

SAVE THE DATE:

**Bat Mitzvah of
Aviva Thal**
June 20 • 10:00 a.m.
**St. John's Church,
Main Sanctuary**

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • JUNE 2009

Letter from the president

My family is very optimistic. I think all Jews are. It has been one of our ways of surviving for over 5000 years. We are always looking on the positive side of even the most tragic news. A case in point is what my Aunt Miriam told me when I called her last week. She said she had just gotten back from the doctor with my Uncle Barry. She tells me that my Uncle is not a well man. So I asked her what was wrong.

So she says, "You know how I keep telling you how forgetful your Uncle always has been. Well the doctor told me that he is now showing signs of the onset of Alzheimer's."

"Oh, Aunt Miriam, I'm so sorry to hear that," I said.

"But there is some good news in all of this," she replied optimistically "at least it should be a smooth transition."

Please mark your calendar for Monday, June 29th, as we will be holding our annual membership meeting at St. John's Episcopal Fellowship Hall. At this meeting we

will be taking nominations and electing new members to the JHJC Board of Directors. Although we currently have 10 members four of them will be leaving the Board at the end of June. We are asking members of the JHJC who have the interest and energy and desire to provide some leadership to please contact Andrea and let her know that you are willing to serve. If you have been thinking about getting more involved, this is a great opportunity to do so and certainly no better time.

We have a special occasion coming up in June. Aviva Thal is going to become a Bat Mitzvah. Lay Rabbi Carl Levenson, from our sister congregation in Pocatello, Idaho, will lead the service along with Judd Grossman. We hope everyone who can, will come to support Aviva and share in the joy of this milestone with the Thals' family and friends. Aviva has been a student at the JHJC Hebrew School for quite a while, so we are especially proud of her and her teachers.

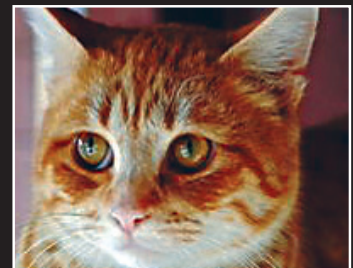
And speaking of Bat Mitzvahs,

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DIRECTORS 2009

Al Zuckerman, President
Mary Grossman, Secretary
Jen Daniels
Lisa Finkelstein
Ari Goldstein
Lou Hochheiser
Josh Kleyman
Deb Ochstein
Rachel Ravitz
Dava Zucker
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



**Need a Jewish pet?
Adopt Trap from the
Animal Adoption Center. Trap is a
young orange Tabby Cat.**

If you have a pet that you would like featured in our newsletter, please e-mail a picture to info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

CALENDAR

June 20: Bat Mitzvah of Aviva Thal with Carl Levenson and Chazzan Judd Grossman. 10:00 a.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, main sanctuary.

June 25: Genocide in Darfur: Lessons for the World. Lecture with John Heffernan, Director of Genocide Prevention Initiative from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. 7:00 p.m. St. John's, main sanctuary. Free.

June 29: Annual Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Fellowship Hall.

July 10: Shabbat with Rabbi Zola and Chazzan Judd Grossman. Rabbi Zola's sermon will discuss: American Jewry's Greatest Legacies: The meaning of American Jewish History.

July 11: Adult study session with Rabbi Zola: "A Great Man has Fallen in Israel" How American Jewry Made Abraham Lincoln One of Their Own.

July 20-24 & 27-31: Spirit of the Mountains Summer Camp.

JHJC Wish List:

- Individuals or families willing to host one of our monthly Onegs following Shabbat services. Responsibilities require purchase and preparation of finger food (cheese and crackers, bite size desserts, etc.). If you are interested in helping, please contact the office at 734-1999 or info@jhjewishcommunity.org.
- We also Challah board and challah cover for Shabbat and holiday celebrations. Old, new or a donation of \$125.

UPCOMING LECTURE: GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR: LESSONS FOR THE WORLD

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 • 7 P.M. • FREE

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH MAIN SANCTUARY

CO-SPONSORED WITH ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Featuring John Heffernan, Director of Genocide Prevention Initiative for the Committee on Conscience of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



After the horrors of the Holocaust were exposed at the end of WWII, the rallying cry of human rights organizations and civilized governments was "Never Again." Despite this sentiment, however, genocides have continued to be perpetrated upon innocent communities around the world.

Even today, the killing continues. At this powerful event, you will hear eye-witness testimony of the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

John Heffernan, Director of Genocide Prevention Initiative for the Committee on Conscience of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, has been on several fact-finding missions to Darfur, and will share his experiences and perspectives. He also will help us understand the historical and geographic context of this human disaster.

What does it take to say, "Never Again"? You will appreciate the insights of this special guest.



