



Congregation Beth Aaron/ 406-248-6412

cbabillings@yahoo.com



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

Calendar of Events

December

Friday, December 7

6:00 p.m.: Chanukkah service

7:00 p.m.: Latkefest/Latke
Extravaganza/Latkepalooza

Sunday, December 9

6:30 p.m.: Special NIOT
Chanukkah gathering at CBA
(see article this page)

Friday, December 21

7:00 p.m.: Interfaith Solstice
Service at CBA (see article this
page)

January

Friday, January 4

7:00 p.m.: Z'mirot
7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service

Sunday, January 6

10:30 a.m.: Religious School

Friday, January 18

7:00 p.m.: Z'mirot
7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service

Sunday, January 20

10:30 a.m.: Religious School

Saturday, January 26

10:30 a.m.: Shabbat service

February

Friday, February 1

7:00 p.m.: Z'mirot
7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service

Sunday, February 3

10:30 a.m.: Religious School

Friday, February 15

7:00 p.m.: Z'mirot
7:30 p.m.: Shabbat service

Sunday, February 17

10:30 a.m.: Religious School

Saturday, February 23

10:30 a.m.: Shabbat service

From Rabbi Erik

I'm going to admit something to all of you: Hanukkah is far from my favorite holiday of the Jewish year. I don't actively dislike it . . . who could say no to an excuse to get together, light a whole lot of candles, and enjoy some delicious fried food? Who doesn't like a story of Jews expelling foreign influence?

On the other hand, there's very little that makes it stand out among the other holidays. To me, it doesn't have the spiritual gravitas of the High Holidays. Its story of independence (and the associated miracle) almost pales in comparison to the Exodus story that Passover focuses on. One could argue that Purim delivers a bigger party, and for a people who hold our holy text central to who we are religiously, Hanukkah stands out as the only holiday that is not in the Tanakh.

Even the story of how it came to be a holiday is somewhat complicated. Some scholars believe that it originated as a spontaneous victory celebration after the Maccabees retook Jerusalem. Others say that it could have been a "make-up" commemoration of Succot, which couldn't be observed earlier that year due to Seleucid occupation of the Temple. The tradition of the Hanukkah "miracle" wherein a single day's worth of anointed holy oil lasted

for eight days until more could be procured for the Temple didn't appear in writing until the Talmud, hundreds of years after the fact, and may have been the result of the Rabbis' desire to de-emphasize a story of armed rebellion at a time when Jews lives were beholden to foreign kings in foreign lands.

I will say, though, that being in Billings has given me a new perspective on this holiday. Having lived in places where it was "easy" to be a Jew, I believe, contributed to my cynicism about Hanukkah. However, having learned more about what happened here 25 years ago this Hanukkah, and meeting some of the people who were here for it, has given me an appreciation for the simple act of lighting the menorah and placing it in one's window.

Strip away the parties, the latkes, the service, even the miracles we are said to be commemorating and the stories told about them, and you still have a very powerful act. Proclaiming to your neighbors and a community that a Jew lives here is something that has been, and can still be, very dangerous in some parts of the world, including here, a quarter-century ago; and yet, because of that, this year I light my candles and place them in my window with an extra sense of purpose, meaning, and solidarity. And for that, Congregation Beth Aaron and Billings, MT, I thank you.

Special Chanukkah Gathering

We would like to invite you to a special gathering for the final night of Hanukkah on **Sunday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m.** It is our intention to come together in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the events that led to the Not in our Town Movement, and the outstanding response that the greater Billings community had in response to acts of

racism, bigotry, and anti-semitism. Please bring your menorahs and candles, so that we may light them together and display for all to see that hate has no home here. We anticipate that this event will take no more than 30-45 minutes, and please feel free to invite friends and neighbors to stand with us in solidarity.

Solstice Service: Gathering Light

Please plan to join us at the Interfaith Solstice Service on Friday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at CBA. This is a joint event with Congregation Beth Aaron and Shiloh United Methodist Church, with our friends from the Billings Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Due to limited space, this is an RSVP-only event. Please contact the CBA office at 248-6412, reply through the Facebook invitation that will be sent out, call the Shiloh Methodist office at 656-0050, or email pastortyler@shilohbillings.church

to RSVP. This service is our chance to stand with our brothers and sisters of faith in our community, and it is also a powerful chance to share traditions with one another, so that we can understand one another and work together to build a diverse and loving community in Billings. There will be song, prayer, and a message of hope, and we will support Family Promise together that evening. Please join us while we gather light on the darkest day of the year!

email



Photo by Rachel Schaffer, c. 2006

CBA Library Books for Sale

Thanks to all the congregants and others who have donated to and cared for our library over the years. We are presently in the process of carrying out an inventory in order to make room for more donated books and

selling duplicates. Sale books are on a table at the northwest corner of the social hall and cost is by donation. ALSO, if anyone is interested in helping to organize the library on a regular basis, please contact CBA at 248-6412.

