



Congregation Beth Aaron/ 406-248-6412

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Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

January 16-18

Rabbi Elana visits.

January 29-February 1

Rabbi Elana visits.

SAVE THE DATE

MAJCO Shabbaton June 26-28, 2015, in Butte, followed by the Hadassah annual business meeting on Sunday, June 28.



From the Student Rabbi

Despite their modern prevalence, presents have very little to do with Hanukkah. In fact, exchanging presents is one of the four mitzvot associated with Purim! However, in the 19th century, Christmas became a national holiday in America and quickly grabbed the attention of the American Jewish community. As Christmas became more popular in consumer culture, Jewish tradition shifted to gift giving during the month of December, during Hanukkah.

Gift giving also has origins elsewhere in Judaism. Before gifts, *gelt* (Yiddish for money) was given. In his book *Holidays, History, and Hanukkah*, Eliezer Siegel suggests that the earliest mention of *gelt* comes from a custom in Europe to pay teachers with it during this time. Parents were not supposed to pay their children's teachers for Torah instruction, so this was a way of ensuring that the tutors got something for their work. Perhaps *gelt* became associated with Hanukkah because of the shared root in the words Hanukkah and education. They each stem from the Hebrew root ח.נ.כ, *chet, nun, chaf*: Hanukkah (חנוכה) meaning dedication and *Hinuch* (חינוך) meaning education.

I'd like to take that a step further. Hanukkah occurs at the time when our days are the shortest and the weather is at its chilliest. Students and teachers alike are at or nearing the end of their educational semester and looking forward to time off from learning/teaching. Yet this is the time

when we should be most appreciative and respectful of the learning we receive, the time to say thank you.

Instead of giving elaborate gifts for Hanukkah this year, I suggest we consider the initial intent of the *gelt*. Why not give to our teachers? This isn't only someone with the title teacher, but anyone who has taught you something, a life-lesson. This is anyone who has brought something new to your life. The best part: you needn't spend much, or anything at all! Make the teachers in your life a card, demonstrating your appreciation of the gifts they have brought you. Share with them a lesson you have learned from them.

But wait: there is another step. Pirkei Avot 1:6, the sayings of our fathers, says that one should find himself a teacher and acquire a friend. We cannot simply learn something from the teacher and stop the chain there. The next step is continuing that chain of *hinnuch*, education, and finding a friend. Our tradition is contending that we must seek out someone with whom we can share our learning. That is the second step. You must thank your teacher and share your learning with a friend. That is the purpose of gift-giving during Hanukkah, a true combination of the meanings of Hanukkah, dedication and *hinnuch*, education.

Elana Nemitoff

Changes in the CBA Building

Next time you are at CBA, you will notice the improved "quietness" in the Social Hall. Sound absorbing panels have been attached to the ceiling recess and installed in the memorial alcove. They look good, blend well with the existing color, and do a great job of cutting down on reflected sound

Many thanks to our House Committee for the many hours of work put into this project: to Al Page, Ellen Alweis and Steve Kramer for selecting the panels, and to Al for supervision of their installation. We do appreciate the care and the time you devote to upkeep of the synagogue.





Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

The deadline for submitting items for the February Temple Tablet is **Thursday, January 22**. Send items to the editor, Rachel Schaffer.

Candle-Lighting Times

Friday, Jan. 2	4:23 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 9	4:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 16	4:39 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 23	4:49 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30	4:59 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6	5:09 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13	5:19 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 27	5:40 p.m.
Friday, March 6	5:49 p.m.
Friday, March 13	6:59 p.m.
Friday, March 20	7:08 p.m.

Torah Portions for January

1/3 Vayechi Pent. Gen. 47:28-50:26; Pr. I Kings 2:1-12
1/10: Shemot Pent. Ex. 1:1-6:1; Pr. Isa. 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23
1/17: Vaera Pent. Ex. 6:2-9:35; Pr. Ezek. 28:25-29:21
1/24: Bo Pent. Ex. 10:1-13:16; Pr. Jer. 46:13-28
1/31: Beshalach Pent. Ex. 13:17-17:16; Pr. Judges 4:4-5:31

Donations

Many thanks for these generous donations to CBA.

*Paul Small in memory of Beverly and Aaron Small

For the Building Fund

*Saralee Melnick
 *Theo Hirshfeld in honor of Dawn Hirshfeld's continuing good health

In honor of CBA

*Jose Bustos
 *The Andy and Paulette Laszlo Foundation

Rabbi Elana's Schedule

Rabbi Elana will be with us over the following dates:

- December 19-21
- January 16-18
- January 29-February 1
- February 13-15
- February 27-March 1
- March 20-22
- April 10-12 (during Passover)
- May 15-17

If you would like to host Rabbi Elana

for Shabbat dinner or Saturday dinner, don't hesitate to contact Nyd (252-3101), who has a schedule. It's a great opportunity to get to know our student rabbi better, and an important way for her to have contact with more congregants.

