

Save the Date



**JHJC Annual
Membership Meeting
June 30, 7 pm
St. John's Episcopal
Church Fellowship Hall**

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • JUNE 2010

Letter from the president

I called Uncle Moishe to wish him a good Shavuos and to see what was nu. He told me about this interesting conversation he had with a cab driver just recently. Unc usually takes the subway, but he was in a hurry to meet my Aunt to go to a bris for his nephew's newborn son, so he hailed a cab. When he settles into the back seat of the Checker the cabbie says to Unc, "You had perfect timing, coming out of the coffee shop just as I pulled up, perfect, just like Seymour. See, there's a guy that did everything right. He was a terrific athlete. Could have been a pro tennis player. He sang like an opera baritone and, oy, he could dance like a Broadway star. Memory like a computer. He knew all about wines. He could fix anything, that one. Knew how to treat a woman; never answered back even if she was wrong. Clothes always neat, Shoes shined. Not a schlemiel like me, I change a fuse and the whole neighborhood blacks out." Uncle Moishe says to the cabbie, "This Seymour sounds like an amazing fellow. How did you meet him?" The cabbie replied, "Well, I never actually met him." Unc asks him how come he knows so much about this man, then. To which the cabbie answers, "Because I married his widow."

This month I'd like to give you a little insight into what the JHJC Board has been doing. Currently, there are about nine Board members that attend our monthly board meetings regularly. These meetings usually last about two hours or a bissel more. However, many more countless hours are spent outside these meetings putting together budgets, organizing events and planning and brainstorming ideas in order to bring the JHJC congregation a varied and dynamic schedule of events that should have something for everyone while, at the same time, trying to meet the expectations of our very diverse membership. The folks on the Board are committed to the Jewish community and take the responsibility of continuing to maintain a strong Jewish organization in this valley very seriously. For example, our treasurer, Ari Goldstein, has developed a budget matrix that gives us up to the minute

information on our budget so that we can make fiscally responsible decisions, especially important in these difficult economic times. Another example is board member Mary Grossman, who is a fountain of innovative ideas that engage the membership and gets them excited about being a part of the JHJC. She is now working on the Jazz Shabbat that will take place in August. Between her work and her family, I honestly don't know where she finds the time or energy to do it all. And then there is vice president, Josh Kleymen. How versatile is he? He teaches at Bet Sefer. He will conduct a Shabbos service when needed. And can actually emerge, out of the chaos of a group of 25 kids and adults kneading dough in a cloud of flour, successfully teaching them to make challah!

If you were to look at the Board's current agenda you would see a very full plate. Among the items are planning for High Holidays, filling out the leadership schedule for monthly Shabbos services (and all the logistical details that go with that), strategizing toward making the budget go as far as possible, getting summer camp lined out, fundraising (oy!), organizing upcoming social events, etc.

With all this said about the Board I must say that they do not do this alone. The JHJC wouldn't be successful without the strong backing of its members who also donate their time and energy and their money to this organization. The Board certainly recognizes this fact and so to acknowledge the importance of what volunteers mean to the existence of the JHJC, the Board will be making nominations at its next monthly meeting for the first annual "Volunteer of the Year". The recipient will be honored at the JHJC's annual meeting at the end of June.

So, good job everyone. You have all helped to make the JHJC a meaningful part of our lives. And to the Board, Y'asher Koah.

*B'Shalom
Al Zuckerman
JHJC President*

DIRECTORS 2010

Al Zuckerman, President
Josh Kleymen, Vice President
Ari Goldstein, Treasurer
Mary Grossman, Secretary
Mark Aronowitz
Phyllis Fischer
Andy King
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

BUBKES

(BUB-kiss)

1. nothing, very little, hardly anything, a mere pittance
2. an offensively small amount compared to the effort it took to acquire
3. literally: beans

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

June 11: Shabbat with **Rabbi Ed Stafman** and **chazzan Judd Grossman**. 6:00 p.m. St. John's Fellowship Hall. Oneg to follow.

June 12: Adult education with **Rabbi Ed Stafman**. **Kashrut and Eco-kashrut: What is behind the kashrut laws** and how do we eat eco-kosher today, that is, holy eating? 9:30 a.m. Home of Rachel and Wendell Stam. Bagels and coffee provided. Please contact the office for directions info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999.

June 15: Traditional Jewish Cooking Class: Brisket and kugel with **Merle Lundy**. 4:00 p.m. Home of Merle Lundy. Registration required. Contact Andrea at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999. Cost: \$15/class.

