



THE SHOFAR

BULLETIN OF THE SYNAGOGUE OF THE HILLS

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 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702
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 www.synagogueofthehills.org
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Contributions to the Shofar are welcome. Please submit them by the 20th of each month.

Shalom Synagogue of the Hills,

During the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, Jews often reflect on how they have been behaving “Jewish-ly” the past year. On the secular New Year, Jews often reflect on their health, their financial situations, or their social lives. Goal setting and resolution making, are a large part of our culture in America.

What did you think about on Rosh Hashanah? What are you thinking about for New Years? Have you completed your Rosh Hashanah goals, or are they carrying over into your secular New Year’s resolution(s)? In the days leading up to the secular New Year, take the time to reflect on your answers to these questions, so that you are able to wake up happy and confident for the year to come. If your resolution requires baby steps, then take your baby steps, and if your resolution involves a large leap, do not be afraid to make that leap!

In the Torah, the Israelites were constantly making resolutions. They agreed to God’s covenant on multiple occasions, but time and time again they broke their resolutions. When the Israelites went into a new land, and worshipped idols — they broke their promise with God. When the Israelites did not trust God — they broke their promise with God. One might ask, “If God’s ‘chosen people’ broke their resolutions, how are we to keep ours?” however, I think there is a better question, “Why didn’t the Israelites ask for help before succumbing to their urges and breaking their promises?” It is okay for us to ask for help, and it is that help which pushes us to achieve our goals, our promises, and our resolutions. Ask a friend to be your “go-to,” as someone who makes sure you are sticking with your New Year’s resolution. Alternatively, be that support system for a friend so that they too can achieve their resolution(s).

Whether your resolutions are Jewish oriented or not, may you all set achievable resolutions, ones that push you to feel better, be better, and succeed in the coming year. May your resolutions bring you happiness, peace, and an abundance of blessings.

See you soon!
 Student-Rabbi Rachael Klein

Schedule of Student Rabbi Rachael's Visits 2014

January 10th – 12th March 21st – 23rd
 January 31st – Feb. 2nd April 11th – 13th
 Feb. 14th – 16th May 9th – 11th



The **Shabbat service schedule** will coincide with Rabbi Rachael's visits through May. During the months of January through May, there will be a Shabbat "Nosh-Luck" prior to services at 6:00 p.m. Rabbi Rachael will lead Friday evening Shabbat services beginning at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday she will hold a Torah study session at 10:00 a.m. Rabbi Rachael will teach an adult education course on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. The course is based on Pirkei Avot.

Phil-osophy: Modern (Family) Ethics of our Fathers

Pirkei Avot, Ethics of the Fathers, is a second-century treatise containing moral advice and philosophical insights from leading rabbinic scholars from the early Talmud. The quotes found in Pirkei Avot are spiritual, constituting a practical guide to ethical living. Using the show, *Modern Family*, Rabbi Rachael will help us explore Pirkei Avot and how it applies to our lives today.

Religious school will meet on Saturday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

If you wish to make arrangements to **meet with Rabbi Rachael** during any of her visits you are welcome to contact her via email - rachael.a.klein@gmail.com or telephone – 913-226-4421. You may also send an email or call the office.

Home hospitality for Rabbi Rachael will be provided by Steve and Jo Benn. Rabbi Rachael is available to be hosted for lunch or dinner on Saturday. If you would like to volunteer please send an email to the office (bhshul1@gmail.com) or contact Rabbi Rachael directly using the contact information above. With regards to dietary preference, Rabbi Rachael observes a "kosher-style" diet. She will not eat a meal with meat and milk served together, and she does not eat pork or shellfish. If someone is concerned, the easiest meals are vegetarian or meals with fish as the main dish; however, she loves chicken and beef as well.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of Synagogue of the Hills was held at the Synagogue on Sunday December 15th, 2013. President Georgette Ohayon presided over the meeting. Some members of the congregation who were unable to attend the meeting in person phoned in so they could participate. The meeting was opened with Stan Adelstein, Chairman of the Board, reading a prayer for the congregation. A Mi Shebeirach was recited for members of our congregation who are recovering from illness. Georgette shared her personal history from the time she arrived in the Black Hills shortly before Rosh Hashanah in 1979. A warm welcome was extended to her from the matriarchs and patriarchs of Synagogue of the Hills. The population was aging much like our current congregation is today. Georgette's message emphasized the importance for each and every member of the congregation to be involved and committed so there will be a Jewish presence in the Black Hills for future generations. As the letter sent to members announcing the annual meeting stated "You cannot do Shabbat alone." To keep Shabbat alive at Synagogue of the Hills, volunteers are needed to do many things such as: facilitate holiday observances; oversee the investment account; and plant the memorial flower garden. If you wish to volunteer to help on a committee please contact the appropriate committee chairperson. A list is included on page 4 of this edition of the *Shofar*. Georgette also shared a list of the most memorable events of 2013 including: Comedy for a Cause; the Passover seder; High Holy Days services; a wonderful turnout for Sukkot; Thanks to Scandinavia; and excellent rabbinical leadership by Rabbi Michael and Rabbi Rachael.

