

MAYIM SHALOM

5779

Chanukah Edition

Winter 2018



Cheder (school) by Alex Levin
alexlevin.com

Coming Events

Sat., Dec. 8, 2-5 pm - Chanukah party at Grant and Rae Lea's home (see flyer on page 2)

Fri., Mar. 22 - Services w/Rabbi Jackie

Sat., Mar. 23 - Purim party w/Rabbi Jackie
- details to follow

April 19-27 - Passover - details to follow

May 3-4 - Shabbat weekend w/Rabbi Jackie

June 7-8 - Shabbat-Shavuot weekend with Rabbi Jackie

July 12-13 - Shabbat weekend with Rabbi Jackie

August 2-3 - Shabbat weekend w/ Rabbi Jackie

August 4 - Annual Picnic - details to follow

To confirm dates, please check our website from time to time: www.mayimshalom.us. or contact grant-cousens@hotmail.com.

President's Message

This year we started a Jewish education program that offers classes for all age groups.

When Rabbi Jackie is with us (see schedule at left), she holds Children's Jewish Learning Classes on Saturdays. Our youngsters – from toddlers to preteen – are learning about the meaning of Shabbat and Jewish holidays. If your child is going to attend, please contact Rabbi Jackie one week ahead of time so she can prepare for your child individually. Also, she would like to know which time is more convenient for your family, mornings or afternoons.

For the older children and adults, Dahlia Grossman is teaching Mayim Shalom's first Aleph Bet). The class started in October and will continue for 12 weeks. It is free for members. We are learning consonants and vowels with the idea of being able to read our prayers in Hebrew. Dahlia is beginning to teach students some words and people are starting to identify them. A second Aleph Bet class will be considered for the next calendar year. Please contact the board if you are interested.

On a more somber note, the recent unanticipated tragedy in Pittsburgh brought our congregation together to remember those maliciously taken.

Pastor Donald Ford of Harmony Methodist and Ann Callaway spoke and articulated their compassion and support. Reverend Karen Lowe of Unity was also attended and we received expressions of unity from many who could not attend.

Our memorial respectfully closed with Cantor Ed Neisse of Atlanta's poignant chanting. We were comforted by his beautiful rendition of Ayl Malay Rachamim (our prayer for the departed). Many thanks to our guitarist and song leader, Tuvia Bernstein of Florence, Judith Kurinsky for her poetry, and all who stepped up to help.

In closing, we would like to thank Norm and Blanche Keller for their many years of extra work as board members and look forward to seeing them often at our services, events and studies.

Rae Lea Cousens



CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

For Members of Mayim Shalom and their guests

Date: Saturday, December 8

Time: 2 to 5 pm

Place: The home of Grant and RaeLea Cousens
92674 Dunes Lane, North Bend
For directions, call 541-759-3522 or 541-756-3402.

Mayim Shalom will provide hot dogs, veggie burgers, sodas, apple sauce. Members are asked to bring latkes, salads, side dishes, and desserts. Everything must be pre-cooked.

And don't forget to bring non-perishable items for the food bank!

Be prepared for a great time. See you there!

Rabbi's Message

Everything we Seek Can be Found in the Torah

“Turn her (the Torah) and turn her for everything is in her...and contemplate it, and grow grey and old over it, and stir not from it, for you can have no better rule than this.” Saying of Ben Bag, ancient sage, in Mishnah 26

As the Jewish year begins, so does our reading of the cycle of the Torah, which starts its narrative at the very beginning of the birth of our world with the book of Genesis (called Bereshit in Hebrew, meaning “in a beginning...”).

Next we read the story of the other layers of creation until the birth of humanity. The following narrative concerns God's connection with the first Jews, Abraham and Sarah, and their descendants, followed by the stories of how that family became the Jewish nation.

Following that is our people's intense struggle with enslavement, then liberation, followed by a vivid description of our 40-year trek through the desert led by Moses (who was not great at asking for directions!).

The Torah narrative concludes with the Israelites' arrival at the shore of the Jordan River, where they prepare to cross over into the land of Israel as they are faced at the same time with Moses' passing.