June 22: Traditional Jewish Cooking Class: Rugelach and strudel with **Phyllis Fischer**. 7:00 p.m. St. John's kitchen (in the Fellowship Hall). Registration required. Contact Andrea at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999. Cost: \$15/class.

June 30: Annual Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Fellowship Hall. Everyone is urged to attend!

June 30 and July 5: Summer book club begins. *See page 4 of this newsletter for details.*

July 18: Pre-camp Potluck for parents, campers and staff. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Mike Yokel Park. Please bring a dish to share.

July 19-23 & July 26-30: Spirit of the Mountains Summer Camp. Weekdays, 9 am – 4 pm. Now enrolling children entering grades K-8. Contact Andrea at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999.

July 23: Shabbat with Rabbi Andy Feig. 6:00 p.m. Old Wilson School House.

July 24: Adult education with Rabbi Andy Feig.

We need your help and generosity this summer:

- We need a family or individuals to sponsor our Oneg on July 23.
- Someone to host our adult education program with Rabbi Feig on July 24.
- We are looking for an energetic youth group leader. If you are interested in this volunteer position contact Andrea at info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

Summer Camp Registration!



Sign your children up for the Jackson Hole Jewish Community's Summer Camp!

Camp 2009 dates: July 19-23 & 26-30

Registration has begun! **We will be accepting applications through June 15** for children in grades K-8th. If you would like registration materials, please contact Andrea at

734-1999 or info@jhjewishcommunity.org

June Shabbat

Visiting Rabbi Ed Stafman • June 11 & 12, 2010



Rabbi Ed Stafman from Bozeman, MT

Rabbi Ed Stafman began to serve in Bozeman, MT as Rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom in August, 2008, following eight years of Rabbinic study and ordination in the ALEPH Rabbinic program, which is part of the Jewish Renewal movement.

Jewish renewal is a worldwide, transdenominational movement, grounded in Judaism's mystical tradition, and which seeks to bring relevance, creativity, joy, and an all-embracing awareness to spiritual practice, as a way to bring about *tikun halev* (healing of the heart) and *tikun olam* (healing of the world). Jewish Renewal rabbis are

trained to work in any and all movements of Judaism. Jewish Renewal promotes religious equality for women and all previously disenfranchised Jews, and is open and welcoming towards those of other faith traditions.

Rabbi Ed spent 27 years as a trial lawyer in Tallahassee, Florida, specializing in defending death penalty cases, prior to deciding to attend Rabbinic school. He was largely a secular Jew during much of that time -- although he spent 20 years on the Board of a Reform synagogue and 4 years as president -- when he discovered "the great richness and wonder in Jewish tradition, texts and practices - so much that I decided to make it my full time endeavor."

Rabbi Ed has been married for 25 years to Beth, a calligrapher, and book and graphic artist, and most recently a web designer. They have two children, Laura and Logan.

■ Friday, June 11: Shabbat with Rabbi Stafman and Chazzan Judd Grossman. Oneg to follow. 6 pm, St. John's Episcopal Fellowship Hall.

■ Saturday, June 12: Kashrut or Eco-kashrut? At the home of Rachel and Wendell Stam. Contact the office for directions: info@jhjewishcommunity.org. 9:30 am, bagels and coffee provided. What is behind the kashrut laws and how do we eat eco-kosher today, that is, holy eating?

Kashrut is, at its core, about holy consumption. At the time the kashrut practices were instituted, there were reasons that those who followed these practices believed that eating in that way would make the act of eating holy. Which one of the laws continues to make sense and which do not? What new practices are needed to elevate out consumption of not only food, but everything, to a level of *kadosh* -- holiness?



Top left: Mazel Tov to Ben Scher on graduating from our Bet Sefer program! Center: Some of the Bet Sefer students hanging out before their last day of classes begins. Top right: David King receives his Certificate of Completion after another successful year as a student at Bet Sefer.

It is hard to believe that another year has flown by at Bet Sefer! Since September we have welcomed a new year on Rosh Hashanah, asked for forgiveness on Yom Kippur, eaten in a sukkah, danced with the Torah, learned about the miracles of Chanukah, celebrated the trees on Tu B'Shevat, performed a Purim play, taken time to remember our distant ancestors who were slaves in Egypt on Passover, and sang songs for Inger Koedt to honor the heroic efforts of her family during the Holocaust. Our Hebrew language skills have improved greatly since the beginning of the year, and we are each discovering what being Jewish means to us, and how we can live Jewish lives. The students who participate in Bet Sefer each week are shining examples of the vibrant Jewish community that we have in Jackson Hole.

