

JANUARY 2018
TEVET-SHEVAT 5778

The Temple Tablet



Congregation Beth Aaron/ 406-248-6412

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Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

Friday, January 26

7:00 p.m.: Z'mirot

7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service and special musical performances (see article on p. 1)

Saturday, January 27

10:00 a.m.: Torah Study

12:00 p.m.: Lunch 'n' Learn (bring your own lunch)

Sunday, January 28

10:30 a.m.: Religious School

Rabbi Erik's Schedule of Visits for 2017

Student Rabbi Erik Uriarte will be in Billings on the following dates:

Jan 26-28

Feb 9-10

March 30-April 1

April 20-22

May 18-20



Adding Jewishness to Our Lives, by Jill Salsbury

It's a Sunday Morning in October, and I am getting ready to head to my in-laws with my family for brunch like we do every Sunday. The only difference on this morning is that my twin sister is in town, and my husband, Jack, has been telling me for days before this morning that we had to be ready to go at no later than 8:55 a.m.

After an odd exchange where my sister tells me she wants me to try on a dress she wants me to wear on the trip I was about to take, I am ready to go and suggest leaving early. To my surprise, Jack is resistant, and I begin to get anxious to get on our way . . . when the doorbell rings.

This is a fairly unusual occurrence on a Sunday morning, so I go to the door and open it. Who is standing in front of me but our student Rabbi Erik Uriarte! He shouts it's "Mitzvah surprise!" And I turn around and look at Jack, who says we're waiting for a couple more people.

Honestly, my first thought was "oh no . . . it's finally happening; they have staged an intervention for how much I've been working lately!"

So now I'm really anxious and confused. My husband's parents show up, and finally Diane Kersten comes to the door and gives me a hug, with a small present in her hand. I stop trying to guess what is going on at this point. Everybody says hello, and then Diane hands me the present.

Step backwards in time a few months to July, when we had the movie *There Are Jews Here* come to town at the Art House, and a large portion of the congregation attended. I took my

husband Jack (who is not Jewish), and he was very moved by the movie. Afterwards, as I was saying hello to numerous people, he and Diane started up a conversation, and he asked her "what was the thing on the door in the movie and was it important?"

Diane explained that it was a mezuzah, and the meaning and importance of it. I think she was also surprised that we didn't have one on our door. So my wonderful husband and lovely friend from CBA hatched a plan. Diane sourced a beautiful Mezuzah from Israel, and several months later it arrived.

It just so happened that Jack had already met our student rabbi and found out that he was going to be in town on the same weekend that my twin sister Miri was going to be in town. So they surprised me with the mezuzah on that October morning, and we had our little moment of putting it on our doorpost, with Student Rabbi Erik helping.

It was a wonderful moment for me, realizing that, although my husband and his family are not Jewish, they are more than willing to help me continue my Jewish journey. I had always assumed Jack wouldn't want to display something like a Mezuzah on our door. Who knew that he would ultimately give me the most beautiful one I have ever seen!



Calling All Communications Directors at Heart!

A special request from President Jill: We need someone to take on the job of answering calls to the synagogue. We have an answering service, so no one has to pick up the phone when it rings, but we do need someone to receive emails and/or text messages

addressed to the synagogue, and answer or direct them appropriately. I have had some amazing conversations this way! But I can't keep responding to these when I am at work.

If anyone is interested, give me a call, and I can tell you more about the job!

Special Torah Portion for January 26

The Torah portion for Friday, January 26, is the Song of the Sea, Shirat HaYam, Exodus 15:1-18, celebrating the moment when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea in safety and reached freedom from Egypt.

President Jill will be chanting the first part of the portion, and then Student Rabbi Erik will chant the second half in the Sephardic style. Please join the congregation for this special musical event!



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

The deadline for submitting items for the February Temple Tablet is **Friday, January 26**. Send items to the editor, Rachel Schaffer.

Candle-Lighting Times

Friday, Jan. 5	4:32 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	4:39 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 19	4:47 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	4:55 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2	5:03 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9	5:11 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 16	5:20 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23	5:28 p.m.
Friday, March 2	5:35 p.m.
Friday, March 9	5:43 p.m.
Friday, March 16	5:50 p.m.
Friday, March 23	5:57 p.m.
Friday, March 30	6:04 p.m.

Torah Portions for January and February

1/6: Shemot Pent. Ex. 1:1-6:1; Pr. Isa. 27:6-28:13; 29:22, 23
1/13: Vaera Pent. Ex. 6:2-9:35; Pr. Ezek. 28:25-29:21
1/20: Bo Pent. Ex. 10:1-13:16; Pr. Jer. 46:13-28
1/23: Beshalach Pent. Ex. 13:17-17:16; Pr. Judges 4:4-5:31
2/3: Yitro Pent. Ex. 18:1-20:23; Pr. Isa. 6:1-7:6, 9:5-6
2/10: Mishpatim Pent. Ex. 21:1-24:18; 30:11-16; Pr. II Kings 12:1-17
2/17: Terumah Pent. Ex. 25:1-27:19; Pr. I Kings 5:26-6:13
2/24 Tetzaveh Pent. Ex. 27:20-30:10; Deut. 25:17-19; Pr. I Samuel 15:2-34



SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

A Message from CASA

Ben McKee, Recruitment Coordinator for CASA of Yellowstone County, sends the following message:

The success of our future depends on the well-being of our children, but in Montana they are among the most vulnerable in our communities. Statewide, the number of children entering foster care due to abuse or neglect in recent years has skyrocketed. In Yellowstone County, the number of children removed from their home has increased drastically from 182 in 2014 to nearly 600 in 2017, resulting in approximately 1,000

children currently in foster care. Despite the enormity of these statistics, our children are more than numbers, and each one deserves a voice. You could be that voice by becoming a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate with CASA of Yellowstone County.

