

Free Film



Yoo Hoo Mrs. Goldberg
Free film screening
5:00 p.m.
St. John's Fellowship Hall

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • JANUARY 2010

Letter from the president

This past summer Uncle Moishe was having a contractor do some extensive renovation work on his house. Unc was paying Morris, the contractor, on a weekly basis for a job that was going to stretch over several months. One day Morris approaches Uncle Moishe and holds up a check he was given. "This is \$200 less then we agreed on," Morris said. "I know," said Uncle Moishe, "but last week I overpaid you \$200 and you never complained." To this Morris the contractor replied impatiently, "Well, I don't mind an occasional mistake. But when it gets to be a habit I feel I need to call it to your attention."

As I was wrestling with putting up the icicle lights on the house eaves last month it occurred to me that no other time of the year has the potential to stress an interfaith marriage more than during the Christmas/Chanukah holiday season. You know how just worrying over whether the flames from the Menorah candles will catch the Christmas tree on fire can drive a person crazy. I read a statistic recently that stated that today one out of two Jews is in an interfaith marriage. In fact, my lovely wife Charlene and I are such a couple. She attended Catholic schools through high school and I went to Hebrew school. We didn't think this would be a problem; after all, love can overcome anything, right? Well, we realized we were being a little naïve when one day, while visiting family in New York, we went to a kosher deli for lunch.

I ordered pastrami on rye and Charlene ordered a corned beef club. When the waiter placed the sandwich in front of her, my sweet, innocent wife asked for some mayonnaise. The entire hubbub in the deli came to a screeching halt. Talk about life imitating art, it was like a scene out of one of Woody Allen's movies. It was at that moment I knew that "Houston, we have a problem."

Seriously though, interfaith couples do have to deal with some important and complicated questions and issues. Can we overcome different religious backgrounds or fundamental beliefs to make our marriage work? Will you go to Christmas mass with your spouse and will they attend High Holiday services with you? How will our families react to our relationship? Oy, and what about children! How should we raise our kids? Bat mitzvah or confirmation? Which holidays do we celebrate? Go to church, synagogue or both? How a couple deals with all these questions can have a great impact on them and the other people in their lives. Partners often forego sharing holidays and put aside their treasured childhood traditions. They may feel isolated in their religious beliefs when they are immersed in their spouse's cultural and religious environment and separated from their own. They risk the alienation of their families. They can confuse their children if they haven't even come to grips with how they, themselves, have addressed the subject of living in a two religion family.

Continued on page 3 ...

DIRECTORS 2010

Al Zuckerman, President
 Josh Kleyman, Vice President
 Ari Goldstein, Treasurer
 Mary Grossman, Secretary
 Mark Aronowitz
 Phyllis Fischer
 Lou Hochheiser
 Andy King
 Deb Ochstein
 Lisa Finkelstein, ex-officio
 Carol Mann, ex-officio
 Rose Novak, ex-officio
 Rachel Ravitz, ex-officio
 Larry Thal, ex-officio
 Phyllis Turtle, ex-officio
 Linda Weil, ex-officio
 Dava Zucker, ex-officio

YIDDISH WORD OF THE MONTH:

ONGEPATCHKT

(Oong-ga-patch-kid)

- 1. adj. gaudy, overly done, decorated beyond normal limits**
- 2. slapped together**

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.

CALENDAR

January 15: Shabbat with Carl Levenson and Chazzan Judd Grossman. NEW! Beit Caffe Oneg (Coffee House) to follow with original tunes, wine and a good vibe by Judd Grossman. 6:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church.

January 24: "Yoo Hoo Mrs. Goldberg" FREE 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. 5:00 p.m. St. John's Fellowship Hall.

January 31: Cross-country ski tour with president Al Zuckerman to Phelps Lake. 10 a.m. meet at the Home Ranch Parking lot. Bring lunch or a snack and water.

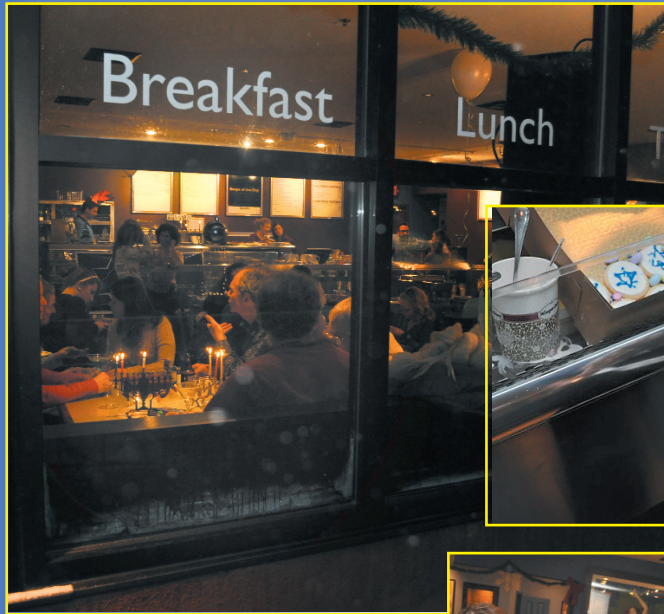
February 10: Honoring Inger Koedt. An evening with Jackson resident Inger Koedt whose family hid Jews in Europe during WWII. 5:30 p.m. Old Wilson School House.

