

SAVE THE DATE:



**Swingin' Sabbath with
the Richard Brown
Orchestra
Friday, August 5
South Park • 6 p.m.**

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • JULY 2011

Letter from the president

President's Report from the Annual Membership Meeting

We had approximately twenty members show up for the annual membership meeting. We elected two new board members, Christine Schuller and Andrea Mazer, both unanimously. We also re-elected board member Andy King for another term. We said goodbye and gave a job-well-done to past board president Lisa Finkelstein, board treasurer Ari Goldstein, board members Mark Aronowitz, Etta Lindenfeld and Devra Davis. Ari gave the year-end budget report. There was much discussion amongst the membership on a wide variety of topics. One of the most enjoyable activities of the evening was the announcement of the Volunteer of the Year award. This year's vote was very close with Christine Schuller edging out Ari Goldstein. Both deserve recognition and our appreciation for their service to the JHJC.

And, in addition, I gave the following report to the membership. Despite the continuing national and local economic woes the last two years, I think the JHJC has fared pretty well as an organization. The Community is in relatively good shape financially. The board started the fiscal year with a very conservative budget. Ari and Lori (our bookkeeper) did their best every month to keep us apprised of where our budget stood which allowed us to make sound and informed decisions on programming as the year went along. For instance, because they gave us accurate fiscal information we were able to have the Passover seder catered whereas at the beginning of the fiscal year, we had planned to make it a potluck, in order to save money. Also, whereas we had intended to only have three Sabbath services with rabbinical leadership, after receiving positive and up-to-date financial reports from Ari and Lori we were able to have six, instead. The Board also recognized that this was not the time to raise fees and so membership dues and Bet Sefer fees were kept the same as the year before. The point is

that good financial reporting and fiscal responsibility and conservatism on the part of the board played a large part in the current financial health of our organization.

But spreadsheets are not the whole story. Far from it. Board members and general members alike played a major role in keeping us financially sound. Members rose to the occasion by freely volunteering and generously contributing money, time and in-kind services. Whether it was Christine Schuller securing a grant for our Israel Independence Day event or Devra Davis letting a visiting Rabbi use her house for a week or Lori Thal loaning a Rabbi a car so we wouldn't have the expense of having to rent one for him. There are many, many examples of how time and time again Jewish community members have stepped forward to fill a need when we called out for help.

Looking back on the past year we had, I must say, a busy one. In August we held our first Swingin' Shabbat. This turned out to be a raucous and joyous event with music and dancing and lots of people attending. We had our first woman Rabbi to lead High Holiday services in Rabbi Karen Berger. We experienced a big change in that executive director, Andrea Mazer, left that post after four years to be replaced by Mary Grossman. Because of the professionalism and considerable talents of both women, the transition went rather smoothly. Another transition we had to make was finding a new camp director. We think we were lucky to have found a good one to replace the good one we had and look forward to a great summer camp session this year. We had a moving and meaningful Holocaust Remembrance Day event highlighted by the lovely glass flames Lori Thal created for just this occasion. When we didn't have a Rabbi several of our own members stepped up to lead Shabbous services, Josh Kleyman and Michael Gellis, to name two that come to mind. Michael's beautiful voice filled in as Chazzan, as well as lay leader, as Judd Grossman was unavailable for that service. By

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DIRECTORS 2011

Al Zuckerman, President
 Josh Kleyman, Vice President
 Mary Grossman, Exec. Director
 Phyllis Fischer
 Andy King
 Andrea Mazer
 Rose Novak
 Christine Schuller
 Lisa Finkelstein, ex-officio
 Carol Mann, ex-officio
 Rachel Ravitz, ex-officio
 Larry Thal, ex-officio
 Phyllis Turtle, ex-officio
 Linda Weil, ex-officio
 Dava Zucker, ex-officio

Jewish Pet of the Month



Lailah Grossman

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

July 17: Pre- Camp Kosher BBQ for Campers, Parents and Staff with Camp Director Jenn Kauffman. Kosher hotdogs and chicken, chips and drinks provided. Meet fellow campers and staff. Owen Bircher Park in Wilson.

July 18: Summer Camp begins!

July 22: Shabbat Picnic with Rabbi Mike Comins and Judd Grossman. 6 p.m., Journeys School. Oneg/Potluck picnic/live music to follow.

July 24: Making Prayer Real workshop with author and Rabbi Mike Comins. 9:30 a.m., Journeys School. \$25.

July 24: Lecture by Sgt. Benjamin Anthony who is with an Our Soldiers Speak, a non-governmental, nonprofit organization, that convenes lectures pertaining to the Israel Defence Forces. 7 p.m., Snow King Ballroom. Free. *(This is not a JHJC sponsored event.)*

July 28: Live Film Event at the Center Theater — Live from Jerusalem: The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Zubin Mehta with soloists Renee Fleming and Joseph Calleja. Filled with majestic arias and duets, the performance includes a sweeping visual and audio experience that will bring down the curtain on the Jerusalem Season of Culture 2011. 7 p.m. \$15.

