

Siddur Donations Sought

Our supply of Siddurs for Erev Shabbat services has become diminished in recent months, and the Board is seeking one or more donations so that we can buy additional copies of the book. We hope to raise enough to buy 30 additional prayer books at about \$20 each. (The cost is higher if we order fewer). If you are able to contribute, to increase our supply, please send a check earmarked for the purchase.



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • APRIL 2006

Letter *from the Presidents*

March was a whirlwind month for the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. We enjoyed the services and discussions with Rabbi David Goldstein early in the month. His Rashi talk was informative and a lively conversation followed. There were nearly 65 people in attendance. Shabbat was well-attended with a wonderful Oneg by Linda and Sandy Wiener. And Saturday evening's Torah study ran the gamut from a discussion of life after death to touching on the Mohammed cartoon controversy.

Next, we gathered with Dan Gordon for a mid-month Shabbat, a baby naming, Purim and Torah study Bibliodrama, all of which brought together many of our friends. Naming Ari and Jenn's daughter, meeting their family and friends, and introducing Beatrix to the congregation was a Simcha! As always, it was a joy to have Dan with us.

Hannah Scofield, you are a blessing to us. Your hard work in organizing and carrying off our fabulous Purim party really paid off, with more than \$1000 raised to benefit Bet Sefer. This was the best attended carnival ever, and our challenge will be to break this record next year.

Looking forward, April will be as busy and as exciting as March. Rabbi

Mike Comins and Judd Grossman will be leading our First Night Pesach Seder at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 12, at the Snow King Resort. For catering purposes, the Resort needs to have a head count by April 10, so please contact the office to make reservations. Everyone is welcome, regardless of ability to pay. Come celebrate with us and bring your family and friends.

Shabbat service this month will be special. The teachers and children of Bet Sefer are preparing diligently to get ready to lead our service, with the help of musician extraordinaire Judd Grossman. Note that the service date has been changed from the third Friday of the month to the fourth Friday, April 28th at the usual 6:30 p.m.

In closing, we are pleased that Rabbi Mike will be joining us again in September for our High Holiday services. We are gathering interested congregants to meet with Mike during his brief visit during Pesach. Mike has requested this opportunity to brainstorm our perfect-world High Holiday celebrations. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact the office. We'll share more with you in future newsletters.

B'Shalom

Dava Zucker and Lisa Finkelstein

Directors 2006

Lisa Finkelstein Co-President
 Dava Zucker Co-President
 Susan Foster, Treasurer
 Stephan Abrams
 Brent Blue
 Mary Grossman
 Merle Lundy
 Karin McQuillan
 Russell Scott
 Scott Stachel
 Rachael Mancoll Stam
 Linda Wiener
 Al Zuckerman
 Carol Mann, ex officio
 Rose Novak, ex officio
 Larry Thal, ex officio
 Phyllis Turtle, ex officio

Shabbat

Shabbat services this month will be led by Bet Sefer students and teachers held Friday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal chapel. Oneg will follow in the meeting room.

Congrats to ...

Ari Goldstein and Jennifer Sparks on the birth of their daughter, **Beatrix Dora Sparks Goldstein**. Beatrix joined us on Monday, February 27, at 7:52 p.m., weighing 6 pounds and measuring 19 inches. Much thanks, also to Ari, Jennifer and Beatrix for sponsoring the March 17 Oneg.

Hannah Scofield for putting together a fabulous **Purim Party**, and raising more than **\$1000 for Bet Sefer!** Hannah did this as her B'nai Mitzvah project, and we all look forward to her Bat Mitzvah, which is scheduled for July.

Wendy Wolff for being named one of four **Thanks a Million Every Day Heroes** this year. Wendy is the Licensed Clinical Social Worker for Professional Home Care and Hospice of the Tetons. Wendy served for several years as director of our Spirit of the Mountains Camp. Wendy received a cash award following speeches in honor of the winners at a banquet held at the Mainstage Theater on March 23.



Lots of pretty girls at the annual Purim Party 2006.

Above: Georgia Eidamiller
Left: Larry Thal

CALENDAR

APRIL 6
Bet Sefer Spring Break.

APRIL 12
Pesach Seder with Rabbi Mike Comins and Chazan Judd Grossman. Snow King Resort Grand Room. Please make your reservations early by calling, e-mailing or mailing them to the office, as we need a headcount for this.

APRIL 19
Board meeting. 5:15 p.m. Downstairs conference room, 480 S. Cache St. Agenda includes facilitated discussion of spiritual leadership and approval of bylaws.

APRIL 28
Shabbat led by Bet Sefer and Chazan Judd Grossman. 6:30 p.m. St. John's Chapel. Oneg to follow.

MAY 3
Board Meeting. 5:15 p.m. Downstairs Conference Room, 480 S. Cache St.

MAY 19
Shabbat with Dan Gordon and Chazan Judd Grossman. 6:30 p.m. St. John's Chapel.

MAY 20
Torah Study 9:30 a.m. with Dan Gordon. Downstairs Conference Room, 480 S. Cache St.

First Night SEDER

with Rabbi Mike Comins



APRIL 12

5:30 p.m.

Snow King Resort
Grand Room
Fully Catered

Please contact the office to reserve your table or seats. Suggested cost: \$35 for adults, \$15 for children aged 5-12, and free for those younger. If these fees are too high, please pay what you can. Everyone is welcome and no one will be turned away.

Send reservations by calling 734-1999 or e-mail info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

We'll have the traditional Manischewitz.

Got wine? Bring it.

New Ending for *the Book of Esther*



Authors: Esther Grossman, Amelia Scofield, Erin Weiss, Aviva Thal. Not pictured: Danny Domsky.

