

# MAYIM SHALOM

Shavat/Adar 5778

Passover / Purim edition

February/March 2018

## Time Change for Shabbat Services

The board of directors has decided to change the starting time for Friday night services from 7 pm to 5:30 pm.

Rabbi Jackie agreed with the majority of the board members who feel that the earlier starting time will make it easier for the older members of the congregation to attend, especially those of us who don't drive at night.

This change will go into effect at our Feb. 9 service. Oneg will precede the service.

## Coming Events

Frid., Feb. 9 at 5:30 pm: Rabbi Jackie will lead services; an oneg will precede the service.

Sat., Feb. 10 at 10 am: Torah study with Rabbi Jackie

Wed., Feb. 28: Meeting of the board of directors at Cedar Electric, 5:30 pm

Fri., Mar. 2 at 5:30 pm: services with Rabbi Jackie w/oneg

Sat., Mar. 3 at noon: Purim party at Grant and Rae Lea Cousens' house (see flyer, page 2)

Sat., Mar. 31: Passover Seder at Gloria Dei Church. Doors open at 3 pm; service starts at 3:30 pm (see flyer, page 3)

## President's Message

Congregation Mayim Shalom held their annual board meeting (a non-profit corporation requirement) in December and elected their 2018 board members.

Diana Harvey (an original Mayim Shalom member) stepped down as president after serving multiple board positions in our congregation. Diana has returned to join our other active board members. This last year Diana successfully presided over our monthly meetings, optimistically promoted our Shabbat services and worked toward increased participation in our Jewish Community. Thank you, Diana for your service!

As Mayim Shalom's new president, I plan to follow Diana's example of governance. I plan to communicate and work with our rabbi, Jackie Brodsky, and with our 10 current active Mayim Shalom board members. I have much to learn, from Bylaws to Website ([www.mayimshalom.us](http://www.mayimshalom.us)) and many other things yet unknown.

Fortunately, Mayim Shalom has a core of long-term and active membership. Among them, close at hand, board member Grant Cousens, (my husband and webmaster) offers consistency and technical expertise with his weekly Shabbat messages.

Our new secretary Dahlia Grossman (and new newsletter editor) writes our minutes for the record and creates our newsletter to inform our Jewish community.

Treasurer Martin Sher handles our monies (in and out) and reports our bank activity to the penny. (Nobody wants Martin to ever step down). Vice President Linda Binder (my cousin and second) has served in multiple board positions and so I am particularly grateful to her for her experience and reliability.

Board members Carl Siminow, Joan Morrison, Blanche and Norman Keller round out our ten-person board, with each member important to the existence of our Jewish Community.

My hope is that the Mayim Shalom board continues to welcome, increase and support our Jewish Community in this upcoming year!

. Rae Lea Cousens, president

# 2018 Purim Party

**When:** Sat., March 3, 2018, from 12 to 2 or 3 pm

**Where:** Grant and Rae Lea's house  
92674 Dunes Lane, North Bend

*It's easy to find but feel free to call Grant or Rae Lea for directions: 541-759-3522 (home) or 541-756-3402 (work).*



Our annual Purim party is one of Rabbi Jackie's favorite events and she will be with us to make it a fun and educational day for everyone!

The dress code is very informal and many people dress in costumes. As always, children are especially welcome!

Grant will make his self-declared "World Famous" Hamantashen, but feel free to bring some of your own favorite recipe.

There will also be kosher hot dogs and veggie burgers. If you care to contribute, you can bring salads and/or breads.

The address is 92674 Dunes Lane, which is about 10 miles north of downtown North Bend. For directions, call either our home (541-759-3522) or work (541-756-3402).

See you there!

## Board elects officers

Congratulations to the following members, who were elected officers of the Mayim Shalom Board of Directors at the Dec. 13, 2017 meeting:

President: Rae Lea Cousens

Vice President: Linda Binder

Treasurer: Martin Sher

Recording Secretary: Dahlia Grossman

Other board members are Norman Keller, Blanche Keller, Grant Cousens, Joan Morrison, Diana Harvey and Carl Siminow.

A big thank you to outgoing officers Diana Harvey and Grant Cousens, who served with such dedication!



Left to right: Dahlia Grossman, Rae Lea Cousens, Linda Binder, Martin Sher

# Annual Passover Seder 2018 (5778)

Hosted by Congregation Mayim Shalom

**Where:** Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
1290 Thompson Rd., Coos Bay

**When:** Saturday, March 31, 2018  
Doors open at 3:15 pm  
Service starts promptly at 3:30  
The service will be led by  
Joanne Drapkin (approx. 45 minutes)



**Entertainment:** Stacy and Gail will entertain us with holiday music & dancing

## **What to Bring**

Dessert to be shared. If you are unsure as to the (non-leavened and dairy) dietary restrictions for Passover, feel free to bring fruit, nuts, or packaged desserts (labeled for Passover use) such as macaroons. Out of respect for our treasured traditions, no leavened or dairy products will be served.

## **What's Provided**

A traditional Seder meal will be catered by Gerry Sher. We look forward to a delicious meal of matzo ball soup, salads, vegetables, brisket, and chicken.

## **Suggested Donation**

\$10.00 per person plus canned or dried food for the Food Bank

\$25.00 per family (Immediate Family) plus canned or dried food for the Food Bank.

**Please Note:** As always, no one will ever be denied full participation based on ability to pay.

Besides your monetary contribution, we will be collecting dry or canned food for the local Food Bank. If you prefer, there will also be a collection can for cash contributions. There are many local people in our community who require food assistance. We should be generous to those less fortunate as we sit, schmooze, and enjoy our Community Seder Services and meal. This is one of the times when your active support is critical, not only for yourself, but for the many others in your community. Please make every effort to attend and participate. I am certain that you (and everyone else) will be glad you did!