This spring also marked the culmination of Bet Sefer for our one graduating stu-

dent, Ben Scher. Ben has worked diligently this year to become a proficient Hebrew reader, prepare for his Bar Mitzvah, and lead the younger members of our community by example. Ben will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, August 14, and we look forward to celebrating his accomplishments this summer.

As we look ahead to next fall, and another wonderful year at Bet Sefer, I want to acknowledge the other teachers I am privileged to work with every Thursday. Josh Kleyman and Andrea Mazer are integral to our Bet Sefer program, and it is my pleasure to teach with them. Likewise, we are so lucky to have Judd Grossman in our community, and equally fortunate that he sings with us at Bet Sefer every week. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Jewish education in our community. I look forward to many more years working with these amazing children at Bet Sefer.

MAZEL TOV

- **Ben Dann** on graduating from High School! Ben will be going to Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA this fall.
- **Ben Scher** for graduating from our Bet Sefer program. We will miss you!
- **All the Students at Bet Sefer** for who successfully completed another year of Jewish education. Kol Ha'kavod!

MANY THANKS

- **Christine Schuller** for making challah for or April Shabbat.
- **Mark Aronowitz** for the use of his car during the Rabbi visit in May.
- **An anonymous sponsor** for our May Ong in honor of JHJC Executive Director Andrea Mazer.
- **Esther Grossman and Aviva Thal** for substitute teaching at Bet Sefer in April and May.
- **Dava Zucker** for a generous contribution of books to our library.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

- The JHJC wishes a speedy recovery to **David Kornblum**.

WANTED

- **Shabbat Mishpocha Dinner**
We are looking for anyone interested in hosting a Shabbat dinners with the JHJC mishpocha during the weeks that we do not have a Shabbat service. Let us know if you are interested in hosting. Contact Andrea at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999.

ANNUAL MEETING

- **June 30, St. John's Fellowship Hall**
Wednesday, 7p.m. We will vote on new Board Members, discuss the State of the Congregation, review the budget and announce our volunteer of the year. Everyone is urged to attend. See you there!

"Jackson Hole Jews"

facebook

Upload and view photos, videos and events for JHJC.

A SWINGIN' SABBATH

FRIDAY AUGUST 6

with **Judd Grossman and featuring Richard Brown and his Big Band**

Save the date. Don't miss Judd Grossman, Richard Brown and his orchestra in a traditional sabbath service followed by dancing, wine and fun. All ages, free. At the home of Dr. Lisa Finklestein. Stay tuned for official details.



We're seeking sponsors for wine and food. If you would like to be a sponsor, or just volunteer please call Andrea at 307.734.1999.



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 JACKSON, WY 83002

Phone: (307) 734-1999
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 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.

COMING THIS SUMMER!



Traditional Jewish Cooking Classes:

Learn to make strudel, rugelach, blintzes, kugel, gelfite fish, brisket, and more from the experts from the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. At the end of each class, bring home and enjoy the food you've made. Classes will be held monthly. Pre-registration is required. RSVP today with Andrea at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999. The cost is \$15/class for food supplies.

- **June 15: Brisket and Kugel** with Merle Lundy. 4:00 p.m. Home of Merle Lundy. Please contact the office for directions.
- **June 22: Rugelach and Strudel** with Phyllis Fischer. 7:00 p.m. St. John's kitchen (in the Fellowship Hall).

Summer Book Club

The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order to Time by Judith Shulevitz.

Has your Time become too crowded? Or too empty? What is wasted Time? What is Holy Time? What are skills of 'making the most of time' as individuals and as communities? **Rev. Suzanne Love Harris** and **Rose Novak** will co-facilitate an ecumenical Jewish/Christian discussion of Shulevitz's research and thoughts in St. John's Church Meeting Room for six weeks this summer. There will be two different class groups: six Wednesday sessions, **beginning June 30** from 11 a.m. - noon; or five Monday sessions **beginning July 5** from 1:30 pm to 3 pm.

Books are available at the Valley Book Store. You would be expected to read the introduction and first chapter for the first class. You can register for either class by email info@jhjewishcommunity.org or phone 734-1999. Please specify which group. Each group will be limited to 15 participants.