

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Swingin' Sabbath**  
**Friday, August 3**  
**Free • 6 p.m.**  
**Scher Residence**

# The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • JULY 2012

## Letter from the the President

We held the JHJC's annual full membership meeting on June 27th. I don't know what to make of it, but other than the Board of Directors and only three congregation members attended the meeting. Several items of interest from the meeting were the announcement of our volunteer of the year award going to Esther Grossman and Aviva Thal. These two young women helped out at many of our events throughout the year and especially played a key role in guiding our younger children when they were involved in event programming. Also, receiving the "Chief Schlepper of the Year" award was Isaac Grossman. Sad to say, Phyllis Fischer retired from the board. We salute her years of service and dedication to the Jewish Community. Four members were re-elected to the board, Andy King, Rose Novak, Josh Kleymen and Al Zuckerman. They join Andrea Mazer and Christine Schuller in comprising the "new" six member board as there were no new community members nominated and elected.

I talked to Uncle Moishe yesterday on the phone. He says he's shvitzing so much from the heat he's going to Al and Lena's bungalow colony in the Catskills until this heat wave breaks. Anyway, he was giving me the latest news of the family. Unc's brother Saul was telling him that his daughter Marilyn was sending her son off to his first day of Jewish day camp. She says to him "Bubbelah, be good, listen to the counselors". And, "Bubbelah, don't forget to eat your lunch". "Bubbelah, play nice with the other kids." At the end of the day he comes in the house and his mother says, "Oy, Bubbelah, give me a big hug, I missed you so much. So tell me my Bubbelah, what did you do, what did you learn at day camp today?" "Well, said Marilyn's son, "to start with, I learned my name is Sammie."

Despite the continuing national economic malaise I believe the JHJC is in relatively good shape financially. Early in the fiscal year we switched all our accounts from Wells Fargo to First Interstate Bank. The board started the fiscal year with a very conservative budget. Treasurer Andy King and Lori

Bantekas, 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 and stay within our budget.

One of the things we did to make ourselves more accountable to the budget we adopted at the beginning of the fiscal year was to institute a policy where for every event we contemplated putting on, we required the event's organizing committee to fill out a budget proposal on a form we came up with so the board had a good idea before voting on doing the event, what it was going to cost. And then the Board's expectation was for that event to stay within that proposed budget. Finally, after the event we did a financial review and a cost accounting. In my opinion the great job Andy and Lori did on financial reporting and the fiscal responsibility shown by the Board played a large part in the current financial health of our organization. Andy and Lori's reports and the way they have set them up will also give us a consistent track record and history of revenues and expenses to better understand and utilize our budget in future years.

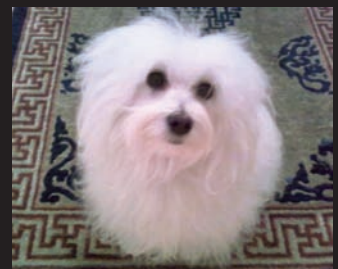
But spreadsheets are not the whole story, far from it. Board members and general members alike played a major role in keeping us financially sound. Members frequently have rose to the occasion by freely volunteering for all our activities and generously contributing money, time and in-kind services. We are so lucky to have so many community members pitching in as they are able and in whatever way they can.

Looking back on the past year we have had a busy one. Some sad occasions like the memorial service we helped put on for David Holmes and the funeral service several members officiated at for Harmon Meyers. And glad to say, many, many more happy occasions. In August we held our second annual Jazz Shabbat. We have come to identify four major events that anchor our programming - one in each season of the year: High Holidays in the fall; Chanukah in the winter; a community Passover seder in the spring; and of course

## DIRECTORS 2012

Al Zuckerman, President  
 Josh Kleymen, Vice President  
 Mary Grossman, Exec. Director  
 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



**Goldie Romberg**

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).

*Continued on page 2 ...*

## CALENDAR

**July 15: Summer Camp Pre-camp Kosher BBQ** (anyone welcome): 5:30 p.m., Mike Yokel Park in Jackson.

**July 16, Week I: Spirit of the Mountains Summer Camp:** Wilson Schoolhouse Community Center.

**July 20: Shabbat and Summer Oneg.** 7 p.m. Journeys School.

**July 23: Shabbat.** Wilson Schoolhouse

**July 23: Week II: Spirit of the Mountains Summer Camp.** Wilson Schoolhouse Community Center.

**August 3: Swingin' Sabbath with the Richard Brown Orchestra:** 6 p.m., at the Scher Residence off the the Village Road. All ages, free.