February 19: Challah-day Shabbat. Join us for a challah baking lesson with Josh Kleyman. 5:30 p.m. Home of Shawn and Mike Daus. Please contact 734-1999 or info@jhjewishcommunity.org for directions. Reminder: Please park in the Cody lot at JHMR and walk across the street to Shawn and Mike's house.

February 27: Pasta on Purim. A fundraiser for the JHJC's Bet Sefer. Old Wilson School House. For more details check out our February newsletter.

Scenes from the Hanukkah Party 5770

at E. Leaven Food Co. in Jackson Hole



Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the latkes and good friends. It was another successful Hanukkah party!



Letter from President ...

What works for one may not work for the other. Everyone has to find their own solutions to working things out. I do believe that if you are starting out with a foundation of love and respect for one another, you can find common ground in your relationship with your spouse in your varying religious beliefs. In fact, I have found that being confronted with the issues mentioned above has actually given clarity to what I believe as a Jewish person and, ultimately, as a human being. And it has sharpened my own knowledge of Judaism, as well. For instance, when having dinner at the in-laws, I may find myself having to explain Jewish dietary laws when I pass on a glass of milk with my steak.

The point of my comments here is not to debate the political side of interfaith marriages but to recognize that they exist and that despite the many challenges, can be religiously enriching to both partners. Albeit my humble and limited layman's religious background, it seems to me that all religions express the message of peace, charity, tolerance and love. If we focus on these common tenets rather than the differences in our faiths I think partners in interfaith marriages can thrive in each other's religious environment and strengthen their own convictions.

Peace on earth, good will to all and Shalom!

B'Shalom
Al Zuckerman, JHJC President

FREE FILM



Yoo-Hoo Mrs. Goldberg

What: Film screening

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

Where: St. John's, Fellowship Hall

Nosh: Please bring a potluck dish that Mrs. Goldberg would have made (or your favorite recipe your bubbe made/makes) for a potluck dinner to follow the film.

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.

Gertrude Berg became a cultural icon against the backdrop of the twentieth century's most difficult years for American Jews. Berg's radio show, *The Goldbergs*, which she created, wrote, and starred in, premiered a week after the stock market crash of 1929. The show rose in popularity at the same time Hitler rose to power in Germany. She combined social commentary, family values and comedy to win the hearts of America. In 1949, she brought *The Goldbergs* to television, and it became the new medium's very first character-driven domestic sitcom. She weathered yet another minefield of American history, Senator Joseph McCarthy's blacklist, which had a devastating effect on the entertainment industry.

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

■ **Jessica Rutzick** on the birth of your son Solomon Louis Rutzick.



(left) Solomon Rutzick, (right) Ben and Max Trachtenberg.

■ **Stan and Barbara Trachtenberg** on the birth of your grandsons Ben and Max Trachtenberg.

■ **EJ Hirschfield** on recently adopting two dogs who needed a home.

■ **Dani Domsky** on the publication of your essay in *Jackson Hole Snowboarder* magazine.

■ **Rabbi Dan Gordon** (yes, Rabbi!) on beoming an ordained rabbi.

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

■ **Jerry and Barbara Aronowitz** on the loss of your beloved brother Murray Aronowitz.

MANY THANKS

■ **Juddy Hammerschlag, Jamie Dakis** and **Al Zuckerman** for ringing bells for the Salvation Army in December.

■ **Audrey Cohen-Davis, Mary Grossman, Laurie Thal, Larry Thal, Joanna Snyder, Josh and Kalen Kleyman** and **Ari Goldstein** for helping make our 31st annual Chanukah party another huge success.

■ **Everyone** who contributed to our **Bed, Bath and Beyond drive** to support the Community Safety Network this holiday season.

■ **Sandy Ress** for your help and inspiration to bring the film *Yoo Hoo Mrs. Goldberg* to Jackson this winter.

"Jackson Hole Jews"

facebook

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.

Shabbat & Beit Café (Coffee House) January 15, 7 p.m.



Judd Grossman will sing originals at this month's oneg.

Join the Jackson Hole Jewish Community for something NEW!

Enjoy a Shabbat service at 6 p.m. with Carl Levenson, followed by Beit Café (coffee house) Oneg featuring JHJC chazzan Judd Grossman singing a set of his alternative folk originals. Enjoy wine, food in a relaxing atmosphere. Shabbat starts at 6 p.m. and Beit Cafe starts at 7 p.m. Bring your friends. St. John's Episcopal Church. Stay tuned for the next Shabbat Beit Cafe in March featuring local singer/songwriter Dahvi Wilson.