



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

## Calendar of Events

### January

#### Friday, January 3

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

#### Saturday, January 4

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

#### Monday, January 6

NO Adult Hebrew

#### Saturday, January 11

10:00 a.m.: Liturgy Study\*

10:30 a.m.: Shabbat morning service, par. Beshalach

#### Sunday, January 12

1:00 p.m.: Board meeting

#### Monday, January 13

11:45 a.m.: Lunch and Learn\*: Mussar

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

#### Friday, January 17

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

#### Saturday, January 18

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

#### Sunday, January 19

3:00 p.m.: NIOT MLK Interfaith Service, First United Congregational Church, 310 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St., Billings

#### Monday, January 20

11:45 a.m.: Lunch and Learn\*: Spirituality

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

#### Monday, January 27

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

#### Friday, January 31

7:00 p.m.: Shabbat dessert social\*; location TBA

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

## The Rabbi's Column

As I write this column at the end of December, I am deluged with end-of-secular-year requests for donations. So many causes! How do we decide to which organizations to give? How much should we give to each cause, and how much total is reasonable?

I add: how can our Jewish traditions and values inform our choices? Our donations are called *tzedakah*; *tzedek* means what is just or right. How do we make our contributions *tzedek*?

There are many passages in the Torah that help us answer these questions. For now, I will share three passages about different kinds of contributions.

First, we learn of a contribution given because our hearts are moved to donate. When it was time to build the *mikdash*, the sanctuary, God commanded Moses to instruct the people to bring gifts to God for use in building the *mikdash* (Numbers 25:1-2). There is a very specific list of materials to contribute, including gold, silver, copper; blue, purple, and crimson yarns; acacia wood, oil for lighting; spices, and more (Numbers 25:3-7). The Israelites bring so much that Moses finally has to tell them to stop. We learn from this that it is good to give from the heart, to give what is needed (not just what we happen to have lying around), and to give enough for the purpose at hand.

The second donation is a "flat tax" of ½ shekel paid by each Israelite man of army age. The Torah specifies that "the rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than half a shekel" (Numbers 30:14). This money is used for the service of the Tent of Meeting. The lesson that we learn from this is that everyone, rich or poor, needs to contribute something to the community, whether their heart moves them or not. The common amount is set low so that all might share in the dignity of giving.

The third passage is found in parashat Kedoshim, read on the afternoon of Yom Kippur. "When you reap the

harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not pick your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger"

(Leviticus 19:9-10). Most of us today do not work in agriculture; we interpret these verses to mean that some of what we earn must be shared with the poor and with strangers. While the first two donations went to the Israelite community, here we learn that we need to share with those in need and those outside our community as well.

Perhaps it is already January when you read this. But we can give *tzedakah* at any time of year. When you consider your donations, give generously. Include donations both to our Jewish community and to the wider community. Make sure that the poor and the stranger are provided with sustenance. Jewish tradition also teaches that one should not give so much that one impoverishes oneself. But I think it is safe to say that most of us do not err in that direction.

Of course, Jewish tradition has much more to teach us about giving, including non-monetary *tzedakah*. See suggestions from Tricia Williams and VITA on page 2 about ways we can contribute our time and learn from each other. Do you have a favorite organization to which you donate time or money? Would you like to let others know about it? Consider writing about the organization for the *Tablet* (send a short article to the editor, Rachel Schaffer). Let us know why you believe that it is a good cause for Jews to support (I would be happy to help you explore this). We will not all agree on the best places for our donations, but we can learn from each other about good options and opportunities.

Have a happy secular New Year!

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Barbara L. Block*

## MLK Observance Plans

Once again this year, there is a full schedule of events planned for Martin Luther King weekend. I hope that each of us will attend at least one event in solidarity with the wider Billings community. I will be speaking at the Interfaith Service on Sunday, January

19, at 3:00 p.m. at First United Congregational Church, 310 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St. The full schedule of events is posted on the Not In Our Town Website:

<http://www.niotbillings.org/mlkjholiday.htm>



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

*The deadline for submitting items for the February Temple Tablet is **Thursday, January 23**. Send items to the editor, Rachel Schaffer.*

### Candle-Lighting Times

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.
Friday, Feb. 21	5:30 p.m.

### Torah Portions for January

- 1/4: Bo** Pent. Ex. 10:1-13:16; Pr. Jer. 46:13-28
- 1/11: Beshalach** Pent. Ex. 13:17-17:16; Pr. Judges 4:4-5:31
- 1/18: Yitro** Pent. Ex. 18:1-20:23; Pr. Isa. 6:1-7:6, 9:5-6
- 1/25: Mishpatim** Pent. Ex. 21:1-24:18; Pr. Jer. 34:8-22, 33:25-26

### Donations

Many thanks for these generous donations to CBA.

