

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 21
4 p.m. Adult Study: The Bible, the Talmud and the Zohar on Social Action.
Discussion with Rabbi Fred Wenger.
6 p.m. Thanksgiving themed Potluck dinner.
Home of Sandy Ress and Susan Foster.

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • NOVEMBER 2009

Letter from the president

Uncle Moishe was telling me that he and my aunt left the wilderness of the Bronx to travel to Manhattan to see a revival of the musical *My Fair Lady* on Broadway for their anniversary. The show has been a big hit and virtually sold out for all performances. However, maybe because it was a matinee, they were lucky enough to get very good seats, second row center. My aunt, being a bit of a yenta, noticed a vacant seat in the row just behind her. She thought it odd that the seat was empty and asked the woman sitting next to the empty seat if she knew why it was vacant. The woman said that it was her dead husband's seat. My aunt nodded in sympathy but stewed about this all through the first act, she just had to know more. So at intermission she tracked down the poor woman in the lobby and asked her if she didn't have a family member or a friend that would have liked to make use of the seat. After all, it was a very popular musical and hard to get tickets. To this the woman replied, "I did offer, but they all went to my husband's funeral."

The last time I was back in the old country, da Bronx, I went to Shul with my uncle Moishe on Shabbos. The synagogue is small by South Florida standards but has a rich history dating back a hundred years. In the hallway outside the sanctuary in photographic display, were the faces of past Rabbis, Cantors and notable past congregation presidents, although these, I noticed amusingly, being a congregation president myself, were few in number. Once inside the sanctuary we sat in specific seats, fourth row on the right side on the aisle, where uncle Moishe has always sat. Uncle pointed to this man and woman or this or that family and gave me the skinny on not only them but a recounting of their lineage dating back to the founding of the synagogue. As I sat listening to the Rabbi's sermon, I thought about the differences and similarities between uncle's congregation, steeped in rich longstanding traditions and generations of long-time family ties, and our own Jackson Hole Jewish Community.

Many of the original "Blue-zites" who gathered at Brent Blue's house to light Chanukah candles over 30 years ago are arguably the founders of the Jackson Hole Jewish Community.

We are indeed a rather young congregation as many of these "Blue-zites" are still involved in our congregational leadership; whereas my uncle's Shul has seen three or four or more generations of members and leaders. The JHJC is still in its first generation, so-to-speak, as evidenced by the continued active role, for example, of Larry & Laurie Thal, to name just two. Over the course of 100 years uncle's congregation has been there and done that. They have established rituals and traditions, there is a certain order to things, and they have a defined identity. I don't know how long it took them to reach this point, but I see us on a path of discovering who we are as a congregation. One thing I think they have going for them is that the neighborhood and its families haven't changed much over the decades. For example, temple seats have been passed down from generation to generation, much like season tickets to the N.Y. Giants football team. We, however, are an ever changing community with seasonal members and many individuals residing here for only a few years or leaving after a decade to pursue other interests. We have a variety of Rabbis who come to provide leadership. We roam from venue to venue for our events and activities. Perhaps it is the nature of the place we live where everything changes, even the mountains. Maybe it is that our membership is so diverse; a conglomeration of varying points of view and levels of Jewishness from all over the country. Maybe it is the laid back, open and informal culture of the West that has influenced the character of our congregation.

One thing that we have in common with uncle Moishe's congregation, even though we haven't been at it as long, is that we both exhibit the true tenets of our Jewish faith. That is to say we respect and worship Adonai, we believe in doing tzadakah, we practice tolerance of others, we seek peace and cherish our families and friends. I'd say that is a firm foundation for a relatively young congregation or for any congregation, for that matter.