Our next New Advocate training begins in March. Give us a call at 259-1233 or visit our website at yellowstonecasa.org to learn more about our upcoming information sessions and how you can make a difference in the life of an abused or neglected child.

Robert Cohen & Jozef Lupták Live in Concert

Congregation Beth Aaron was privileged to host a special performance by world-renowned cellists Jozef Lupták and Robert Cohen. The duo performed a variety

of classical and modern pieces on Tuesday evening, January 16, with an encore performance the next evening at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral in Billings.

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

- 14 (Jan 1): Harvey Jaffe, uncle of Heather Rio
- 16 (Jan 3): Rose Silver, grandmother of Jack and Bob Sukin
Harold G. Fink, father of Arthur Fink
- 17 (Jan 4): Zella Nemer, mother of Robert Nemer
- 18 (Jan 5): Isidore Duberstein, father of Lenny Duberstein
- 21 (Jan 8): Miriam Burstein, mother of Uri Barnea
- 22 (Jan 9): Eleanor M. Fink, mother of Arthur Fink
Henry Myers, father of David Myers
- 24 (Jan 11): Beverly Small, member of CBA
Louis Nodler, father of Marsha Selwyn
- 25 (Jan 12): Harold Fink, father of Arthur Fink
- 28 (Jan 15): Susan Hutcherson, mother of Cendri and Miri Hutcherson and Jill Hutcherson Salsbury
Eleanor Fink, mother of Arthur Fink
- 29 (Jan 16): David Firestone, grandfather of Lisa Sukin

Shevat

- 1 (Jan 17): Alan L. Blair, brother of Julie Coleman Ford

- 5 (Jan 21): Rosemary Wright, wife of Julian Wright

- 9 (Jan 25): Esther Levy, mother of Julie Coleman Ford

- 14 (Jan 30): Harry Miller, grandfather of Don Alweis

- 15 (Jan 31): Edith Gold, grandmother of Brian Schnitzer

- 19 (Feb 4): Herbert Goodman, father of Stuart Goodman

- Feb 4: Bernard Schein, husband of Sally Schein, father of Lee Schein Kapelovitz

- 21 (Feb 6): Nathan Samuels, grandfather of Rachel and Deborah Schaffer

- 26 (Feb 11): Ann Sax, grandmother of Marc Blum

Adar

- 1 (Feb 16): Sheila Sanders, friend of Rose Emily Blum

- Abe Yoelin, grandfather of Sandy Sukin

- 3 (Feb 18): Phyllis B. Myers, mother of David Myers

- 5 (Feb 20): Jacob Isaac Perlmann, brother of Thelma Lakier

- 8 (Feb 23): David Lakier, father of Jeff Lakier

- Ruth Blum, mother of Marc Blum

- 9 (Feb 24): Marsha Selwyn, longtime member of CBA

January 2018

December 2017	January 2018	February 2018
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28
31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Eve	2 New Year's Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 7 pm Zivrot 7:30 pm Shabbat service	27 10 am Torah Study 12 pm Lunch 'n' Learn	28
29 10:30 am Religious School	30	31	1 Candlelight Dinner	2	3	4

Donations

In Honor of CBA

- *The David and Sara Weston Fund
- *Andrew and Paulette Laszlo Foundation
- *Joel & Ann Guthals
- *Jose Bustos
- *Fray Bustos

High Holy Days

- *Lynn Wiener
- *Terri Sporkin
- *Tim Morrison
- *Collette Rowland & family

In Memory of

- *Aaron & Beverly Small by Paul Small
- *Bernard & Sally Shein by Lee Kapelovitz

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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Useful links on the Web:

URJ weekly Torah series

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

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

Weekly newsletter of the

Reform movement

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

Weekly "Ten Minutes of

Torah"

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

Leaning Toward the Light: An Interfaith Celebration

On Thursday, December 21, 2017, members of CBA joined Shiloh Methodist Church to present Billings' first interfaith winter solstice celebration. Reverend Tyler Amundson recently relocated from Helena, where he and his church had worked with members of the Jewish community for many years in creating this celebration, and as a new resident of Billings, he reached out and asked us to join his congregation's inaugural event. Diane Kersten and Karen Beiser met with Tyler in early December, and in a few short weeks, the team pulled together an exciting and fun evening at Shiloh Methodist Church: Leaning Toward the Light: Interfaith Solstice Service of Light and Music.

The service was attended by approximately 50 members of both congregations, as well as many visitors from the community. Our own Jill Salsbury added some beautiful Jewish music to the evening's program, and Karen Beiser addressed the assembly about light and darkness – and back again, with Diane Kersten offering a blessing to all who attended.

Another wonderful aspect of the evening was that about \$116 was raised through donations, with more than half of the proceeds going to Family Promise. (The other half paid for professional musicians who also entertained the guests.)

It is our hope to grow this event, and the plan is for next year's celebration to be held at CBA, alternating locations until it is so big that we must look for an outside venue! It was a lovely evening on the darkest day of the year, and all who participated said they hope it continues indefinitely!

A message from Rev. Amundson to CBA:

It was an honor to participate in the first Billings Interfaith Solstice service with my new friends from the Jewish community. The sharing of traditions, reflections on light, and beautiful music helped to create a safe place for many during the darkest night of the year. I am looking forward to next year.

Enthusiastic Peace,
Rev. Tyler Amundson
Shiloh United Methodist Church



Brian Schnitzer at the Capitol Chanukkiyah lighting ceremony, 2018

CONGREGATION BETH AARON

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