#### In honor of CBA

- \*Scott Hecht
- \*Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund
- \*Bernard Backer

#### In honor of Jonathan Rio

- \*Jack & Candy Bonawitz

#### In memory of

- \*Dr. Aaron Small by Jack & Candy Bonawitz
- \*Abe Yoelin, grandfather of Sandy Sukin, by Bob & Sandy Sukin
- \*Joseph & Elsie Bonawitz, grandparents of Jack Bonawitz, by Jack & Candy Bonawitz
- \*Dr. Aaron Paul Small & Beverly Koyner Small, parents of Dr. Paul Small, by Dr. Paul Small

## News from Family Promise

Thank you to all who generously gave of their time and resources to prepare and serve meals to the homeless families with Family Promise in December. The following Beth Aaron members volunteered on December 24 and 25 to allow congregants from Good Shepherd Lutheran to spend Christmas with their families: Gail Grossman, Donna Healy, Wendy Magid and Lily Shore, Heather Rio, Jill Salisbury, Rondel Smith, Tricia, Roger and Sarah Williams, and Rabbi Block. You have all done a mitzvah! Thank you!

Our work with Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) is one area where Congregation Beth Aaron is visible in the wider community. We

volunteer and also have congregation members on the board of Family Promise. We share one “hospitality” week approximately every three months with Good Shepherd Lutheran and prepare meals and socialize with three or four homeless families in the Family Promise program as they learn skills for independent living and working towards a new start for themselves and their children.

We do need a new coordinator to act as a liaison between the Family Promise staff and CBA volunteers. Volunteering with Family Promise is very rewarding. If you are curious or could see yourself filling this role, please contact Tricia Williams for more information about this opportunity.

## VITA Volunteers Needed

Last year, more than 2,000 local families and individuals were able to access free tax assistance through VITA, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. United Way is signing up volunteers to staff the 2014 tax season. The IRS provides free training, and anyone can volunteer. If you are (or were) an accountant or

other experienced business professional, studying business in college, have no tax experience, or have prepared tax returns for yourself or others, join the VITA team—become a volunteer income tax preparer or greeter. To volunteer, visit the United Way website: [unitedwayyellowstone.org](http://unitedwayyellowstone.org).

## Member News & Thank You's

\*A hearty mazel tov to **David** and **Melissa Freedman**, and to Joel, Emily, Danielle, and Gabe on the birth of their son and brother, Joshua Rand Freedman, on Wednesday, December 4. Everyone is doing well at home in Miles City

\*Welcome home to **Jon Rio** after serving his tour of duty in Afghanistan!

\*Warmest thanks to **Rabbi Uri Barnea** for his donation of books to the CBA library.

## 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

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

### Adar I

1 (Feb 1): Sheila Sanders, friend of Rose Emily Blum

Abe Yoelin, grandfather of Sandy Sukin

Feb 4: Bernard Schein, husband of Sally Schein, grandfather of Lee Schein Kapelovitz

5 (Feb 5): Jacob Isaac Perlmann, brother of Thelma

8 (Feb 8): David Lakier, father of Jeff Lakier

10 (Feb 10): Avram Perlmann, father of Thelma Lakier

# January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day 🍷	2	3 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service ☆ Shabbat	4 10:00 a.m.: Torah study ☆ Bo
5	6 NO Adult Hebrew	7	8	9	10 ☆ Shabbat	11 10:00 a.m.: Liturgy study 10:30 a.m.: Shabbat service ☆ Beshalach
12 1:00 p.m.: Board meeting 📄	13 11:45 a.m.: Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Block: Mussar 🍴🍷 2:00 p.m.: Adult Hebrew 📖	14	15	16 Tu B'Shevat 🌲	17 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service ☆ Shabbat	18 10:00 a.m.: Torah study ☆ Yitro
19 3:00 p.m.: NIOT MLK Interfaith Service at First United Congregational Church 🕊	20 MLK Day 11:45 a.m.: Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Block: Spirituality 🍴🍷 2:00 p.m.: Adult Hebrew 📖	21 Send in member news! 📣	22	23 👉 Tablet Deadline	24 ☆ Shabbat	25 ☆ Mishpatim
26	27 2:00 p.m.: Adult Hebrew 📖	28	29	30	31 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat dessert social ☆	



Chanukkah 2013: Rabbi Block leads the singing.  
Photos courtesy Rachel Schaffer



The glow of candles fills the sanctuary.

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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%  
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/>

**CONGREGATION BETH AARON**

**PO Box 187**

**Billings, MT 59103**

**Schedule of Services**  
**Congregation Beth Aaron**  
**January-June 2014 / Kislev- Tammuz 5774**

**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



Chanukkah Lighting in Helena  
Photo courtesy the Governor's Office