August 5: 2nd Annual Swingin' Sabbath with the Richard Brown Orchestra and Judd Grossman. 6 p.m., South Park. Dancing, refreshments. Free.

August 8: AIPAC meetings with Sen. Enzi and U.S. Rep Cynthia Lummis. Sen. Enzi: 1 – 1:30 p.m. at his office above Café Boheme on Maple Way. Rep. Lummis: 2 p.m. at River Crossing in Rafter J.

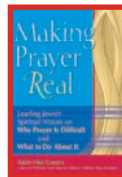
August 9: AIPAC meeting with Sen. Barrasso. 3 p.m. at River Crossing in Rafter J.

We need your help and generosity this summer:

- We are looking for volunteers and Torah Readers for High Holidays 5772.

JHJC sends a special Todah Rabah to Dr. Brent Blue and JH Weekly for donating the production of this newsletter each month.

Making Prayer Real Workshop with Author and Rabbi, Mike Comins



When: Sunday, July 24. 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 9:30 a.m. Coffee /Bagels
 10 a.m. Workshop Begins
 12:15 p.m. Lunch

Where: Journeys School Campus

Cost: \$25 JHJC Members \$30 Non-members

Description: In writing his latest book, *Making Prayer Real: Leading Jewish Spiritual Voices on Why Prayer is Difficult and What to Do about It* (Jewish Lights Publishing; www.MakingPrayerReal.com), Rabbi Mike Comins interviewed over 50 people on what makes their prayer life fruitful. He will share their insights and best practices, emphasizing the spiritual dynamics of prayer rather than theology. We shall ask what makes prayer rich, satisfying and effective, and explore a few of the techniques suggested in the book. For more information, and to register contact Mary at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 307.734.1999.



President's letter ...

the way, you may or may not know that Michael is a moyl, and he asked me to announce that he is offering a special summer discount on circumcisions, if anyone is interested. Other activities included cooking classes where we learned how to make knishes, gefilte fish and hummus. We conducted a membership survey to see what the community was thinking and I tell you, you shouldn't know from it. Oy! We had roughly 125 attendees at the various High Holiday services and 100 at the Passover seder. We were stuck on 10 until we announced it would be catered instead of a potluck. I don't know if that says something about our potlucks or our membership only wanting to attend catered affairs. We sponsored a Chanukah gelt fundraiser, had a Purim bowling party and a Shabbat ice skating party.

I think everyone would agree that one of our most important functions is to engage our children in Jewish life. In 2010-11 we had another successful year of Bet Sefer with twelve students enrolled. We operated a two week day camp which was very popular and got great reviews from the kids. Always a yardstick of how we are doing by our children regarding their Jewish education we had one Bar Mitzvah, Ben Scher. And two former Bet Sefer students and Bas Mitzvahs themselves, Aviva Thal and Esther Grossman came back to help teach at the Hebrew school. In the next eighteen months we are looking forward to three more Bar Mitzvahs.

As a Jewish organization we take seriously the mitzvahs of tzedakah and doing good works in the community. To this end we held our annual food drive during the High Holidays and another drive before Thanksgiving to provide turkeys to the foodbank. We rang bells for the Salvation Army and provided assistance to our own community members. On Christmas Day JHJC members brought treats to St. John's Hospital staff and

entertained folks at the nursing home.

Looking ahead to 2011-12 the Board will be holding a board retreat this coming fall to discuss future goals and other issues. We are developing a membership directory that will come out around the High Holidays. The Board has finally put the tickets issue to rest and will not charge for High Holiday services. The Board also realizes it has some challenges, too. We continue to struggle to engage many of our post Bar and Bas Mitzvahs in Jewish activities and programming. Also, our wonderful and longtime Bet Sefer director, Sidney Daniels, is leaving us with some pretty big shoes to fill. We will have to search this summer for a suitable replacement to fill this important position. Another area that bedevils us is fundraising. To be honest, we are not very good at it and a telling fact is that the Board does not even have a fundraising committee chairperson. It is only through the generosity of our members' donations that we are able to provide the programming we do and not through our fundraising efforts.

In the coming year the Board will strive to be fiscally responsible while still maintaining quality religious programming and creative and interesting cultural and social events. We will make sure the bases are covered such as Shabbat and holiday observances, children's education and mitzvah based projects. We look to everyone in our community to pitch in to help in these efforts. This organization's strength is in its members' talents, volunteerism and commitment to keeping the Jackson Hole Jewish Community strong. It is this willingness on the part of our members to do what needs to be done that makes me confident that this next year will be a great one.