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

8 (Oct 17): David Greenstein, grandfather of Sandy Sukin

16 (Oct 25): Mildred Kraushaar, mother of Alan Kraushaar

17 (Oct 26): Les Alweis, father of Don Alweis, grandfather of Sheldon Alweis

19 (Oct 28): Joe Sax, grandfather of Marc Blum

20 (Oct 29): Berthe Perlmann, mother of Thelma Lakier

Ted Fahrenwald, father of Roxanne Fahrenwald

21 (Oct 30): Irving Sanders, father of Jeff Sanders

24 (Nov 2): Bess Misner, mother of Marilyn Kramer

25 (Nov 3): Hugh Ford, husband of Julie Coleman Ford

Richard Wexler, father of Diane Kersten

27 (Nov 5): Richard Civin, brother of Donna Healy

29 (Nov 7): Mollie Sanders, mother of Jeff Sanders

Kislev

9 (Nov 17): Evelyn Jaffe Miller, mother of Heather Rio, grandmother of Jonathan Edward Rio

Bernice Samuels Schaffer, mother of Rachel and Deborah Schaffer

11 (Nov 19): Norman Alweis, uncle of Don Alweis

12 (Nov 20): Juanita L. Rio, mother of Andy Rio, grandmother of Jonathan Edward Rio

Vivian Civin, mother of Donna Healy

14 (Nov 22): Sherwood Schnitzer Kopelove, mother of Brian Schnitzer

15 (Nov 23): Morris Niss, founding member of CBA

17 (Nov 25): Rose Yoelin, grandmother of Sandy Sukin

18 (Nov 26): Bessie Schnitzer, grandmother of Brian Schnitzer

22 (Nov 30): 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

24 (Dec 2): Aaron Small, longtime member of CBA

25 (Dec 3): Goldie Sukin, mother of Jack and Bob Sukin, grandmother of Dean Sukin

Tevet

1 (Dec 9): Charles Elton Lund, father of Liz Barnea

11 (Dec 19): Ida Page, mother of Al Page

14 (Dec 22): Harvey Jaffe, uncle of Heather Rio

16 (Dec 26): Rose Silver, grandmother of Jack and Bob Sukin
Harold G. Fink, father of Arthur Fink

17 (Dec 25): Zella Nemer, mother of Robert Nemer

18 (Dec 26): Isidore Duberstein, father of Lenny Duberstein

21 (Dec 29): Miriam Burstein, mother of Uri Barnea

22 (Dec 30): Eleanor M. Fink, mother of Arthur Fink

Henry Myers, father of David Myers

24 (Jan 1): Beverly Small, member of CBA

Louis Nodler, father of Marsha Selwyn

25 (Jan 2): Harold Fink, father of Arthur Fink

28 (Jan 5): Susan Hutcherson, mother of Cendri and Miri Hutcherson and Jill Hutcherson Salsbury

Eleanor Fink, mother of Arthur Fink

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

Candle-Lighting Times

Friday, Dec. 7	4:17 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 14	4:18 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 21	4:21 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 28	4:25 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 4	4:31 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 11	4:38 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 18	4:45 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 25	4:53 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 1	5:02 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 8	5:10 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 15	5:18 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 22	5:26 p.m.
Friday, March 1	5:34 p.m.
Friday, March 8	5:41 p.m.
Friday, March 15	5:49 p.m.
Friday, March 22	5:56 p.m.
Friday, March 29	6:03 p.m.