Rebecca Kline led us through voting on the proposed by-law changes; Sid Wechsler reported on the current values of the L'dor V'dor Investment fund; and Barb Ames presented the budget report. A decision was made to apply for a student rabbi for 2014-2015. Our newly retired and talented member, Mary Ingram, presented a social action project. She has devoted some of her creative energy to sewing baby quilts for special occasions such as a bris or baby naming, in case there is a family stranded in Rapid City or have a baby here, or a child in need of hospitalization. Mary showed a few samples of the quilts and they are beautiful. She will make a label for each quilt that says, "A gift from the Synagogue of the Hills, Rapid City, SD, Mary Ingram, Quilter." Todah Rabah, Mary, your gifts will surely be appreciated by the lucky recipients! Thank you to Georgette for her efforts in planning and presiding over the meeting, to everyone who participated in the meeting, and to those of you who brought food to nosh on at the brunch.

Elections were held for the **Board of Directors**. A meeting was held with the new board members following the annual meeting. Officers were designated as follows: Stan Adelstein, chairman (absent); Steve Benn, President; Ruth Thomas, Vice President; Gregg Peterman, Secretary; and Sid Wechsler, Treasurer. Georgette Ohayon is a member at large. Congratulations to our new board of directors!

 With the new secular year the synagogue will see a different approach to the **Administrator position**. I have taken a new position as Office Manager for American Family Insurance. I started my training last week. I really like the company. My co-workers are very helpful and friendly. During the past five and a half years I have thoroughly enjoyed working as Administrator of the Synagogue of the Hills. It has been rewarding and wonderful to establish personal relationships with each of you. I have learned a great deal about things such as: "QuickBooks"; creating spreadsheets and budget reports; website design and management; and even how to write a bulletin. Our holidays have been a joy to plan and celebrate with everyone. I have faced a variety of situations which in turn became great learning experiences. I am grateful for the help from everyone who volunteered to lend a helping hand with our services, building needs, and events while I have worked here. Thank you to each member who has served on the Board of Directors because each of you taught me a great deal about organizational management. I look forward to continuing to worship, celebrate and foster our Jewish presence in the Hills for future generations, with each of you. The Board of Directors is in the process of determining how the Administrator position will be structured.

L'shalom,

Barb Ames
 Administrator

 A committee sign-up sheet was circulated at the annual meeting. The following list reflects the 2013 committee members with the addition of the 2014 volunteers. Please check to be certain you are listed on proper committees. If you would like to be added please contact the committee chairperson to volunteer. If you would like your name to be removed from a committee please send an email to the office. Thank you for volunteering!

***Committees 2014**

Investment & Finance – (Chair – Sid; Georgette, Stan, Wayne, Ilene, Paul & Barb)

Social Action Committee – (Chair - Mary; Wayne, Georgette, & Ruth)

Ritual – (Chair – Steve; Jo and Stan)

Membership and Outreach – (Chair – Ann; Ilene, Mary I., Karen & Art M., Stan & Jo)

Building & Long Range Planning – (Chair – Dan A.; Sid, Steve, Barb, Gregg, Curtis & Wayne)

Policy Manual & By-Laws – (Chair – Rebecca; Sid, Jo, Wayne, Stan and Steve)

Hospitality – (Need Chair; Ann, Angie, Ruth, Janet, Barb and Mary J.)

Garden – Chair – (Mary; Barb)

*Please note; it is assumed that people wish to stay on a committee(s) unless they resign.

Thank you for the following donations to support our Synagogue –

Ira Salom – In appreciation for the “Thanks to Scandinavia” program

Diane Small and Family – Thank you for hospitality during High Holy Days

Joel and Rosann Lassman – Thank you for hospitality during High Holy Days for the kindness shown to them and in memory of Joel’s mother, Eva Bialogrod Lassman, a Holocaust Survivor.

