

Chaverim Newsletter

Letter from the President

Shalom Chaverim

We had a lively December with a Hanukkah party for all ages, celebrated with new and old friends. We sang songs with Judd, sang Havdallah led by Judd and Larry Thal, and said the blessings over the Hanukkah candles. And then everyone ate latkes and talked a lot and we never did sing or dance more. Just as I had predicted.

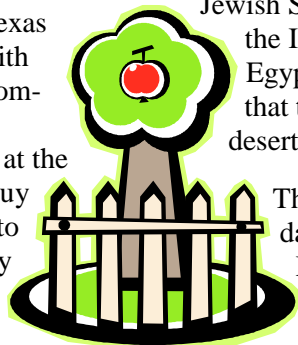
Dan Gordon came up from Texas to spend the third weekend with us — and the Jackson Hole community. He spent time in the schools and also story-telling at the library. He's a very popular guy in those venues. We are able to share him with the community because of contributions from Old Bill's Fun Run, which must be used to benefit the community and cannot be used for religious purposes.

Dan led us in a joyful Shabbat service. We blessed the children and then blessed all the good things that had happened to us lately. We met some young people new to the community. I am so glad that newcomers feel welcome. Though ties with Jackson friends are strong, I think we all love to meet new people. Each person who comes to us brings something unique. And we are all from somewhere else.

Speaking of blessings, the first session of

Judaism 101 dealt with home celebration of Shabbat. If you would like to learn the blessings, email Victoria and she'll send you the blessings for candles, wine, bread, kids, etc. in transliteration. And if you want some help learning them, let Victoria know and we will make arrangements for a lesson or two.

After the class we all went out for Chinese food, thus maintaining our ancient Jewish Sunday night tradition. (Some of the Israelites did not want to leave Egypt because they rightly suspected that there was no good Chinese in the desert. It was known to be oily).



The topic of the next session of Judaism 101 is Jewish history led by Mike Comins this month. On the year-end questionnaire, we had the most requests for religion and history classes. So, especially if you expressed interest, I hope to share future adventures in adult education with you. The class is not just for converts, but for all with an interest in the scheduled topics.

The annual meeting is Thursday, January 6. It will be short and sweet. By law we are required to meet -- and we could go for Chinese after.

As always, I look forward to seeing you all.

*Rose Novak
President*

The Directors 2004

Rose Novak, President
 Jessica Rutzick, Vice President
 Ari Goldstein, Treasurer
 Stephan Abrams
 Phyllis Fisher
 Sarah Kimelman
 Carol Mann, ex-officio
 Eve Scofield
 Larry Thal
 Barbara Trachtenberg
 Phyllis Turtle, ex-officio
 Dava Zucker

Upcoming events

The Chaverim's Annual Meeting will be held on January 6, 7 p.m., in the St. John's Meeting Room. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect new members to the Board of Directors, review the Chaverim's Plans and financial status for 2005, and such other matters as may be raised. All Members are urged to attend.

Calendar

Every Thursday — Bet Sefer, **4 p.m.** at the LDS church.

January 5 — Board meeting, **noon**. St. John’s Meeting Room. All are welcome to attend.

January 6 — Annual Meeting. **7 p.m.** St. John’s Meeting Room. All are urged to attend.

January 21 — Tu B’Shevat Seder & Shabbat with Rabbi Mike Comins. 6:30 p.m. St. John’s Fellowship Hall. On the new year of the trees, we celebrate the gifts of nature. Join us for this brief Shabbat service and Seder, followed by a potluck dinner.

January 22 — Torah Study. 4 p.m. Meeting Room at St. John’s. Rabbi Comins continues on the theme of pluralism and tolerance. Today’s fun-

damentalists speak of “absolute” or “objective” morality. We’ll examine that claim by looking at Rabbinic sources, this time from the dramatic stories of the Midrash. The rabbis believed that the Torah is the literal word of God. So what did they do when they disagreed? You’ll be surprised to find out!

January 23 – Judaism 101. 3 p.m. St. John’s Meeting Room. (Location may be adjusted.) The second of a series of classes for those considering conversion, adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, and all others with an interest in learning more about their roots. This class will address the first 2,000 years of Jewish History, both the historical events and the major cultural ideas

that shape our people till this day.

January 23 — Newsletter deadline. Please send submissions to info@jhjewishcommunity.org. Note, Newsletter submissions are due the 23rd of every month.

February 2 — Board meeting. Noon. St. John’s Meeting Room (tentative). All are welcome to attend.

February 19 — Shabbat Service. 6:30 p.m. St. John’s Chapel.

March 12 — Purim Party and dinner. 6 p.m. St. John’s Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations

To Rachel Mancoll and Wendell Stam, who were married way back in June! but never quite found their way onto these pages.