Saturday lunch times are also available, and these are best arranged directly with Rabbi Elana on Erev Shabbat or by leaving a message at CBA (248-6412).

Member News

*Sincere condolences to **Rabbi Elana** and her family on the death of her grandfather. May their memories bring them comfort.

*The warmest of welcomes to new CBA members **Caryle Streeter** and **Kara Levine** (of Big Horn, MT).

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).

Kislev

22 (Dec 14): Sol Cohen, grandfather of Ellen Alweis
 Jenny Nemer Sibinger, daughter of Linda and Bob Nemer; sister of David Nemer; granddaughter of Zella and Maury Nemer
 Adam Sibinger, son-in-law of Linda and Bob Nemer

22 (Jan 13): Eleanor M. Fink, mother of Arthur Fink
 Henry Myers, father of David Myers

24 (Jan 15): Beverly Small, member of CBA
 Louis Nodler, father of Marsha Selwyn

25 (Jan 16): Harold Fink, father of Arthur Fink

28 (Jan 19): Susan Hutcherson, mother of Cendri and Miri Hutcherson and Jill Hutcherson Salsbury
 Eleanor Fink, mother of Arthur Fink

29 (Jan 20): David Firestone, grandfather of Lisa Sukin

Tevet

1 (Dec 23): Charles Elton Lund, father of Liz Barnea

11 (Jan 2): Ida Page, mother of Al Page

14 (Jan 5): Harvey Jaffe, uncle of Heather Rio

16 (Jan 7): Rose Silver, grandmother of Jack and Bob Sukin
 Harold G. Fink, father of Arthur Fink

17 (Jan 8): Zella Nemer, mother of Robert Nemer

18 (Jan 9): Isidore Duberstein, father of Lenny Duberstein

21 (Jan 12): Miriam Burstein, mother of Uri Barnea

Shevat

1 (Jan 21): Alan L. Blair, brother of Julie Coleman Ford

9 (Jan 29): Esther Levy, mother of Julie Coleman Ford

14 (Feb 3): Harry Miller, grandfather of Don Alweis

15 (Feb 4): Edith Gold, grandmother of Brian Schnitzer

19 (Feb 8): Herbert Goodman, father of Stuart Goodman

21 (Feb 10): Nathan Samuels, grandfather of Rachel and Deborah Schaffer

26 (Feb 15): Ann Sax, grandmother of Marc Blum



January 2015

December 2014	January 2015	February 2015
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 January 16-18 Rabbi Elana Visits	17
18 January 16-18	19 Martin Lu...ng, Jr. Day Send in member news	20	21	22 Tablet deadline	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 January 29-February 1 Rabbi Elana Visits	30	31

Courses at Adult Ed

Uri Barnea will offer three different classes during Winter Semester through Billings Community Adult Education, all held at the Lincoln Center:

1. Basic musicianship (5 two-hour classes)
2. The Biblical Prophets (6 two-hour classes), and
3. Introduction to Judaism (6 two-hour classes.)

No prior background is necessary for any of the classes.

Basic musicianship will be offered on Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., beginning on January 12, in Lincoln 118. The Biblical Prophets will be offered on Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., beginning on January

13, in Lincoln 119. Introduction to Judaism will be offered on Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m., starting January 15, in Lincoln 119.

Information and/or registration can be found at

Adult Community Education:
www.billingsadultcommunityed.org

or

<http://facebook.com/BillingsAdultEducation>

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 415 North 30th Street
 Billings, MT 59101
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Chanukkah 2014/5775

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Production

Deborah Schaffer

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Elana Nemitoff



Photo courtesy Rachel Schaffer
Lighting the Chanukkiyot



Photo courtesy Rachel Schaffer
Basking in the light



Photo courtesy Rachel Schaffer
Shine on



Photo courtesy Rachel Schaffer
Blessing the Chanukkiyot

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cbamt.org

Family Promise Sponsors a Beach Blizzard!

Beach Blizzard, a fundraiser for Family Promise (formerly IHN), will be held Saturday, January 31, at the Northern Hotel. The night will feature a dinner, silent and live auction, and live music

by the MidLife Chryslers. For tickets and further information, either see the Family Promise Facebook page or call Martha Arguelles at 860-9110 or Darla Jones at 698-9387.

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

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