*B'Shalom,
 Al Zuckerman
 JHJC President*

SUMMER EVENTS



Shabbat and Summer Picnic with Rabbi Mike Comins and Judd Grossman

Friday, July 22

Journeys School Campus

6 p.m. Service followed by Potluck Oneg, Picnic and Live Music

Please bring picnic basket goodies and blanket to share (Rain or shine!)

Mountain Chai News

Schuller wins JHJC Volunteer of the Year

At the JHJC Annual Membership Meeting on June



Christine Schuller

27, Christine Schuller was awarded "Volunteer of the Year" by the JHJC Board. Christine has donated her time and expertise on many outreach programs offered by the JHJC, like the recent Holocaust Memorial Gathering in April and past in-school programs addressing tolerance and anti-Semitism. Many of you may also know Christine's amazing challah as the best challah you've ever had.

Live Film Event from Jerusalem: The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Zubin Mehta



Zubin Mehta

"The diva of the people," Renee Fleming arrives for a one-time performance

After conquering every possible world stage, mega soprano, Renee Fleming, will perform a one-night-only engagement in Jerusalem International Convention Center. Ms. Fleming will be accompanied by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and an entirely new visual experience that will light up the stage. Be prepared for a radical audio-visual experience in a spectacular performance that will bring down the curtain on the Jerusalem Season of Culture 2011. 7 p.m., Thursday, July 28, Center for the Arts Theater. \$15.

Swingin' Sabbath kicks off Membership Drive

Celebrate being Jewish in Jackson Hole with Swingin' Sabbath with the Richard Brown Orchestra and Judd Grossman.



Percussionist Richard Brown

This signature event is made possible by the terrific members of the JHJC. Being a member is the best way to support the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. 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 communi-

ty vibrant. Membership applications will be mailed in August. A sliding scale of dues is available upon request. We do not turn anyone away who wishes to be a member of the JHJC. *Swingin' Sabbath, 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5. South Park location. Dancing and refreshments. Free.*

A is for August and AIPAC

No matter what your views on Israel may be, this is the



perfect time to get an exclusive update on what's going with the U.S. and Israel straight from the horse's mouth. JHJC member, Joan Goldfarb, works each year to set up these meetings so you can hear Senators Enzi and Barrasso and Representative Lummis discuss policy issues concerning Israel. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

■ **Senator Enzi:** Aug. 8, 1 - 1:30 p.m. at his office on Maple Way above Cafe Boheme.

■ **Representative Lummis:** Aug. 8, 2 p.m. at River Crossing in Rafter J.

■ **Senator Barrasso:** Aug. 9, 3 p.m. at River Crossing in Rafter J.

MANY THANKS

■ **Al Zuckerman, Christine Schuller, Sandy Ress and Susan Foster** for hosting oneg for Shabbat in June with Rabbi Wenger.

■ **Todah rabah to our departing Board Members: Ari Goldstein (treasurer), Etta Lindenfeld, Mark Aronowitz, Devra Davis and Lisa Finkelstein.** We are honored and grateful for your service to the Jackson Hole Jewish Community.

MAZEL TOV!

■ **New Board Members: Christine Schuller and Andrea Mazer.**

■ **Christine Schuller** for being chosen "Volunteer of the Year." Christine has volunteered countless hours and baked the BEST challah making our JHJC events warm and meaningful. Thank you, Christine!

SPEEDY RECOVERY

■ To **Michael Wolff, beloved Camp Councilor**, who tore his ACL and won't be able to be at camp this year. :(

VISITING JH

■ **Camp Dir. Jenn Kauffmann**
 ■ **Camp councilor Heather Schoen**
 ■ **Camp councilor Stephen Wolff**
 ■ **Rabbi Mike Comins**
 ■ **Toby Joy Zelt**, Associate Director of Torah Trek, here to help out with Summer Camp.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

■ **Looking for potential donors** for Swingin' Sabbath on 8.5.11
 Contact Mary at info@jhjewishcommunity.org if you are interested.



"Jackson Hole Jews"





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, WY
Office hours: *Subject to change.*
Wednesdays 1:15 - 5 p.m.
Fridays 1:15 - 5 p.m.



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.

SUMMER CAMP PRE-CAMP KOSHER BBQ



Sunday
July 17 • 6 p.m.
Owen Bircher
Park

- Attend the annual Pre-Camp BBQ for Campers, Parents and Spirit of the Mountains Summer Camp Staff.
- Meet with Camp Director Jenn Kauffman and all the cool councilors, get the low-down on camp programs and activities and the Maccabi Games.
- Nosh on Kosher hotdogs and Kosher chicken, chips and Dr. Brown's provided by the JHJC. Email with any questions: info@jhjewishcommunity.org.