Torah, of course, is one of the main foundations of our faith. Contained in its pages and commentaries is the wisdom that we cherish to help us live our own lives, from the time of our own “beginning” or birth and ending with our own passing. And as the First Century sage Ben Bag said, “everything is in her” – in other words, everything we need to live by between birth and death and even beyond can be found there.

Sometimes on the surface the stories or the language seem harsh, outdated, hard for us to relate to. However, as we explore more deeply with the help of our sages and our fellow travelers, we can wrestle and find ways to connect and hopefully learn yet another gem of a lesson for moving on with our lives.

Each year I find myself excited about beginning the Torah again. I am always surprised, even

astonished, to find words and stories I don't remember from the previous years.

I also always find inspiration from a new Torah commentator each year. Some of my recent years of on-line or textbook favorites are with these teachers:

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (rabbisacks.org) (my top recommendation)

Rabbi Adin Steinsalz (steinsalz.org or Aleph Society)

Chabad.org, jtsa.edu/jts-torah-online, ou.org/torah

myjewishlearning.com

reformjudaism.org

anything by Rashi (11th Century giant Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki) or Nehama Leibowitz, Rabbi Shefa Gold, Artsroll, etc.

There are literally hundreds of commentators and texts and websites out there one for every type of viewpoint. I heartily encourage each of you to take the opportunity to renew and strengthen yourself by exploring the amazing spiritual practice of Torah study which has upheld and nourished our people since “the beginning!”

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu la'asok b'divrei torah.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with commandments, and commanded us to study words of Torah.

May you find “everything (you seek) in her!”

B'Shalom, Rabbi Jackie

Celebrations

Our Annual Picnic



Ross and Jackie with her plaque

This year's picnic was a dual celebration. Besides being our annual summer get together, this year we celebrated our beloved Rabbi Jackie's 25th year of service to our community.

We presented Rabbi Jackie with a plaque saying that in honor of her 25th anniversary, we had a stand of trees planted in Israel.



Rabbi Jackie, Ross and the Mayim Shalom board of directors (and a friend).



Grant Cousens and Rabbi Jackie



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE FORM

FOR THE YEAR 5779 - 5780 (2018 - 2019)

YOUR SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO OUR CONTINUING SUCCESS.

PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR YOUR ANNUAL PLEDGE TO CONGREGATION MAYIM SHALOM

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

PREFERRED PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

The congregation suggests a minimum pledge of \$100 for an individual or \$150 for a family. Please give as much as you are able to. The board has stipulated that no one will be denied membership due to financial considerations.

My pledge for the year 5779 - 5790 (2018 - 2019) is \$_____.

Please make your checks payable to Congregation Mayim Shalom and mail promptly to the address below. Thank you !!!

If you have any questions, please call board member Grant Cousens at either: (541) 759-3522 [Home] or (541) 756-3402 [work].

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See us at: www.mayimshalom.us

Jewish Trivia

These are actual true facts, followed by attempted jokes. (from the *Jewish Trivia Review*)

After the American Revolutionary War ended, American Jews wanted and expected to be included as full citizens. In 1790, then President George Washington wrote a letter to the Hebrew Congregation at Newport, Rhode Island, thanking them for the well wishes they sent his way. He also explained that America's religious and civil liberties are grounded in natural rights and not mere tolerance like the Europeans. He closed by asking if any of them had a good recipe for matzoh brei.

Levi Strauss (inventor of jeans) is the largest clothing retailer in the world. Keep in mind that if he had been born with another name, folks today could be saying, "I just bought a new pair of Shmuel's."

Who Knew?

Everyone knows that Barbra Streisand is Jewish. But how about these musicians?

Drake (a rapper)
Carly Simon (He's so Vain)
Leslie Gore (It's my Party)
Mike Bloomfield (blues guitarist and singer)
Gene Simmons (Kiss)
Felix Mendelssohn
Art Garfunkel (Sounds of Silence)
Neil Diamond (Solitary Man)
Billy Joel (Just the way you are)
Paula Abdul
Lou Reed
Gustav Mahler
Randy Newman

Do you have a photo you'd like to share with the congregation? Email it to dahliagrossman@yahoo.com

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