Treasurer’s Report November 2004

Inflows

Bet Sefer	\$1250	
Donations/Dues	2450	
Old Bills	15,602	
Interest	0	
Other	13	
Total Inflows		\$19,090

Outflows

Admin	1,888	
Adult Education	90	
Tzedakah	300	
Insurance	0	
Leadership	0	
Religious Events	2785	
Special Programming	0	
Summer Camp	0	
Bet Sefer	1204	
Total Outflows		\$6,267
Income Less Expenses		\$12,823

Book Ideas

The first meeting of Judaism 101 included a list of recommended books prepared by Dan Gordon. The list, below, also appears on the Chaverim’s website together with other materials prepared by Dan.

- *The Everything Judaism Book*, by Richard Bank
- *Basic Judaism*, by Rabbi Milton Steinberg
- *Essential Judaism*, by George Robinson
- *On the Doorposts of Your House*, by Chaim Stern
- *Seasons for Celebration*, by Rabbi Karen Fox, Phyllis Zimpler Miller and Vicki Reikes Fox
- *Common Prayers*, by Harvey Cox
- *Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism*, by Dennis Prager and Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

- *Making a Successful Jewish Interfaith Marriage*, by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky
- *Jewish Literacy*, by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin
- *Why Be Jewish*, by Rabbi David Wolpe
- *The First Jewish Catalog*, by Michael Strassfield and Richard Siegel
- *A Book of Life*, Embracing Judaism as a Spiritual Practice, by Rabbi Michael Strassfield

Chaverim Library

The Chaverim has an extensive Library, but we do not know what is in it. If you would be interested in cataloging the Library, our resource would be far more usable by all. Please call the office if you are able to undertake this task.

Judaism 101

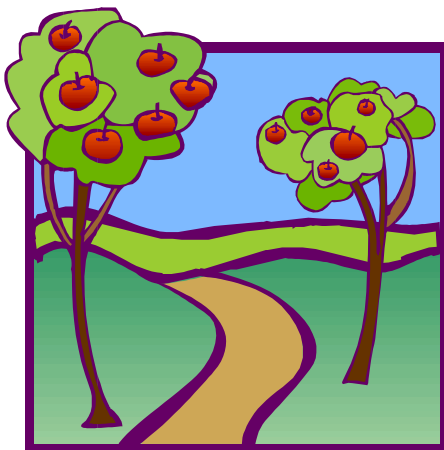
Dan Gordon and a group of potential converts and others interested in expanding their knowledge of Judaism explored the roots of Shabbat duties and their roles in modern society at the first meeting of Judaism 101 last month. From the unanswered question about whether the Shabbat prohibition against plowing included snow plowing to a discussion of men's sexual duties as Jews, the class was well-received by the eight students who

attended.

Judaism 101 classes will continue in January, with Mike Comins leading a discussion on the first 2,000 years of Jewish History, both the historical events and the major cultural ideas that shape our people till this day. January's class will meet at 3 p.m., Sunday, January 23, at the St. John's Meeting Room. All are welcome to attend.

Future classes will include discussions on Jewish history, books and writings of the Jewish Faith, theology, prayer, life cycle events, and Jewish beliefs. A full syllabus can be found on the Chaverim website at www.jhewishcommunity.org. You are welcome to attend any or all of the classes.

Various materials from the classes will be posted on the Chaverim website.



Tu B'Shevat Seder

Brief Shabbat Service & Potluck

January 21, 6:30 p.m.,

St. John's Fellowship Hall

Join us to celebrate our appreciation for the gifts of nature and wilderness. Our celebration will include fruits, nuts, wine, and a creative Seder.

*With Rabbi Mike Comins &
Chazan Judd Grossman*

Suggested Potluck Assignments:

A-K: salads and veggies,

L-S: main dishes:

T-Z: main dishes or dessert



Jackson Hole Chaverim

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Email: Info@JHJewishCommunity.org
Website: www.jhjewishcommunity.org

The office is at 575 S. Willow St. in Jackson.
Office Hours:
Tuesdays 11-2
Or by arrangement.

The Jewish Community of Jackson Hole 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, tzadakah, and the joys of Jewish life

Membership & Mailing List Update

Our annual membership mailing was made to more than 300 persons on our list in September. As of mid-December, we have heard from a good many members, but there are still more we hope to hear from. Whether you wish to be a member of the Chaverim, or simply support our work through a donation, we need to hear from you soon. Memberships are \$500 for two-parent families, \$350 for single-parent families, and \$250 for singles. Donations may be made in any amount. Either may be sent to the Chaverim at the PO Box listed above.



Please note that we are in the process of purging our mailing lists. If we have not heard from you in the last two-three years, either by a donation or a request to stay on the list, you will not receive the newsletter after this issue. It costs us about \$20 a year to send each member a newsletter, so it is important that you get in touch with us if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. If you want to receive the newsletter by e-mail in the future, instead of snail mail, we would be glad to add you to that list.