*B'Shalom,
Al Zuckerman
JHJC President*

DIRECTORS 2009

Al Zuckerman, President
 Josh Kleyman, Vice President
 Ari Goldstein, Treasurer
 Mary Grossman, Secretary
 Mark Aronowitz
 Phyllis Fischer
 Lou Hochheiser
 Andy King
 Deb Ochstein
 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:

Shayna Maidel

(SHAY-na MAY-dul)

1. pretty girl (shayna adj: pretty; maidel n: girl; also shayna punim: pretty face)

We know your dog has a shayna maidel, so send us his/her picture so he/she can be the next Jewish pet of the month.

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

November 20: Shabbat with Rabbi Wenger and Chazzan Judd Grossman. 6:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal church, small chapel. Oneg to follow.

November 21: Adult education: The Bible, the Talmud and the Zohar on Social Action with Rabbi Wenger followed by a thanksgiving themed potluck dinner. 4:00 p.m. adult education, 6:00 p.m. potluck. If you can't make it to the adult education, you are more than welcome to come to just the dinner portion of the evening (or vice versa). If your last name begins with A-G please bring a main course, H-M please bring a side dish, N-S please bring a salad, T-Z please bring a dessert. Home of Sandy Ress and Susan Foster. RSVP requested at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999.

November 26: No Best Sefer classes. Thanksgiving break.

December 3: Page to the Podium: Barry Lopez (award-winning author of "Arctic Dreams"). 6:30 p.m. at the Center for the Arts. Free tickets available with a library card beginning November 16 at the library. The JHJC is a proud sponsor of this event.

December 12: Hanukkah Party. 6:00 p.m. Old Wilson School House.

The JHJC gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

To: Jackson Hole Jewish Community General Fund. In loving memory of Susan Herman From: Gary Kofinas

JHJC Wish List:

We are always looking for folks to sponsor our monthly Oneg Shabbat. If you and your family would like to help, contact Andrea at info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999.

A NOTE FROM RABBI WENGER

Shalom Chaverim/Dear Friends,
The fall holy days have come and gone. Now we are in November. It brings with it no holidays, but a month of work and growth. Yet many of us sink into cynicism, this month, a fatalism best summed up in the old doggerel:

*Might and Right are always fighting
In our youth it seems exciting;
Right is always nearly winning;
Might can hardly keep from grinning.*

But Judaism prohibits us from this acquiescence. To challenge us to renew our zeal, here is a selection of statements on social justice taken from modern Reform Jewish sources:

... we deem it our duty to participate in the great task of modern times, to solve on the basis of justice and righteousness the problems presented by the contrasts and evils of the present organization of society.

— *Pittsburgh Platform, 1875*

Judaism seeks the attainment of a just society by the application of its teachings to the economic order, to industry and commerce, and to national and international affairs. It aims at the elimination of man-made misery and suffering, of poverty and degradation, of tyranny and slavery, of social inequality and prejudice, of ill-will and strife. It advocates the promotion of harmonious relations between warring classes on the basis of equity and justice, and the creation of conditions under which human personality may flourish. It pleads for the safe-guarding of childhood against exploitation. It champions the cause of all who work and of their right to an adequate standard of living, as prior to the rights of property. Judaism emphasizes the duty of charity, and strives for a social order which will protect men against the material disabilities of old

age, sickness and unemployment.

— *Columbus Platform, 1937*

We bring Torah into the world when we strive to fulfill the highest ethical mandates in our relationships with others and with all of God's creation. Partners with God in tikkun olam, repairing the world, we are called to help bring nearer the messianic age. We seek dialogue and joint action with people of other faiths in the hope that together we can bring peace, freedom and justice to our world. We are obligated to pursue tzedek, justice and righteousness, and to narrow the gap between the affluent and the poor, to act against discrimination and oppression, to pursue peace, to welcome the stranger, to protect the earth's biodiversity and natural resources, and to redeem those in physical, economic and spiritual bondage. In so doing, we reaffirm social action and social justice as a central prophetic focus of traditional Reform Jewish belief and

practice. We affirm the mitzvah of tzedakah, setting aside portions of our earnings and our time to provide for those in need. These acts bring us closer to fulfilling the prophetic call to translate the words of Torah into the works of our hands.