Rabbi Jackie Brodsky took her tour group to the Knesset during December, where they met Member of Parliament Amir O'Hana. Pictured with Rabbi Jackie and Amir O'Hana are part of the tour group.

## Rabbi's Message: Happy 20-Chai!

By Rabbi Jackie Brodsky

Happy 20-CHAI (more on that below) to all of us and to our loved ones all over the world! As your rabbi for the past 25 years or so, you all know (it is no secret!) that I am very passionate about Israel, but particularly now I am filled with inspiration as a result of just returning from co-leading a tour there in December.

So of all the topics that I was given to pick from for this newsletter (choices ranged from the February 9-10 Shabbat to Passover and Purim!!!), I choose to briefly reflect on Israel and let you know that more on that topic is to come during our next Shabbat weekend together, Feb. 9 and 10.

It is also worth noting that we have turned the calendar to mark a new year! Here we are now in 2018, commonly being referred to in Jewish circles as "20-Chai"- (because "life" in Hebrew is "chai" and chai is spelled with 2 letters- chet and yud, the first being the 8th letter of the Hebrew aleph bet, the second being the 10th letter, therefore  $8+10=18!$ ).

And as we stand on the cusp of a new year, we can ask ourselves, as God called out to Adam (and calls to us), "Ayeka, where are you?" or (as we call to ourselves) "where am I?"

Every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we ask ourselves not only where are we with our relationship to others, to God, to ourselves and to our physical world, and this year I also invite us

to ask ourselves: where are we in regards to Israel?

Most of us are aware of quite a bit of our Jewish history. At the same time we are products of being born and raised in America, which is physically, emotionally and spiritually quite a distance from Israel.

As a result we are subjected to multiple influences which may remove us significantly from our connection to our land and people. I encourage us this season to identify and observe these. We will look at this more during our time together Feb 9 and 10 when I will address issues like: the embassy situation there, the "Matsav" or the conflict, what "normal" looks like there, what the U.S. looks like from Israel, and some wonderful highlights of the tour.

Our schedule for the weekend will be forthcoming from the board. I hope we can have more daytime services to facilitate the transportation issues we face as an older congregation.

Driving doesn't get any easier as we age; that's for sure! Ross and I recently took a Defensive Driving course offered by AARP, which I highly recommend. It's a great investment in self-care!

If you have any input on the times of our services, be sure to either attend a board meeting or let your board members know.

Til then, Happy 20-CHAI! And "Am Yisrael Chai" (the people of Israel live!!)

## Jews in the News

### DeNatales Complete Conversion Process

Congratulations to Jim and Cathy DeNatale, who recently completed their conversion to Judaism.

Jim, whose Hebrew name is Joshua ben Avraham and Sarah; and Cathy, whose Hebrew name is Shirah bet Avraham and Sarah; made their decisions to convert in very different ways.

"Judaism chose me! The decision just came to me one day," Cathy told me, "and I'm so happy we did it." Cathy said she always loved the Jewish customs and that she was impressed with the way Golda Meir ran Israel "like a big family."

She has a similar feeling about our congregation. "The people at the temple are the nicest people I've met in my life," she said. "I love being the bread maker!"

After Cathy made her decision, Jim realized how fond he had always been of the Jewish faith. "I thought about all that the Jewish people went through, and to come out the way they did, it's just amazing!" he said.

Jim, a retired special operations Army veteran, said, "The older you get, the closer you get to God. Somehow I made it through what I did alive, and I feel that there's a reason for that," he said.

Jim and Cathy studied Jewish practices, history and customs with Rabbi Jackie for a year before their conversion.

They have lived in Coos Bay for 13 years and have two sons, two granddaughters and one grandson. We are happy that Jim and Cathy have joined our congregation and become our friends.



Meir Zohar lead a Friday night service on Feb. 19, during a visit from Israel to the Coos Bay area.

### Farewell to Friends

The board received a message from Eli Kaufman saying that Mihal has accepted a job as a nurse practitioner in Vancouver, Washington and that they have moved there.

They plan to make aliyah when Mihal retires.

Eli and Mihal were regular attendees at our services and holiday gatherings. Eli is a scholar of the Torah and always gave meaningful input at our Torah studies.

They are such a friendly, loving couple. We will miss them greatly.

## National Organization Encourages Free Access to Services for Youth

Grant received an e-mail from Rabbi Ronald Brown of an organization called Synagogue Connect. This group encourages Jewish congregations to offer free access to synagogues to youths age 18 to 26.

So far they have 800 members and they invited us to join. The board agreed to do so, at no cost to us. Their website is [synagogueconnect.org](http://synagogueconnect.org)

## Visit Your Library

Don't forget to visit our lending library. We have hundreds of books on many different topics, ranging from Jewish history to the stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer and Elie Wiesel.

If you're studying Hebrew, there are many workbooks that you can borrow. We also have a few movies and music tapes.

## Jewish Trivia

Q: What Jewish major league baseball player spoke seven languages and was a spy for the CIA (formerly known as the OSS)?

A: Moe Berg played 15 seasons in the majors, mostly as a backup catcher. In the off seasons he traveled extensively around the world, including two trips to Japan. He had been working for the OSS as a spy for the U.S. on his trips.

In 1943/44, speaking German like a native, Berg toured Nazi-occupied Europe on a spy mission. He was asked to determine whether the Germans were close to building an A bomb, in which case he was charged with murdering the Nazi scientists who were developing it!

(For more information, read his biography, titled *The Catcher Was a Spy*.)

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