

## SAVE THE DATE



**31st Annual  
Hanukkah Party  
Sat., Dec. 12  
6 p.m.  
e. Leaven Food Co.**

# The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • DECEMBER 2009

## Letter from the president

My Uncle Moishe told me this story, but I don't know whether to believe him or not: Unc went over to visit his friend Abe one day and saw this dog in the house. "So, what kind of dog is this, Abe?" Abe told him it was a Jewish dog and its name was Irving. Abe then proceeded to tell the dog, "Irving, fetch!" Irving looked up at Abe and said, "So, why do you talk to me like that? You always order me around like I'm nothing. And you make me sleep on the floor with my arthritis, oy. You give me fahkahkte food, it tastes like dreck! And do you take me for a decent walk? No, it's out of the house and right back in. Maybe if I got some exercise the sciatica wouldn't kill me so much." Uncle Moishe was amazed and told Abe how remarkable the dog was to which Abe answered, "I don't know, I think Irving has a hearing problem. I said fetch and he thought I said Kvetch."

I've been perplexed for quite a while now why we don't get more Sabbath service participation. It seems our usual attendance is about 15 congregants with many of those being faithful "regulars". Maybe it confounds me so because I feel our religious services should be at the core of our reason for existence as an organization and that they should be fully supported by our membership. After all, we only hold Shabbos services one Friday night a month and for only an hour or so at most. We have a Chazzan, Judd Grossman, whose remarkable voice gives great depth and warmth and spiritual meaning to the service liturgy. That, in and of itself, should be enough to fill the pews. I ask myself what is unique about our community that we cannot manage to get more of our membership to attend services. And so finally I did what everyone else does for answers, I Googled.

I went to the URJ website and there I dis-

covered that when it comes to a lack of Shabbos service attendance our community is not unique at all. What I found was that many congregations large and small struggle with participation from their membership. Comments and discussion included length of the service, have a sermon/not have a sermon, what time to have the service, should there be a dress code, how do you involve the younger people, how long should the Oneg be, too much English/not enough Hebrew and vice versa, and even if there should be a menu of different service types offered simultaneously on Shabbat to appeal to a diverse range of observance.

There doesn't seem to be one magic formula that would solve the attendance issue for all congregations. Rather, it appears that each community has to wrestle with this issue individually and find solutions that work for it specifically. What I do know is that we have made it our mission to have a Friday night Shabbos service once a month, led by a Rabbi or a lay person, with the intent of connecting each to the other in our Jewish Community in a spiritual way. We have a wonderful Chazzan, we hold our service in a quaint, log sanctuary (that is very Jackson Hole) and you can come as you are. And, what could be more powerful than reciting the Kaddish together to support someone observing a Yahrzeit or saying the blessing for healing as others call out the names of loved ones in need of such prayer. So, if you are in the neighborhood on Shabbos please come join us at a service and help strengthen the bonds of our community through collective prayer. As Uncle Moishe often says "Don't be a stranger."

*B'Shalom,  
Al Zuckerman  
JHJC President*

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### YIDDISH WORD OF THE MONTH:

## Chutzpah

(Chkoots-pah)

1. n gall, nerve, brazenness
2. presumptuous audacity, fearless and daring

Still looking for Jewish Pets of the Month! If you have a pet that you would like featured in our newsletter, please e-mail a picture to [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org).

## CALENDAR

**December 3: Page to the Podium: Barry Lopez.** 6:30 p.m. Center for the Arts. Free ticket required. The JHJC is a proud sponsor of this event.

**December 11: Shabbat with Al Zuckerman, Josh Kleyman and Chazzan Judd Grossman.** 6:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal church, small chapel. Oneg to follow.

**December 12: Hanukkah Party.** 6:00 p.m. E. Leaven Food Company, **NOTE VENUE CHANGE!** 75 Center Street. Music, latkes, dreidel, cocktails, kid's activities and fun for all ages. Please bring your menorah and a potluck dish. If your last name begins with A-G please bring a dessert, H-M please bring a main course, N-S please bring a salad, T-Z please bring a side dish. Cost: \$5 members/\$10 nonmembers; kids under 13 free with bed or bath related item to be donated to the Community Safety Network.

**December 24 & 31: No Bet Sefer** classes. Winter Break.

**January 15: Post Challah-Day Shabbat.** Join us for a challah baking lesson with Josh Kleyman after the craziness of the holiday season has come to an end.

**January 24: "Yoo Hoo Mrs. Goldberg" film screening.** Following the film there will be a potluck community meal. Make your bubbe's best recipe or a dish Mrs. Goldberg would have made. 5 p.m. St. John's Fellowship Hall.

**January 31: Cross Country Ski Tour** with your friends from the JHJC. Ski tour will be led by our president Al Zuckerman.

**Chanukah Candles & Menorahs for Sale.** The JHJC office has boxes of Chanukah candles and menorahs. The cost of one box of candles or a menorah is \$5. To purchase, please call 734-1999.

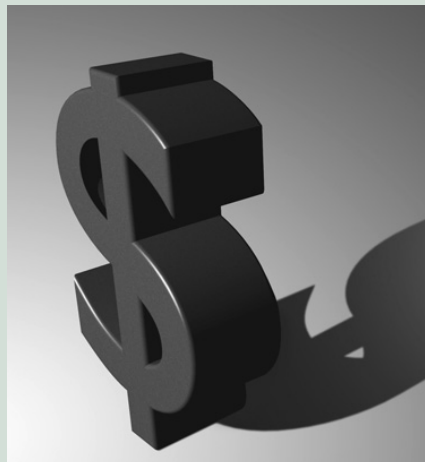
# Hanukkah Party 5770



**JHJC's 31st Annual Hanukkah Party**  
**Saturday, December 12 • 6 p.m.**  
**e. Leaven Food Co.**  
**75 Center Street, Jackson**

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with the Jackson Hole Jewish Community! Join us for music, cocktails, latkes, dreidel, kid's activities and fun for all ages. Please bring your menorah and a potluck dish. If your last name begins with A-G please bring a dessert, H-M please bring a main course, N-S please bring a salad, T-Z please bring a side dish.