— *A Statement of Principles for Reform Judaism, Pittsburgh, 1999*

All these words are based on the commandment in the Torah which to 'pursue justice' and those of the prophets who urge us to 'let justice flow like waters....'

In our adult discussion this November, I'd like to explore how Jewish Sources Challenge a Power Intoxicated World; The Bible, the Talmud and the Zohar on Social Action.

We hope to see you then.



Rabbi Fred Wenger

*Shalom,
Rabbi Fred Wenger*

JHJC Volunteer Corps

Attention all mensches!

The Jackson Hole Jewish Community is starting a volunteer group called the JHJC Volunteer Corps. There are so many activities and opportunities to give back to our community. Have you ever thought of volunteering, but didn't sign up because you didn't want to go by yourself? Don't hesitate anymore to volunteer!

If you would like to volunteer with other folks from the JHJC, sign up and join the JHJC Volunteer Corps today. Volunteer opportunities include (but are not limited to) ringing bells for the

salvation army, volunteering at the hospital on Christmas, donating blood, working on a trail crew, and working on a Habitat house.

All you need to do to join our volunteer group is contact Phyllis Fischer at Phyllis.Fischer@fib.com or 732-2530 to let her know that you would like to be put on our volunteer list. When an opportunity arises, we will contact you. You don't have to sign up for every job. When we contact you, you can let us know if you would like to participate. We hope you will join us in working towards bettering our community.

MAZEL TOV

■ **Esther Grossman and the Grossman family** on becoming a Bat Mitzvah!



MANY THANKS

■ **Laurie Thal** for hosting our annual community Sukkot party.

MORE SCHATUFF

■ **SAVE THE DATE: 12.12.09 HANUKKAH PARTY**

JHJC's 31st Annual Chanukah Party Celebrate the Festival of Lights with the Jackson Hole Jewish Community!

6 p.m., Old Wilson Schoolhouse
\$5 members/\$10 nonmembers. Kids under 13 free.

■ **Membership to the Jackson Hole Jewish Community**

It's never too late to become a member of the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. Becoming a member is the best way to support the JHJC. It shows your commitment to having an active Jewish presence in Jackson, and your membership dues are the primary way to support the monthly programs and activities that keep our community vibrant.

Membership application forms have been mailed. If you did not receive one, you may download the form from our website at www.jhjewishcommunity.org or contact our office info@jhjewishcommunity.org. A sliding scale of dues is available upon request. We do not turn anyone away who wishes to be a member of the JHJC.



Scenes from
Sukkot & Simchat Torah
5770



Are you a member of
"Jackson Hole Jews"

facebook

Upload and view photos, videos and events for JHJC.



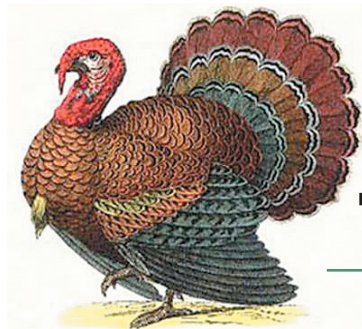
JACKSON HOLE
JEWISH COMMUNITY
P.O. BOX 10667
JACKSON, WY 83002

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 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.



It's a Mitzvah! The JHJC TURKEY DRIVE

The Jackson Hole Jewish Community is having a turkey drive this Thanksgiving to benefit local residents who need extra assistance during Thanksgiving. We are asking for our members to make a donation to the Jackson Hole Jewish

Community for any amount by November 20th. We will use all of the money to buy turkeys to be donated to the Community Resource Center. Please make your check out to the Jackson Hole Jewish Community (PO Box 10667 Jackson, WY

83002) and earmark it Turkey Drive. If you would like to help purchase the turkeys and deliver them to the Community Resource Center on Monday, November 23 contact Andrea at the office at info@jhjewishcommunity.org.