

**Shabbat with  
Carol Mann and  
Chazzan Judd Grossman**

**Friday, July 20**

6:30 p.m.

at the home of

Ron & Rose Novak.

Oneg to follow. Please  
contact the office for  
directions 734-1999.

# The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • JULY 2007

## Letter from the Presidents

Our June Shabbat was held at the beautiful home of Linda and Sandy Weiner. Rabbi Jerry Weider and Chazzan Judd Grossman led the service while the sun set behind the Tetons. Linda's homemade challah, cookies, and desserts made for a delicious Oneg. The next evening we had a Havdalah service at the Finkelstein-Domsky's followed by a discussion on the multiple meanings of mitzvah led by Rabbi Weider. We look forward to our next Shabbat service which will be led by Carol Mann at the home of Ron and Rose Novak on July 20.

On July 11 at 7 p.m. at the Teton County Library, Seth Ward, professor of religious studies at the University of Wyoming, will be leading a discussion on Kabbalah. We have had many people express an interest in gaining insight into ancient mystical Judaism. Everyone is welcome to attend this evening of learning and there is no charge.

The summer has been filled with ideas from your board of directors. The board had a very productive meeting with Rabbi Weider in June hosted by the Troxler-Thal family. We discussed Rabbi search, tzedakah, affiliation, congregation building, dues and fee structures, fundraising, High Holiday tickets, community outreach, renting a larger space, among other topics. We look forward to continuing conversations on all of these topics and more. The officers agree - and our survey results thus far - support that our congregation should begin the process of affiliation with the

Union of Reform Judaism. The entire process will take many months - approximately six to twelve. This pathway can open many doors for us as a growing Jewish community. We are confident that this is a crucial first step that will be advantageous, leading to more opportunities and resources. Rabbi Weider will be returning to Jackson in August to continue discussions and lend his guidance to the board and our members. We encourage you to meet with him and ask questions.

We are delighted with the response to the survey that we sent out last month. We urge those of you who have not shared your thoughts to please take a moment to fill out the survey and return it to our office. We value each of your opinions. If you feel differently than your spouse or significant other, please fill out two surveys. We are inspired and directed by what you tell us is meaningful to you - services, tzedakah, children's education, holiday celebrations, social events, public outreach. We will be compiling the results to review by August 3 and will share the information in our September newsletter.

As always we appreciate hearing your voices and the opportunity to have conversations with you. We encourage you to contact us or any board member. Together we will continue to grow and build and flourish and celebrate being Jewish in our beautiful valley.

*B'Shalom,  
Lisa and Dava, Co-Presidents*

## Directors 2007

Lisa Finkelstein, Co-President

Dava Zucker, Co-President

Rachel Ravitz Co-Vice President

Al Zuckerman Co-Vice President

David Mayers, Treasurer

Scott Stachel, Secretary

Brent Blue

Jen Daniels

Mary Grossman

Merle Lundy

Karin McQuillan

Shannon Thal

Linda Wiener

Carol Mann ex-officio

Rose Novak ex-officio

Larry Thal ex-officio

Phyllis Turtle ex-officio

Linda Weil ex-officio



### Jewish Pet of the Month:

Cubby Novak. Happy birthday Cubby! (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

**July 11: Kabbalah: What is it really?** An introduction to Jewish mysticism with University of WY Judaic Studies professor Seth Ward. Teton County Library, 7 p.m. All are welcome.

**July 15: Pre-Camp Pot-Luck.** 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Owen Bircher Park. Campers and their families are invited to join the counselors and CITs for a pre-camp information session and pot-luck. If your last name begins with an A-G please bring a main course, H-M please bring a dessert, N-S please bring a side dish, T-Z please bring a salad.

**July 16-20 & 23-27: Spirit of the Mountains Summer Camp**

**July 20: Shabbat with Carol Mann and Chazzan Judd Grossman.** 6:30 p.m. at the home of Ron & Rose Novak. Oneg to follow. Please contact the office for directions 734-1999.