Haman returned to the royal palace for Queen Esther's second banquet. Once again, the king asked, "What is it you desire, Esther? Why have you invited us here? Speak and it shall be done!"

This time, Esther spoke. "Spare my life," she cried, "and the lives of my people. We have been sentenced to death!"

"Death? Your people? By whom?" asked the surprised king.

"By an evil, wicked man—by your minister Haman!"

The king was so shocked that he marched out of the room to regain his composure. Haman was trembling and fearful and threw himself at Queen Esther's feet to beg for mercy. When the king returned, he was furious, and he pointed at Haman and shouted, "Take him away and hang him! He will be killed, but no Jews will be killed."

Queen Esther said, "No my king, I do not think that is the answer."

"Ok, I'll listen," said the king, "What is your desire for this wicked man?"

Esther took a deep breath and faced Haman. "First of all, you are being fired from your job as advisor to the king. That position of honor is one that you do not deserve, and it will now belong to my dear Uncle Mordechai." Esther looked towards the king for approval and he nodded. "But that is not all," she continued. "Haman, you are ordered to apologize publicly to all of the Jews of Shushan, and make sure that they know that their lives are not in any danger." Haman bowed his head in disgust, but

agreed to this consequence.

"That's still not all," said Esther. "Your new job is to be the minister to my dear Uncle Mordechai, and your wife Zeresh and ten wicked sons will also work for the kingdom. Every year, you will be responsible for doing 613 community service hours in Shushan. You will pick up garbage from the street, you will take care of ani-

mals, you will follow the mitzvot in the Torah, and you will learn basic human values of honesty, loyalty, compassion, and commitment. In return for your hard work, we will give you and your family a place to live in the palace, and food to eat. It will be difficult to complete your community service hours each year and do what is required for your job, so we have one final invitation for you."

The king, Haman, and Mordechai all looked towards the queen with a puzzled look in their faces. "Every year, on the 13th of Adar," she spoke, "you and your family will be invited to participate in the holiday of Purim with the rest of the Jewish community of Shushan. For that day, you should celebrate with us, and do no formal work. It is a holiday where we celebrate life and allow ourselves to be silly, and we want you to be a part of it too."

Queen Esther, King Achashveros, Mordechai, and Haman all agreed to the consequences that Esther outlined. They hoped that in time, these consequences would help Haman and his family understand their former wicked ways and they would become better and more understanding people.

Teacher's Note: After learning that the megillah tells us that Haman is killed at the end of the story, we decided that we didn't like the ending. Why should we kill Haman when we didn't want him to kill us? We didn't think that answer was in line with our Jewish values. In response, we wrote this.

— Sydney Daniels
Bet Sefer Instructor

SUCCESSSES

Purim in Jackson reached a whole new level this year at the Chaverim Purim Carnival. As a Tzedakah project for her Bat Mitzvah, **Hannah Scofield** organized the annual party as a fundraiser for Bet Sefer. There were games, BINGO, raffles and silent auction items.

Families from the Jewish Community and the greater Jackson community shared in the fun with cake walks, a bake sale and pizza. Dan Gordon read the Megillah to the thunderous sounds of boos, cheers and groggers. The Bet Sefer kids even came up with an alternative humanitarian ending to the familiar story of Esther.

Attendance was huge, with the kids and adults coming in costume. Larry Thal won the "Best Costume" competition and has really never looked lovelier.

Hannah, who will become a Bat Mitzvah this summer, wanted to give back something to Bet Sefer after all her years of education. The Carnival raised approximately \$1300. THANK YOU HANNAH!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SENIOR CENTER TZEDAKAH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once again, Trey Davis and Sweetwater Restaurant, has agreed to lead the Jackson Hole Jewish Community in preparing and serving a Sunday meal to the Jackson Hole Senior Center. This meal will be on April 23, at 1 p.m., and Trey needs 4-5 volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, etc. If you are able to help with this community service, please give Stephan a call (307) 690-4775 or e-mail bamainwy@yahoo.com.



JACKSON HOLE
JEWISH
COMMUNITY
P.O. Box 10667
JACKSON, WY 83002

Phone: (307) 734-1999
Fax: Same by arrangement
info@JHJewishCommunity.org
www.JHJewishCommunity.org

The office is at 480 S. Cache St.,
Suite 6, Jackson.
Office hours are by arrangement

The Jackson Hole Jewish Community is committed to creating a diverse Jewish presence that unites us, celebrates our faith and promotes tolerance in the grater Jackson community. We strive to engage all families and individuals in spirituality, education, tzedakah and the joys of Jewish life.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
NEEDED**

Office Administrator for the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. Responsible for all aspects of office operations. Good communication and computer skills (MS Word, Excel, and Outlook) are a must. Involvement in board, membership and communications, fundraising, event coordination, and record keeping. Knowledge of Jewish culture, though desirable, is not required. Hours vary, 30-60 a month. Compensation DOE. PO Box 10667, Jackson 83002, info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
JACKSON CHAVERIM GO TO OUR WEB SITE:
WWW.JHJEWISHCOMMUNITY.ORG

**Spirit of the
Mountains**
summer camp

Plans for our annual summer camp are well under way, and though the tuition has not yet been determined, it is not too early to let us know if your children will be attending. Camp this year will be July 17-21 and 24-28 at the Wilson Community Center. All Children ages 4 and up are welcome. Older children (13+) are invited to serve as junior counselors (and get paid), so let us know soon if they are interested.

SHABBAT

Friday Shabbat Service led by
**Students & Teachers
of Bet Sefer**
with Judd Grossman

April 28 • 6:30 p.m.
St. John's Chapel
Oneg to follow
in the meeting room.
For information,
call the office at
734-1999 or e-mail
info@jhjewishcommunity.org.