkah celebration and dairy potluck is being held on Saturday, November 30, at 5:30 p.m. All are asked to bring a sampling of their own homemade latkes; the Latke Boys will *not* be frying latkes. In addition, A-R, please bring a side dish or salad; S-Z, please bring a dessert. Sufganiyot and other Chanukkah-appropriate dishes are also encouraged. All varieties of oils

are acceptable as well as ingredients such as garlic, parsley, cauliflower, leek, etc. Sour cream and applesauce will be provided.

Another traditional event is the MAJCO menorah lighting at the State Capitol in Helena, scheduled for Monday, December 2, at noon. Please contact Rabbi Block, Tricia Williams, or Al Page if you are interested in attending.

### 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).

#### Tevet

1 (Dec 4): Charles Elton Lund, father of Liz Barnea

11 (Dec 14): Ida Page, mother of Al Page

14 (Dec 17): Harvey Jaffe, uncle of Heather Rio

16 (Dec 19): Rose Silver, grandmother of Jack and Bob Sukin  
Harold G. Fink, father of Arthur Fink

18 (Dec 21): Isidore Duberstein, father of Lenny Duberstein

21 (Dec 24): Miriam Burstein, mother of Uri Barnea

22 (Dec 25): Eleanor M. Fink, mother of Arthur Fink  
Henry Myers, father of David Myers

24 (Dec 27): Beverly Small, member of CBA  
Louis Nodler, father of Marsha Selwyn

25 (Dec 28): Harold Fink, father of Arthur Fink

28 (Dec 31): Susan Hutcherson, mother of Cendri and Miri Hutcherson and Jill Hutcherson Salisbury

Eleanor Fink, mother of Arthur Fink

29 (Jan 1): David Firestone, grandfather of Lisa Sukin

#### Shevat

1 (Jan 2): Alan L. Blair, brother of Julie Coleman Ford

9 (Jan 10): Esther Levy, mother of Julie Coleman Ford

14 (Jan 15): Harry Miller, grandfather of Don Alweis

15 (Jan 16): Edith Gold, grandmother of Brian Schnitzer

19 (Jan 20): Herbert Goodman, father of Stuart Goodman

21 (Jan 22): Nathan Samuels, grandfather of Rachel and Deborah Schaffer

26 (Jan 27): Ann Sax, grandmother of Marc Blum



# December 2013

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>   |
| 🕯️  | <p><b>12:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Chanukkah lighting, Helena</p> <p style="text-align: center;">🕯️</p>   | 🕯️   | 🕯️  | <p><b>Chanukkah ends at sundown!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">🕯️</p> | <p><b>7:30 p.m.:</b><br/>Shabbat service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✡️</p> <p>Shabbat</p> | <p><b>10:00 a.m.:</b><br/>Torah study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✡️</p> <p>Vayigash</p>  |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b>  |
| <p><b>10:30 a.m.:</b><br/>Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">📖</p> <p><b>1:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Board meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">📄</p> | <p><b>11:45 a.m.:</b><br/>Lunch &amp; Learn with Rabbi Block: Mussar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">🍴🕯️</p> <p><b>2:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Adult Hebrew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">📖</p>                     |  |   |  |   | <p><b>10:00 a.m.:</b><br/>Liturgy study</p> <p><b>10:30 a.m.:</b><br/>Shabbat service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✡️</p> <p>Vayechi</p> |
| <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b>  |
|   | <p><b>2:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Adult Hebrew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">📖</p>   | <p><b>Send in member news!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">📣</p>  |   | <p><b>👉 Tablet Deadline</b></p>  | <p><b>7:30 p.m.:</b><br/>Shabbat service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✡️</p> <p>Shabbat</p> | <p><b>10:00 a.m.:</b><br/>Torah study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✡️</p> <p>Shemot</p>  |
| <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b>  |
|   | <p><b>11:45 a.m.:</b><br/>Lunch &amp; Learn with Rabbi Block: Judaism &amp; Spirituality</p> <p style="text-align: center;">🍴🕯️</p> <p><b>2:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Adult Hebrew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">📖</p> | <p><b>5:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Family Promise at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">🍴🕯️</p> | <p><b>1:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Open house at Rabbi Block's</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Family Promise at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">🍴🕯️</p> |  |   | <p style="text-align: center;">✡️</p> <p>Vaera</p>   |
| <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>  |   |  |   |  |
|   | <p><b>2:00 p.m.:</b><br/>Adult Hebrew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">📖</p>   | <p><b>New Year's Eve!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">🍸</p>   |   |  |   |  |



**Congregation Beth  
Aaron**

PO Box 187  
Billings, MT 59103  
2031 Broadwater Ave.

**PHONE**

406-248-6412

**EMAIL**

cbabillings@yahoo.com

**President**

Tricia Williams

**Vice President**

TBA

**Treasurer**

Al Page

**Past President**

Brian Schnitzer

**Editor**

Rachel Schaffer

245-7811 (H), 657-2954  
(W), fax 657-2187,

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

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

**Schedule of Services  
Congregation Beth Aaron**

**December 2013-June 2014 / Kislev- Tammuz 5774**

**December**

Friday, December 6: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service  
Saturday, December 14: 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service  
Friday, December 20: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service

**January**

Friday, January 3: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service  
Saturday, January 11: 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service  
Friday, January 17: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service  
Friday, January 31: 7:00 p.m. Shabbat dessert social (location TBA)

**February**

Friday, February 7: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service  
Saturday, February 15: 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service  
Friday, February 21: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service

**March**

Friday, March 7: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service  
Saturday, March 15: 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service  
Friday, March 21: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service & Purim (observed)

**April**

Friday, April 4: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service  
Saturday, April 12: 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service  
Tuesday, April 15: 6:00 p.m. CBA Congregational Seder  
Friday, April 18: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service

**May**

Friday, May 2: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service & Yom Ha'atzma'ut  
Saturday, May 10: 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service  
Friday, May 16: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service  
Friday, May 30: 7:00 p.m. Shabbat dessert social (location TBA)

**June**

Friday, June 6: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service, Shavuot (observed)  
Saturday, June 14: 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service  
Friday, June 20: 7:30 p.m. Shabbat evening service

**Useful links on the Web:**

URJ weekly Torah series  
<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/>



**CONGREGATION BETH AARON**  
PO Box 187  
Billings, MT 59103

