

SAVE THE DATE:

Purim Party
Saturday, March 10
6 p.m.
Journeys School

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • MARCH 2012

Letter from the president



I called my Uncle Moishe the other day to wish him kinahurah, a happy 86th birthday. Unc thanked me and told me about the party they threw for him in the Bella S.

Abzug Hall of his shul on Moshula Parkway in the Bronx. While sipping tea and eating a bisel cinnamon bobka his friend, Yussel, told him about his son Yehuda's recent experience. Yehuda and his wife, who were Orthodox, were expecting their first child. As it happened her water broke on Shabbos. Having no alternative Yehuda called the cab company to send over a cab right away. To minimize the Shabbos violation he asked the dispatcher to send a non-Jewish driver. When the young couple got in the cab they could hear the dispatcher asking the cabbie over the two-way radio if he had picked up those two anti-Semites yet.

This month we celebrate the holiday of Purim. I won't go into the whole Megillah here but I will say that Purim celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of Persia by Esther (ahhhh) and her cousin Mordecai after Haman (boooo!), second in command to King Ahasuerus, planned to exterminate all the Jews in Persia. Esther, who was the Queen, risked her own life to successfully appeal to the King to have Haman's (boooo!) order nullified. The Jews then in turn, won a great victory

over Haman (boooo!) and his sons and their followers.

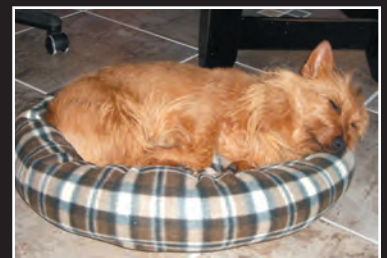
When we celebrate this holiday this month we will observe several traditions that may need some explanation to the uninformed Purim party attendee. For instance, the use of noisemakers called groggers is a symbolic act of erasing Haman's (boooo!) name whenever it is mentioned in the reading of the Megillah, the Book of Esther. In earlier times, Jews wrote the name of Haman (boooo!) on two stones and when his name was mentioned they would noisily knock and rub the stones together to erase his name. Sort of a Flintstonian precursor to our modern metal grogger. We also eat hamantaschen on Purim. Some traditions say these triangular shaped pastries are to remind us of the three cornered hat worn by Haman (boooo!). I like the explanation that these sweet, three cornered treats remind us of the three patriarchs of Judaism: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Seems more fitting, no? One may also notice some Purim celebrants dress up in costumes and masks. Although Jewish tradition does not normally condone masquerading it has become an accepted custom to increase the joyous nature of observing this festival.

On a less whimsical note, Purim is the story of the deliverance of a people that were on the brink of annihilation. This came to pass through the courageous actions of one person. In addition to celebrating might I also suggest that we contemplate how many examples there are throughout history where one person, through selfless, courageous acts and

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Jewish Pet of the Month



Buster Semegram

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.

Continued on page 2 ...

CALENDAR

March 1: Toddler Sing-a-long with Judd. 4:15 – 4:45p.m. LDS Church.

March 2: Shabbat and Bar Mitzvah of Larry Rieser. Rabbi

Mike Comins and Chazzan Judd

Grossman. 6 p.m.,

St. John's Episcopal Church. Potluck dinner party to follow. Bring a dish to share, no desserts please.



Mazel Tov, Larry!

March 10: Purim Party: Birds of a feather ... 6 p.m., Journeys

School. Potluck noshes, please bring something to share.

Hamentashen, feather masks, Megillah reading by Mark "Fish" Fishman, games and crafts. Wine and non-alcoholic drinks provided.

March 29 & April 5: No Bet Sefer Classes. Happy Spring Break!

April 12, Community Passover

Seder . St. John's Episcopal Church. \$40 JHJC members/ \$50 JHJC nonmembers.

\$20 for children

5-13. Children under 5, free.

Stay tuned for more details.

Make your reservations, space limited: info@jhjewishcommunity.org.



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

Prez letter

despite overwhelming odds, was able to change the inevitable course of events. Indeed, the lesson here is that one person can in effect, save the world. Even on a smaller scale though, think about your own life experience. Have you ever been redeemed by the acts of another brave soul or have you ever been Esther, performing a brave and selfless act to save someone else from physical or emotional danger and, in so doing, in a sense, saved the world yourself? While we joyously celebrate this victo-

ry over Haman (boooo!) take time to also celebrate your own personal triumphs that took courage, conviction and perhaps a great sense of justice and ethical behavior. And if you are at odds in your life take inspiration from Esther's story that you may face the challenges that currently confront you.

*B'Shalom
Al Zuckerman
JHJC Board President*

Mountain Chai News

Obituary: Lewis Weil

Lewis was born in Landau, Germany. At age 16 he left his family and came to America. San Francisco was Lewis' "dream city" and he lived his dream. He was married to the wonderful Helen Jean for 50 years and raised three beautiful children with her. He is sur-



Lewis Weil

vived by Dave, Linda and Rob, daughters-in-law Adrienne and CoAnn, and grandchildren Elana, Natalie, Audrey, Addison and Helena Rose. In the last five years, Lewis was blessed with the love and friendship of Phyllis Wolf.

Lewis made his career in desserts and confections. He started at Blums and then joined his brother Ernie as co-owner of Fantasia Confections. Together, for 35 years, they built a wonderful company that was enjoyed by customers and employees alike.