**Kids under 13 free with bed or bath related item to be donated to the Community Safety Network.**



## End of the Year Donations

It's not too late to make an end of the year donation or renew your membership dues to the JHJC. The Jackson Hole Jewish Community is a registered 501(c)(3) so all your generous contributions are tax deductible for this year if you donate by the December 31st. Another great option, for those who are 70 ½ or older, is to done directly from your IRA. Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. A charitable gift made

directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) will not be taxed as income as long as the gift is made in 2009. If this is something you are interested in, we encourage you to speak to your tax advisor.

## JHJC Volunteer Corps

Attention all mensches!

The Jackson Hole Jewish Community is starting a volunteer group called the JHJC Volunteer Corps. There are so many activities and opportunities to give back to our community. Have you ever thought of volunteering, but didn't sign up because you didn't want to go by yourself? Don't hesitate anymore to volunteer!

If you would like to volunteer with other folks from the JHJC, sign up and join the JHJC Volunteer Corps today. Volunteer opportunities include (but are not limited to) ringing bells

for the salvation army, volunteering at the hospital on Christmas, donating blood, working on a trail crew, and working on a Habitat house.

All you need to do to join our volunteer group is contact Phyllis Fischer at [Phyllis.Fischer@fib.com](mailto:Phyllis.Fischer@fib.com) or 732-2530 to let her know that you would like to be put on our volunteer list. When an opportunity arises, we will contact you. You don't have to sign up for every job. When we contact you, you can let us know if you would like to participate. We hope you will join us in working towards bettering our community.

### Volunteer opportunities this month:

The JHJC is looking for people who are interested in ringing bells for the Salvation Army. It is a wonderful way to spend an hour or two as a Bell Ringer and help those less fortunate in this valley. It's also a lot of fun! If you are interested and can spare an hour (or two) on Friday, December 18, contact Andrea at 734-1999 or [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org). Sign up with a friend, with a child, or by yourself and meet other friendly folks from the JHJC. The times are fairly flexible. Once we have some people signed up, we'll pick a time during the day that works for you.

## Save the Date!



*Yoo-Hoo Mrs. Goldberg*

What: Film screening

When: Sunday, January 24, 5 p.m.

Where: St. John's, Fellowship Hall  
From Aviva Kempner, maker of *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*, comes this humorous and eye-opening story of television pioneer Gertrude Berg. She was the creator, principal writer, and star of *The Goldbergs*, a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television's very first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. Berg received the first Best Actress Emmy in history, and paved the way for women in the entertainment industry. Includes interviews with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, actor Ed Asner, producers Norman Lear (All in the Family) and Gary David Goldberg (Family Ties), and NPR correspondent Susan Stamberg.

## MAZEL TOV

■ **Devra Davis** on your appearance on the Dr. Oz show in November to discuss cell phone safety.

## DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

■ **Bert and Terry Romberg** on the loss of your beloved son-in-law Mark Harrison. Mark was a loving husband and father to Leah and Eli Harrison.

## MANY THANKS

■ **Ari Goldstein and Phyllis Fischer** for hosting our November oneg.

■ **Susan Foster and Sandy Ress** for hosting the adult education and Thanksgiving potluck at their home, and for hosting Rabbi Wenger during his visit in November.

## MORE SHTUFF

■ **Todah Rabah!** to everyone who participated in our turkey drive over Thanksgiving:

- Phyllis Fischer, Ari Goldstein & Jen Sparks, Stan & Barbara Trachtenberg, Al & Charlene Zuckerman, Lisa Finkelstein & Marc Domksy, Lous & Margaret Hochheiser, Mike Sher & Barbara Zelazo, Larry Rieser and Josh & Kalen Kleyman.

### ■ Membership to the Jackson Hole Jewish Community

It's never too late to become a member of the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. Becoming a member is the best way to support the JHJC. It shows your commitment to having an active Jewish presence in Jackson, and your membership dues are the primary way to support the monthly programs and activities that keep our community vibrant. Membership application forms have been mailed. If you did not receive one, you may download the form from our website at [www.jhjewishcommunity.org](http://www.jhjewishcommunity.org) or contact our office [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org). A sliding scale of dues is available upon request. We do not turn anyone away who wishes to be a member of the JHJC.

"Jackson Hole Jews"

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Upload and view photos, videos and events for JHJC.



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 Hole  
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 greater Jackson community. We strive to engage all families and individuals in spirituality, education, tzedakah and the joys of Jewish life.*

## Bed, Bath and Beyond

The JHJC is having another holiday drive this year. Instead of toys, we are collecting bath and bed related items for the Community Safety Network. Children (under 13) will get into our Chanukah party free with a donation. Requested items include new: bed sheets, bath towels, bath robes, slippers, full bottles of shampoo and conditioner for adults and kid's, children's toothbrushes and toothpaste, bubble bath for adults and kids. No travel size items please. Bring your donation to our 31st annual Chanukah party. If you can't make it to the party but have a donation, contact Andrea at the office 734-1999 or info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

It's fun to receive, but it's even better to give!