**August 14: AIPAC Meeting**

**August 24: Shabbat with Rabbi Jerry Weider.**

## WHO is the RABBI for HIGH HOLIDAYS 57688?

### RABBI ROBERT FRAZIN

Rabbi Frazin has been the Rabbi of Temple Solel in Hollywood, FL since its inception 37 years ago. He is a native of Chicago, and was ordained as a Rabbi from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Before Rabbi Frazin became the Rabbi of Temple Solel, he was the Director of the Southeast Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now known as the Union for Reform

Judaism). In that position Rabbi Frazin served 56 congregations including a congregation in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island for 4 years.

Rabbi Frazin has also served as Rabbinical Advisor to the Ohio Valley Federation of Temple Youth and the Southeast Federation of Temple Youth. The Rabbi organized the Miami Mitzvah Corps, and is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He has also served as President of the Inter-Faith Council of Greater Hollywood for several terms.

Currently, Rabbi Frazin is a Vice

President of the Southeast Region of the American Friends of Magen Daveed Adom (ARMDI). He sits on the Board of Directors for the Southeast Holocaust Documentation Center, Diversity Advisory Council,

Broward County Jewish Community Relations Council, Regents of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, South Florida Chapter of American Friends of the Hebrew University, Coalition for Breast Cancer Research, and Inter-Faith Council



of Greater Hollywood. He is the co-chair of the Jewish Federation of Broward County's Planning committee and the co-chair of the Tikkun Olam (Repair the World) committee of the Jewish Federation of Broward County. He is also an active member of the city of Hollywood, Florida's Green Environmental team.

*Rabbi Frazin and his wife Penny are the parents of two sons, Jeff and Danny, and a daughter, Julie. They are also the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.*

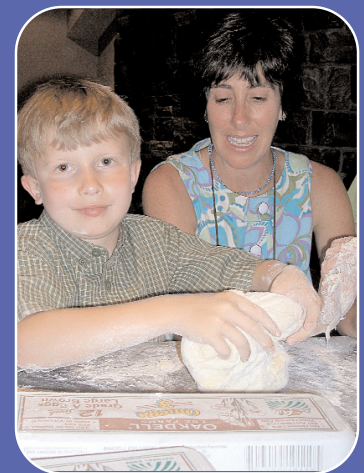
## Scenes from last month's Challah Baking and Potluck Shabbat



Terry Romberg preps the challah for braiding.



Josh Kleyman shows off his skills in the kitchen.



Dillon Weiss enjoys showing Lisa Finkelstein how to kneed.

## “WHY DO A MITZVAH” (A Rabbi’s Perspective)

In Judaism, the religious obligations that an adult Jew assumes are called mitzvot. This Hebrew word has a dual translation. It means both commandment and good deed at the same time. In my opinion, these dual translations and meanings are complimentary. Let me explain.

There are six hundred thirteen Mitzvot- Commandments- in the Torah. Two hundred forty eight are positive commandments (for example: “You shall eat Matzot for seven days” and “Honor

your father and your mother”). There are three hundred sixty five negative commandments (for example: “You shall not murder” and “You shall not curse a deaf person”, and “You shall not put a stumbling block in the path of a blind person.”) Taken as a whole, the 613 Mitzvot create a whole pathway in life for the betterment of body, soul, and

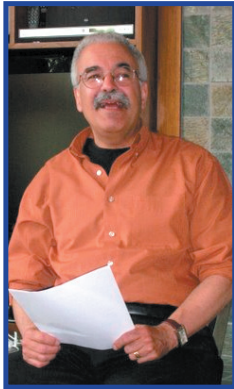
community. Here is where the complimentary meaning of “Mitzvah” emerges.

