

Save the Date

**Shabbat with Rabbi
Shelby and Chazzan
Judd Grossman
May 14, 6 pm
Old Wilson School**

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • MAY 2010

Letter from the president

Uncle Moishe was telling me that he was visiting his wife's sister, Rivka, who was in Mt. Sinai Hospital for a procedure. She was sharing the room with another woman. Unc couldn't help but overhear the conversation this woman was having on the phone. "Hello, Mt. Sinai Hospital? Look dalink, I'd like to talk to the person who gives the information about the patients. I want all the information from top to bottom, from A to Z." The line is silent for a moment and then she hears, "Are you the lady who is calling about one of the patients?" "Yes, dalink, I'd like to know all the information about Sarah Finkel in room 302." He says, "Finkel, Finkel. Let me see, Feinberg, Farber, ah Finkel. Oh yes, Mrs. Finkel is doing fine. Her blood pressure is down, her tests were negative and her doctor writes that he is going to send her home on Tuesday at noon." "Tanks to G-d. That's vunderful. You say she is going home at noon on Tuesday. I'm so happy to hear that. That's vunderful news!" The man on the line says, "From your enthusiasm I take it you must be a close relative of Mrs. Finkel?" To this she exclaims, "Vot close relative. I'm Sarah Finkel. My doctor don't tell me from nothing!"

My wife just got back from a trip overseas to Italy. And yes, she did get caught up in the chaos caused by the volcanic ash from Iceland. In fact, she had to stay an extra week. And while it was simply an annoyance for some, there was a lot of

real hardship for many people. This event set me to thinking, which I rarely do, about how powerless we seem in the face of natural occurrences despite all our technology. I then did some "net surfing", which I do even more infrequently than thinking, to see what might be said on the subject. Judaism posits that the natural world, as created by G-d, was given to man to have dominion over, but only so far as defined by natural and religious laws. The natural laws being those of physics and the ethical laws being those of Judaism, such as a prohibition against needless waste and destruction of natural resources, tempering our manipulation of what G-d created. He gave us free choice, but he also gave us a set of moral and ethical laws to guide us to perfect the world, not destroy it. All our advances in technology have not been able to insulate us from disasters and the accompanying human suffering as a result of natural events such as earthquakes, tsunamis and floods. So it begs the question, if G-d created the world for us to have dominion over why did He not give us control over the powers of nature, as well? Why does He allow such tragedies resulting from these natural phenomena to happen to people? These questions have been asked for centuries and most likely will never be answered. In Jewish tradition, though, we don't even entertain these questions. The more important question to us is not why G-d allows them to happen but how does G-d want us

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Yiddish word of the Month

KVELL

1. to beam with pride,
usually over the
achievement of a child

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.

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CALENDAR

Tune In: Our Executive Director



Andrea Mazer will be interviewed on **KHOL 89.1** (Jackson Hole Community

Radio) on May 10 from 3-3:30 p.m. The interview will include the history of the JHJC, activities that the JHJC offers and upcoming events this summer.

May 14: Shabbat with Rabbi Arinna Moon Shelby and chazzan Judd Grossman. 6:00 p.m. Old Wilson School House. Oneg to follow.

May 15: Adult education with Rabbi Arinna Moon Shelby. Are Jews actually a race? Can we trace our Jewish ancestry through DNA? Is there a way to prove that one is really a Cohen or a Levi? The answers to these questions strike at the heart of the politically fraught conundrum of who is really a Jew. Come participate in this fascinating discussion that presents some surprising findings. St. John's Episcopal Church, downstairs classroom. 9:30 am, bagels and coffee provided.

May 20: Last Day of Bet Sefer. End of year party and celebration. Parents and members are welcome to join us for a diploma ceremony at 5:00 p.m.

May 23: Yiddish Food Festival. Mt. Sinai Synagogue, Cheyenne, WY. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

June 6: Boulder Jewish Festival. Boulder, CO courthouse lawn and Pearl Street. 11 am – 5 pm.

June 11: Shabbat with Rabbi Ed Stafman and chazzan Judd Grossman.

June 12: Adult education with Rabbi Ed Stafman.

PREZ LETTER continued ...

to respond when they do. And to this, there are answers. If you live a Jewish life of faith and religion, then our tradition asks you to lead a life of moral action, of deeds of charity and compassion. Jewish tradition says that the response G-d wants from us is to see, feel and act in the face of these natural disasters. Ultimately, we may never be able to hold the flood waters back with our technology, but what we can

control, guided by our traditions, is the way in which we care for one another in the aftermath. So, in the end we may not be as powerless as it seems in the face of nature's wrath. We do have the power to bring the world closer to perfection through our faith and its traditions.