Lewis had a passion for tennis. If he wasn't with his family, and wasn't working, he was on the tennis court. His love of tennis was passed down to his youngest son and grandson. A cherished memory is the three generations playing tennis together.

Forever an optimist, with many friends and admirers, a generous, kind

man; one of his favorite lines was, "May all your dreams come true."

His greatest love was his family and he delighted in every event and milestone in his grandchildren's lives. Every friend of every one of these grandchildren adopted Lewis as "their" PaPa.

Lewis had a wonderfully positive attitude about life and will be missed dearly. His "joie de vivre" lives on in all of his children, grandchildren, and beloved family and friends.

Donations in his memory can be made to: Frankel Learning Center
c/o Karen Weil
1209 Bonita Avenue
Berkeley, Ca 94709

Attention Anita Diamant fans!

JHJC has an opportunity to host a



Author Anita Diamant

public event the last week of June with the esteemed author of *The Red Tent*, *Day After Night*, and the obliquitous *The New Jewish Baby Book*, Anita Diamant. We need committee members and an event leader to work with Anita on creating an interesting interfaith public event. Interested people please contact the JHJC at: info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

Jackson Hole Jewish Community

Birds of a feather

PURIM PARTY

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

6 P.M. • JOURNEYS SCHOOL • BIRD-LIKE ATTIRE OPTIONAL

Potluck noshes, please bring something to share.

Enjoy Hamentashen, beautiful masks, Megillah reading with Mark "Fish" Fishman, games and crafts.

Wine and non-alcoholic drinks provided. Info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999.

Celebrate Purim.

Bits from Bet Sefer

We have had quite an exciting few months in Bet Sefer. In the fall we focused on the holidays: We made honey bread for Rosh Hashanah and had a sukkah building contest, just to name a few activities. Through these lessons, the students got to learn about the history and traditions of these holidays and discover ways that they can make them their own.

As it became closer to the holiday season, we turned our attention to the Chanukah Gelt Fundraiser. This year, we framed the fundraiser with lessons about Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world. Not only was the fundraiser a success in that Bet Sefer raised a significant amount of money, but it also allowed our students to see the bigger picture of their actions and the ways in which Judaism plays a part in repairing the world. The students were so excited about this project that they wanted to share their successes with the rest of the community:

Dear Jackson Hole Jewish Community,

We are donating the money raised to the Jackson Hole Jewish Community, the Animal Adoption Center (AAC), and the



Students at the Animal Adoption Center.

Community Safety Network (CSN) for our Tikkun Olam Project. Tikkun olam is our responsibility as Jews to heal the world. We do acts of tikkun olam because the world will not heal itself, so we have to get up and do it. We decided to create a fundraiser and sell Chanukah gelt in order to help the community one step at a time. We are donating \$300 of this money to the JHJC and \$350 each to the AAC and CSN.

The money we are donating to the JHJC can be used to buy educational supplies so that we can learn about Jewish culture, Hebrew, Jewish history, and how to live as a Jewish person.

Todah Rabah,

Bet Sefer Students 2011-2012

Currently, and in the coming months, Bet Sefer is working on improving Hebrew reading skills, as well as staying part of the community. The students will be working on prayers, readings, and crafts to contribute to upcoming events and holidays.

If you have any suggestions/questions about Bet Sefer or any of our activities please feel free to e-mail me at efischel@gmail.com.

MANY THANKS

- **Al Zuckerman** for providing the roaring fire for the Oneg on Ice.
- **Christine Schuller** for sponsoring the Oneg on Ice with great treats for very cold people.
- **Bet Sefer Students** for doing such an amazing job raising money with their annual Hanukkah Gelt sale. They are donating money to the Animal Adoption Center and the Community Safety Network. Kol Hakavod!

CONDOLENCES

- **Linda Weil** for the loss of her beloved father, Lewis Weil.

GET WELL SOON

- We hope **Dani Domsky** is feeling fantastic!



"Jackson Hole Jews"



 Find us on Facebook

Babka Class Rescheduled

Sunday, March 4, 5 p.m.

At the home of Kelly Zelikovitz

\$7, RSVP: info@jhjewishcommunity.org



Ski Tour with Al Zuckerman

Sunday morning, March 11

Ski tour in the Shadow Mountain/Ditch Creek area. Sign up by Thursday, March 8 with the Jewish Community office: info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999. Minimum number for trip to go is six. For trip details please call Al Zuckerman at 699-1091.

Volunteer for Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, March 21

The JHJC is sponsoring one of the popular Community Fellowship Dinners at the Presbyterian Church on March 21. These dinners serve over 150 Jackson Hole families and individuals. We're planning a menu of Jewish favorites. This will be an interfaith project with the Presbyterian Church. If you and your family would like to help us cook and serve this night, please email the JHJC: info@jhjewishcommunity.org.



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.

TODDLER SING-A-LONG WITH JUDD:

This year we are thrilled to begin another year of Toddler Sing-a-long with

Judd for toddlers and their parents. On the first Thursday of every month, Judd and the teachers at Bet Sefer invite you and your toddler to join the Bet Sefer students for the first half hour of class for a sing-a-long and song session. The song session will run from 4:15-4:45 pm.

March 1

May 3