As individuals, we are enriched when we follow the commandments in the Torah as interpreted through the ages by the rabbis. We are enriched because the mitzvot, the commandments, lead us down road that allows us to control our yetzer harah, our evil inclination while enhancing our yetzer hatov, our good inclination. The mitzvot give us a personal pathway in life through a list of reminders on how to check our evil impulses and reach out towards a higher good. As such, the mitzvot nourish our human propensity for caring, for sharing, and for making sure we live a life dedicated to enhancing the humanity that resides within each and every person on this earth.

As a community, we are also enriched when we follow the commandments. That happens through the outreach to others via good deeds that benefit everyone. The mitzvot lead us to feed the hungry, work for peace, create communal institutions that benefit the downtrodden

in our communities, preserve our earth, etc. In this manifestation, the mitzvot remind us of Rabbi Hillel’s famous teaching: “If I am only for myself, what am I?” (Pirke Avot)

So why do a mitzvah? Because, in a sense, it is possible to say that the mitzvot of Judaism provide us with a connection between humanity and G-d. In my opinion, the mitzvot act as a bridge between the Creator and creation. That is so because when a person does a mitzvah, which has an individual



meaning or a communal meaning, it is a deed of cosmic significance and a deed of infinite value unto itself. The great medieval Jewish philosopher and physician, Moses Maimonides intimated this concept when he noted that a single person, performing a single mitzvah, could change the world because that mitzvah could be the deed that tips the scales and

brings redemption to the entire world and all of creation.

I would encourage everyone to look at the glorious natural beauty all around Jackson. That beauty stands in contrast to the finite world we human beings have made. Look at this duality, and then strive to do something to bring the two realities of our existence into harmony. How? By becoming aware of the mitzvot... both for the individual and for the community. If you can become cognizant of the idea that each of us, through our actions (our individual mitzvot) can change the world... then now is the time to do something! Begin with a mitzvah — any mitzvah because as time goes by, its value will become evident to you, as a person, and to everyone else within the community in short order. Again, as Rabbi Hillel taught in Pirke Avot: “If not now, When?”

**-Rabbi Gerald I. Weider,  
Senior Consultant to the  
Rabbinic Cabinet of UJC**

## TID BITS

### Pre-Camp Pot-Luck

Calling all campers and their families! You are invited to join the counselors and CITs for a pre-camp information session and pot-luck from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Owen Bircher Park in Wilson. If your last name begins with an A-G please bring a main course, H-M please bring a dessert, N-S please bring a side dish, T-Z please bring a salad.

### Host the Rabbi for High Holidays

We are looking for a guest house for Rabbi Frazin and his wife who are coming from Hollywood, FL for High Holidays 5768. If you have space available at your home, and would like to host the Rabbi during this very important time of year, please let us know. The mitzvah of hosting the Rabbi would be a great economic help to the JHJC.

### Many Thanks:

**Linda and Sandy Wiener** for hosting the June Shabbat service at their home.

**Lisa Finkelstein and Marc Domsky** for hosting the June Havdallah service and discussion at their home.

**Eve Scofield** for donating the use of her vehicle to the Spirit of the Mountains Summer Camp.

**Merle Lundy** for donating a book to the JHJC library.

**Diann Mann** for donating a DVD to the JHJC library.

**Mike and Shawn Daus** for hosting the challah baking Shabbat.

**Josh Kleyman and Kalen Ritz** for instructing the community on how to make the perfect challah at our potluck Shabbat.

### Mazel Tov:

**Ben Trauner** and his family on his **Bar Mitzvah** in Jerusalem on July 12.



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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.*

**Kabbalah:**  
**What is it Really?**  
 An introduction to Kabbalah with  
 University of WY Religious Studies Professor Seth Ward

**July 11, 7:00 p.m.**  
**at the Teton County Library**

Sponsored by the Jackson Hole Jewish Community

**DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR SURVEY!**

We want your input! Help us create the future for the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. Please fill out your survey and send it back to P.O. Box 10667 Jackson, WY 83002. If you need a copy of the survey please contact the office at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or visit our website at www.jhjewishcommunity.org