Torah Portions for November & December

11/3: Chaye Sarah Pent. Gen. 23:1-25:18; Pr. I Kings 1:1-31

11/10: Toledot Pent. Gen. 25:19-28:9; Pr. Malachi 1:1-2:7

11/17: Vayetze Pent. Gen. 28:10-32:3; Pr. Hos. 12:13-14:10

11/24: Vayishlach Pent. Gen. 32:4-36:43; Pr. Obadiah 1:1-21

12/1: Vayeshev Pent. Gen. 37:1-40:23; Pr. Amos 2:6-3:8

12/8: Miketz Pent. Gen. 41:1-44:17; Num. 28:9-15:7, 42-47; Pr. Zech. 2:14-4:7

12/15 Vayigash Pent. Gen. 44:18-47:27; Pr. Ezek. 37:15-28

12/22 Vayechi Pent. Gen. 47:28-50:26; Pr. I Kings 2:1-12

12/29: Shemot Pent. Ex. 1:1-6:1; Pr. Isa. 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

December 2018

November 2018	December 2018	January 2019
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3	1	1 2 3 4 5
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30 31
	30 31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 ☆ Chanukah begins	3	4	5	6	7 6 pm Chanukah Service 📖 7 pm Latkefest	8
9 6:30 pm NIOT at CBA ☆	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 7 pm Solstice service 🔥 Winter begins.	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 🎈 New Year's Eve	1 🎊 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5

Donations

New Years Greetings

Joel and Elaine Ziskind
 Jeff, Malinda and Sarah Sanders
 Sherri Turner
 Roger and Tricia Williams
 Andy Rio
 Marc and Rose Emily Blum
 Amira Harper
 Jeff Simkovic, Roxanne Fahrenwald
 Al Page
 Diane Kersten
 Robert and Sandy Sukin
 Theo and Dawn Hirshfeld
 Don and Carol Roberts
 Jill Salisbury and family

Rondel Smith
 Drs. Gary and Rochelle Linder
 Richelle Caya
 Don and Ellen Alweis

Tablet

Theo and Dawn Hirshfeld

Educational Fund

Alice Harron
 Karen Horowitz Zufelt

Endowment Fund

Donne Healy

Cemetery Fund

Theo and Dawn Hirshfeld

Building Fund

Theo and Dawn Hirshfeld
 Alan and Nyd Kraushaar
 Tamara Dayton
 Dominick and Susan Comi

In Memory of

Barbara Grossman by Gail Grossman
 Rabbi and Minna Horowitz by Jonathan Horowitz

In Honor of CBA

Jose Bustos
 Fray Bustos

Congregation Beth Aaron

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cbamt.org &

<https://www.facebook.com/CongregationBethAaronMT/> &

<https://www.facebook.com/jesandschmooze/>

Useful links on the Web:

URJ weekly Torah series

<http://urj.org/torah/#cprFor%20Webmasters>

20Webmasters

Weekly newsletter of the

Reform movement

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

Weekly "Ten Minutes of

Torah"

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

Montana Hadassah Fundraiser (Redux)

As you may recall, we ordered more of the round Shema necklaces from Hadassah as a fundraiser for the Round Building at Hadassah hospital in Israel. We sold our original 50 and have now sold another 27! There are more available, and they would make wonderful Hannukah gifts since they are so easy to send! We request a minimum donation of only \$18 per necklace.

4 great reasons to get this beautiful Shema necklace:

#1 All profits help Hadassah Hospital

#2 Hannukah is right around the corner!

An easy choice!

#3 This gift can be sent in a greeting card with minimal expense!

#4 The necklace chain is now 18" long, which is more comfortable for many!

Contact Karen Beiser at kjbeiser@gmail.com if you would like to order any necklaces for Hadassah Hospital!



March of the Living Travel to Poland and Israel

The International March of the Living is excited to announce a new initiative to bring young leadership from smaller Jewish communities across the United States on a life-changing journey. The Next Gen program, geared to those living in small rural Jewish communities, is offering a MOTL trip for the **22-35 year old** age group, a great opportunity for young adults who may have missed out on the teen program and are now wanting to explore more of their heritage. This world-wide program takes participants to Poland and Israel to commemorate two very important dates in the Jewish calendar to "remember the past, in the present, to ensure the future." This highly subsidized new initiative allows participants to spend Yom HaShoah

(Holocaust Memorial Day) in Poland and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) in Israel alongside thousands of participants from countries all around the world. They will study the history of the Holocaust, examine the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hatred, and learn about Jewish heritage and the history of the State of Israel. This unforgettable experience, priced at the highly subsidized cost of \$2500 for a 10 day all-inclusive experience, is open to first-time participants ages 22-35. Please contact Monise Neumann: monise@motl.org if you or someone you know might be interested in this trip of a life time. Non-Jewish spouses and/or significant others are welcome to attend as well. More details and registration information can be found at motl.org/next-gen.



CONGREGATION BETH AARON

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