Please join the Jackson Hole Jewish Community and the Thal family on Saturday morning, June 20th as Aviva is called to the Torah on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah. Shabbat morning service will be conducted by Carl Levenson and Chazzan Judd Grossman and will

BAT MITZVAH OF AVIVA THAL

be held in the main sanctuary at St. John's Episcopal Church at 10 am.

AVIVA'S BAT MITZVAH PROJECT

For her Bat Mitzvah project Aviva will be spearheading the youth effort on the Old Wilson Schoolhouse landscaping. The recent building renovations need to be matched by equally special landscaping. The community is rising to

the occasion.

For those who are of the community spirit, Aviva is asking for contributions to this project in lieu of gifts. Donations may be made to the *Old Wilson Schoolhouse Community Center Landscape Fund* Box 1515 Wilson, WY 83014. These donations will go toward the purchase of bulbs, perennials and shrubs that Aviva and her friends will help plant.

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how do you know when a Jewish dog is fully mature? Why she has a Bark-Mitzvah, of course.

In our continuing efforts to emphasize tolerance and understanding and peaceful coexistence we are especially excited to bring John Heffernan to Jackson to present a lecture entitled "Genocide in Darfur: Lessons for the

World." This will take place on Thursday, June 25th at St. John's main sanctuary. Please look for details elsewhere in this newsletter.

And finally, like the two Rabbis that greet each other at the ski resort, Slalom!

*B'Shalom,
Al Zuckerman, JHJC President*

WHAT MAKES SUMMER FUN?

HIKING, BIKING, SINGING, RAFTING, CLIMBING, OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AND ARTS AND CRAFTS AT SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS SUMMER CAMP!

Camp will be back better than ever this July with many traditions to continue and a few new surprises. Our gathering site will return to the Old Wilson



School Community Center which gives great access to Owen Bircher park, the town of Wilson and camp favorite four square courts. Camp counselors Michael and Stephen Wolff will return this summer! Michael just finished his first year at Colorado College and Stephen at Hobart and William Smith College. Both counselors spent many years as campers with Spirit of the Mountains and know the ins-and-outs of camp tradition and fun. We are very fortunate both Michael and Stephen will join us for another year!

While much will stay the same, there will be new and exciting camp additions. This summer, Kalen Ritz will join the counselor team as lead counselor. Kalen is an active member of the Jackson Hole Jewish Community and currently teaches lower elementary grades at Journeys School. Kalen brings enthusiasm for the natural world

and excitement about Judaism to the camp community. Kalen volunteers at a local organic farm and is excited to share the farm experience with campers.

Another change is that this year camp will be open to all students entering grades K-8. The expanded age group will allow for older campers to continue exploring friendships and bonds to the Jewish community while mentoring younger campers. We are thankful to have so many seasoned campers planning to return!

Parents please note that camp enrollment is limited. Register your child soon to ensure he or she can join in the fun this summer. Camp dates are July 20-24 & 27-31. Cost is \$325 for members and \$375 for non-members per week. Contact 734-1999 or info@jhjewishcommunity.org for registration materials.

A special thanks to camp committee members Joy Lewis, Dava Zucker, Larry Thal and Mike Scher.

Looking forward to another adventurous summer!

*Andie Rongey Dudley
JHJC Summer Camp Director*

MANY THANKS

- Brent Blue for hosting a youth group gathering with filmmaker Allen Mondell at his home.
- Mary Grossman and Phyllis Turtle for hosting our May Oneg.
- Sandy Ress and Susan Foster for generously housing Rabbi Wenger and hosting a community pot-luck dinner at their home.

MAZEL TOV

- Jodi Domsy and Alia Scott for graduating from High School! We wish you much success as you journey away from Jackson to go to college.
- Esther Grossman, Aviva Thal, & Erin Weiss for graduating from our Bet Sefer program. We will miss you!
- All the students at Bet Sefer who successfully completed another year of Jewish education. Well done!

L'HITRAOT

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Jackson Hole Jewish community over the years. We wish you many blessings and an easy transition to your new home in NY.

- Eve, Hannah, and Amelia Scofield
- Phyllis, Howard and Hannah Turtle

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

May you find peace and comfort in this time of sorrow.

- Maryann Abrahams on the loss of your beloved husband Stuart.
- Ed and Merle Lundy on the loss of your beloved brother Joel Lundy.



**JACKSON HOLE
JEWISH COMMUNITY**
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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.

Our Bet Sefer
Graduates: Erin
Weiss, Esther
Grossman, and
Aviva Thal. Mazel
Tov ladies!



David King shows off his Bet Sefer diploma during the last day of class in May.



Bet Sefer students celebrated the end of the year with a chocolate Mazel Tov cake.