News Briefs about Our Dear Members and Friends –

Wishes for a continued recovery go out to:

Stan Adelstein

Ilene Americus

Wishes for a speedy recovery to out to Bill Bogard.

Yahrzeits
“TO REMEMBER IS TO KEEP ALIVE”



The following Yahrzeits will be observed:
Attendance at services is encouraged so Kaddish may be recited.

Friday Night, January 10th

Morris Adelstein December 16
Father of Stan Adelstein

Alice Strassels January 2
Mother of Paul Strassels

Friday night, January 31st

Bernice Klapkin 13 Shevat
Sister-in-law of Mary Ingram

Bernard Strassels January 27
Father of Paul Strassels

Max Smurlofsky 24 Shevat
Father-in-law of Mary Ingram

Paul Americus 28 Shevat
Father of Ilene Americus

William Carroll 25 Shevat
Brother-in-law of Mary Ingram

Mazel Tov to the following members who have Simchas to celebrate during January!

Birthday Wishes:

Karen McKinney January 8th
Lesta Turchen January 14th
Jo Benn January 15th
Stuart Kovar January 24th



GIFT SHOP

Autographed copies of “Jewish Pioneers of the Black Hills Gold Rush” written by our talented member, Ann Stanton, are on sale for \$21.20, which includes tax. Part of your purchase is tzedakah - \$5.00 from each copy will go to the Synagogue. You are welcome to shop anytime you are in the building. Please remember to add 6% sales tax to your total (there is a tax chart on the wall in the gift shop). Payments may be left in the black payment box on the desk. Thank you!

DONATION FORM

I would like to make the following donation to Synagogue of the Hills:

My Name _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

anniversary ~ birth ~ graduation ~ appreciation ~ birthday ~ marriage ~ bar or bat mitzvah

Donation amount _____

Please make check payable to Synagogue of the Hills and mail to 417 N 40th St, Rapid City, SD 57702

The following is a list of funds to which the donations can be made; Please circle your choice.

Building Fund ~ General Fund ~ High Holy Days Flower Fund ~ Oneg Fund ~

Endowment Fund ~ Tzedakah Fund ~ Other _____

TREE OF LIFE DONATIONS ~

You may purchase a leaf in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one or special occasion. Leaves cost \$100.00, each. Please provide the wording you would like inscribed on the leaf (29 characters and 4 lines maximum).

Please send acknowledgment to _____

All donations are tax deductible; please consult your tax expert for details.

Your continued support of Synagogue of the Hills is greatly appreciated!

Are you looking for the **Shabbat service schedule monthly calendar, and weekly Torah parashas**? They can be found on the [synagogue website](#). Please click [here](#) for the calendar; The Torah parashas are listed on the bottom of the home page. Another option is the learning section of the website where the Torah portions are listed including access to the "URJ 10 minutes of Torah" articles. Click [here](#) to access 10 minutes of Torah from the URJ. We hope to see you at Shabbat services.

Jewish Lite

A rabbi was walking down the street, when he noticed one of his congregants, Moishe Pipick, entering a Chinese restaurant on the other side of the street.

The rabbi crossed the street to peer through the window of the restaurant and see what his congregant was doing in the non-kosher restaurant.

Moishe ordered some spare ribs and some fried shrimp. The rabbi continued to watch as the waiter brought the spare ribs and shrimp. Moishe was eagerly devouring it with a hearty appetite when the shocked rabbi, no longer able to contain himself, burst into the restaurant to confront him.

"Moishe! Stop!" the rabbi shouted. "How could you do this? How could you eat this food? It's ribs and shrimp. It's tref!"

"Hold on, just a second" said the congregant. "Rabbi, did you see me walk into this restaurant?" "Yes, I did," replied the rabbi. "Did you see me sit down at this table?" "Yes, I did," the rabbi again testified. "Did you see me order my meal?" "I most certainly did," the rabbi attested. "Did you see the waiter bring this food to my table?" Moishe asked. "Yes, I did," the rabbi again affirmed. "Did you actually see me eating the ribs and the shrimp?" asked Moishe. "Yes, I did. I watched you the entire time!" exclaimed the rabbi. "Well, then," Moishe said calmly, " So what's the problem? It was all done under rabbinical supervision."