**August 6: AIPAC Meetings.** 10 a.m. with **Sen. Enzi** and 3 p.m. with **Rep. Lummis**

**August 7: AIPAC Meetings.** 3 p.m. with **Sen. Barrasso.**

**August 7: Discussion with French author Lilliane Missika:** 4 p.m. River Crossing following AIPAC meeting Sen. Barrasso.

### Volunteer opportunities:

- Looking for people to pour wine at Swingin' Sabbath on 8.3.11
- Volunteers to help screen some great films in a mini-Jewish Film Festival. Email: [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org) if you are interested.

### President's Letter ...

Swingin' Sabbath in the summer. To the best of my knowledge we held a Shabbous service in every month of the year. Many of the Shabbous services had a theme such as Challah Shabbat, ice skating Shabbat, Bet Sefer Shabbat and Thanksgiving Shabbat to name a few. And we observed many of our traditional holidays such as Simchas Torah, Succous and Purim. One of the highlights of the year was a Mitzvah Day where many of us went to St. John's Hospital and brought homemade treats and joyous music to staff and patients on Christmas Day.

One of the goals we set for ourselves for this past year was to partner with other religious organizations in the valley to increase understanding and tolerance among the various religious groups. To this end I think we reached our goal with several events such as the dinner we sponsored and served at the Presbetyrian Church, the very moving Corrie ten Boom performance for Holocaust Remembrance Day at River Crossing and an "Evening with Anita Diamant", co-sponsored by us and St. John's Episcopal Church.

Our Jewish community's children played an increased role in many of our activities this year and their inclusion always made each event even sweeter. They of course were the central figures in the Bet Sefer Shabbous service. They held up their end and the middle too of the Torah when we rolled the scroll at Simchas Torah. They sold Chanukah gelt and made several donations with the proceeds to worthy organizations. They stole the show at the Passover seder with their meaningful messages of the season. And the most mature of all the kids, Larry Reiser, was Bar Mitzvahed!

Several other accomplishments that were of some importance were formalizing our day camp manual to tighten up some possible liability issues, working on a B'nai Mitzvah information guide for families that have a child approaching their Bar or Bas Mitzvah and putting out our first membership directory.

We also experienced some shortcomings this year, as well. The Board acknowledges that one of its weaknesses is in the area of fundraising. If I'm not mistaken we did not hold any events specifically aimed at fundraising nor did we develop a strategic plan to fundraise. The Board

recognizes that half or full day retreats are an important part of long-range planning and discussion of complex topics that are difficult to discuss in a monthly meeting filled with action items and short-term decision making on programming. The Board set several different dates over the course of this past year for a retreat in order to discuss broader issues concerning the JHJC but failed to actually have that elusive retreat. The Board also realizes that it does only a poor to fair job of soliciting volunteers to form committees outside the board to organize and take on projects or events. They know that they need to reach out further than just the small, core group of people that they rely on over and over again for programming support.

Looking ahead to this next year the Board faces some challenges. We have not been able to successfully engage our teens in regular Jewish activities or programming. Reaching this age group remains a dilemma for us. If anyone has any ideas we'd love to hear them. As I mentioned previously another challenge that bedevils us is fundraising. A telling fact is that the Board did not even have a fundraising committee chair this past year. It is only through the generosity of our members and most importantly, membership dues, that we are able to get by financially.

On a much brighter note though, we are excited about this next year. We'd like to try some new activities and programming. Some ideas that have been bandied about are: a monthly book club; encouraging Shabbous dinners among members when we don't have a formal Friday night service; Mahjong; classes/socials; Jewish film and discussion nights; and a Jewish film festival. Of course, Mary has a thousand other ideas, as well, if none of these float your boat.