*B'Shalom,
Al Zuckerman
JHJC President*

May Shabbat

Visiting Rabbi Arinna Moon Shelby • May 14, 2010

Rabbi Arinna Shelby works in Los Angeles as a hospice chaplain providing spiritual care for patients and their families at the end of life. For the past two years, she was the rabbi at Mt. Sinai Congregation in Cheyenne where she was not only the first woman rabbi at the synagogue, but the first woman rabbi to hold a pulpit in the state of Wyoming. While in Cheyenne, she spearheaded an increase in synagogue programming as well as coordinating outreach with the larger community. She headed the first rabbinic bet din in Wyoming to sanction conversions.



Rabbi Arinna Moon Shelby

Prior to becoming a rabbi she worked in Seattle in the fields of health-care and social services, first as a psychotherapist and then as a social service administrator. She founded the award-winning Partners in Caring program which serves elderly and disabled adults in public housing, and presented the program at the American Society on Aging National Conference and the First International Conference on Home Care held in Jerusalem, Israel. Rabbi Shelby was part of the core team of women who organized the First International Conference on Judaism, Feminism and Psychology held in 1992. From that experience, she co-edited the book *Jewish Women Speak Out: Expanding the Boundaries of Psychology* which won the National Distinguished Publication Award from the Association for Women in Psychology.

Rabbi Shelby received her Master's degree in Psychology from Antioch University Seattle in 1986 and her Rabbinic ordination from The Academy for Jewish Religion California in 2008. She is a member of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California and a member of the Sandra Caplan Community Bet Din of Southern California. She currently resides in Redondo Beach, California with her husband, Andy.

■ **Friday, May 14: Shabbat with Rabbi Shelby and Chazzan Judd Grossman. Oneg to follow. 6 pm, Old Wilson Schoolhouse.**

■ **Saturday, May 15: Adult education with Rabbi Arinna Moon Shelby. Are Jews actually a race? St. John's Church downstairs classroom. 9:30 am, bagels and coffee provided.**

A SWINGIN' SABBATH

FRIDAY AUGUST 6

with **Richard Brown
and his Big Band**

This summer the Jackson Hole Jewish Community is presenting a new and exciting event for all the Jews of Jackson Hole, *A Swingin' Sabbath*.

The JHJC is reaching out to the entire community with this fabulous, all-ages event. Chazzan Judd Grossman will lead Shabbat services with top-notch jazz musicians, adding a dash of contemporary sound.

Afterwards, join Richard Brown and his Big Band for dancing, drinks and refreshments. A local favorite, Brown is a parttime resident, principal percussionist with the Grand Teton Music Festival and accomplished jazz band leader. This sponsored event will be free to the entire community as we strive to raise awareness of the JHJC, Jewish culture and boost our presence within the Valley.



We need donors of all sizes for this great event!

**If you are interested in being a sponsor,
please contact the JH Jewish Community
office at 307.734.1999.**

"I am honored to be asked by the Jackson Hole Jewish Community to participate in a new exciting event "A Swingin' Sabbath". We are planning a fun filled, high-energy Sabbath service with Chazzan Judd Grossman and my full 8- piece band. Following the service will be a party complete with food and dancing. I am excited to be involved in this great event. I invite you to be a part of this first Swinging Sabbath. Please join us in this celebration of The Jackson Hole Jewish Community."

— Richard Brown

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

MAZEL TOV

- **Brent Blue** on your first test flights of the "Blue Bear".
- **Veronica and Adam Silberberg** on becoming a B'nai Mitzvot in Israel this month.

MANY THANKS

- **EJ Hirschfield** for donating a ceramic studio session with our Afikomen winner from Passover.
- **Stephan Abrams** for lending your projector and speakers for the film screening for Yom Hashoah.
- **Brent Blue** for your donation of Chanukah and Passover related items.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

CULTURE

- **Yiddish Food Festival.** Cheyenne, WY at Mt. Sinai Synagogue Sunday, May 23, 11 am – 4 pm
Traditional Jewish foods, tours of the synagogue, Klezmer music, Israeli folk dancing and raffle prizes.

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.

■ Letters to the Editor

Got something to air to fellow JHJC members? Send along letters to the newsletter editor, no more than 300 words, to JHCJ, Box 10667, Jackson, WY 83002.

"Jackson Hole Jews"

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Upload and view photos, videos and events for JHJC.



JACKSON HOLE
JEWISH COMMUNITY
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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 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.

We need your help and generosity this summer:



- We need families or individuals willing to host a visiting Rabbi in May, June or July.
- We are looking to borrow a vehicle for our visiting Rabbi in May.
- We would love for someone to host havdallah and a potluck dinner with the Rabbi in June.
- We are looking for an energetic youth group

leader. If you are interested in this volunteer position contact Andrea at info@jhjewishcommunity.org.