So, we are looking forward to a great year for the JHJC. Please, if you have any new ideas for programming or suggestions for improving any areas of our organization please contact a board member and share them. We are always looking for ways to improve and new events that will enrich our Community. And most importantly, please consider volunteering as we can use all the help we can get during the course of the year.

b'Shalom  
Al Zuckerman, JHJC President

### Mountain Chai News

#### JHJC Spirit of the Mountains Summer Camp Pre-Camp Kosher BBQ

5:30 p.m. Sunday July 15. After last year's popular turn-out, we're going to do it again! Join fellow campers, parents and camp staff in games, Kosher hot dogs (maybe burgers too!) s'mores and more. 5:30 p.m. Mike Yokel Park, Jackson. No need to bring anything.

#### Community Invited to 3rd Annual Swingin' Sabbath

Please join Members and friends of the Jackson Hole Jewish Community at the Third Annual Swingin' Sabbath with the Richard Brown Orchestra. The night begins with a short musical Shabbat service with Chazzan Judd Grossman and members of the Richard Brown Orchestra. Then afterwards, cut loose

with Richard's full band, wine or lemonade, noshes and lots of dancing. Venue located on Teton Village Road, north of the Aspens off of Wilderness Drive. All ages. Free. If you'd like to make a contribution towards this community event, please contact the JHJC: [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org).

#### Annual AIPAC Meetings

- **Senator Enzi: Monday, August 6** at 10 a.m. Sen. Enzi's office on Maple Way above Café Bohème.
- **Rep. Lummis: Monday, August 6** at 3 p.m. at River Crossing in Rafter J.
- **Senator Barrasso: Tuesday, August 7** at 3 p.m. at River Crossing in Rafter J.
- **French author Lilliane Messika August 7** at 4 p.m. at River Crossing in Rafter J.



# Shabbat Service and Summer Oneg

## Friday, July 20 ■ 7 p.m.

**Journeys School Campus**  
**700 Coyote Canyon Road**

Join Josh Kleyman and Judd Grossman for a summer evening Shabbat. Potluck Oneg to follow, bring a summer appetizer.

### Scenes from June

**Anita Diamant Presentation • Volunteers of the Year**



Over 140 people attended the presentation by Anita Diamant in June.



Aviva Thal, Esther Grossman and Issac Grossman receive their Volunteer of the Year awards. Both Aviva and Esther will be departing this summer for experiences abroad.



### MANY THANKS

■ **Ron and Rose Novak** for helping prepare and make an awesome fire for the Shabbat and BBQ Cookout.  
■ **Josh Kleyman and Judd Grossman** for leading a great Shabbat in June at Owen Bircher Park.  
■ **Dava Zucker and Shannon Thal** of the JHJC, and **Rev. Mary Erickson and Greer Terry Freed** of St. John's Episcopal Church for organizing the presentation, reception and book signing by author Anita Diamant. It was a beautiful event attended by an interfaith audience of 140 people.  
■ To **Carol Mann** for interviewing author Anita Diamant in a public presentation last month and for being what Ms. Diamant called, "the best interviewer [she's] ever had."

### MAZEL TOV!

■ To **Aviva Thal and Esther Grossman** for being named JHJC's **Volunteers of the Year** for their dedication to Bet Sefer School, their attendance at JHJC events and for being role models for our younger members.  
■ To **Isaac Grossman** for being recognized by the JHJC for a 100% Attendance Record at Shabbat Services and Holidays for 5772.  
■ To **Lou Hochheiser** for being named CEO of St. John's Hospital.  
■ To **Jill Radack, M.D., daughter of Joan and David Goldfarb** for being named as one of Texas Monthly Magazine's "Super Doctors." Mazel Tov on this prestigious distinction!

### GET WELL SOON

■ To **Julie Simon**, daughter of **Tom and Diann Mann** for a speedy recovery.

### CONDOLENCES

■ To **Rabbi Mike Comins** for the loss of his beloved father, **Harold Comins**, husband of Dorothy Comins.



"Jackson Hole Jews"



 Find us on  
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Fax: Same by arrangement  
info@JHJewishCommunity.org  
www.JHJewishCommunity.org

The office is at 480 S. Cache St.,  
Suite 6, Jackson, WY 83002  
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.*

## Mark your calendar for Summer Events

JULY 15 • PRE-CAMP BBQ

JULY 16 • CAMP STARTS

JULY 20 • SHABBAT

AUGUST 3 • SWINGIN' SABBATH

AUGUST 6 & 7 • AIPAC MEETINGS

