

## SAVE THE DATE:



**Esther Grossman's  
Bat Mitzvah Dance Party  
Halloween Night  
8:30 p.m.  
Lyndsay McCandless  
Contemporary**

# The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • OCTOBER 2009

## Letter from the president

Uncle Moishe was talking to the Rabbi at the Shul he goes to back in da Bronx. Unc was talking about his grandkids, and the Rabbi was talking about his son David. He told my Uncle that his son had just gotten his driver's license and wanted to discuss with his dad using the family car. The Rabbi made a deal with his son that they would talk about the car when David had raised his grades, studied Torah more and got a haircut. A month later, David asks his Dad about the car again. The Rabbi said to him, "Son I'm very proud of you. Your grades are up and you've been studying Torah every day. However, you haven't gotten a haircut." David replied, "I've been thinking about that dad. You know Samson had long hair. Moses and the Rambam had long hair too. And even Noah had long hair!" To this the Rabbi said, "Yes and they all walked everywhere they went."

Recently something happened that set me to thinking about what it means to live in a small town in regards to social and moral responsibility. My son Sam and I were driving along on a Sunday afternoon when we noticed the vehicle ahead of us driving erratically. When it appeared that he wasn't just distracted by talking on the cell phone or swatting a bee in the car, I thought that he might be driving drunk or at least in such a way as to endanger himself and/or others. However, for just a moment or two I hesitated before I called the Sheriff's office to report the erratic driver. I think the reason I even hesitated for that split second was that my first instinct was not to get involved. But several factors led me to the right choice. One was setting a good example for my son. Two was a strong sense of doing the right thing before G-d. And three was an overwhelming feeling of sense of responsibility to my community. A feeling that if I didn't get involved, someone I know personally could get hurt by this person.

The point I'd like to make in relating this incident to you is that in a small community like ours it is our obligation, our social and moral responsibility to get involved. And it is even more imperative in our even smaller Jewish Community where involvement in even the smallest degree, because of its size, has a significant impact on our congregation. We don't have a synagogue to hold events in, we don't have 3,000 members to draw from for volun-

teers and we don't have huge budgets to pay for the resources we need. You may ask then, who and what keeps this congregation going? The answer is all of us, our membership. Members that get involved by graciously opening their homes to various events and visiting rabbis; members that get involved that are wonderfully energetic and talented who volunteer their time and energy to build a sukkah or brainstorming a program idea and then following it through to its happening or sponsoring an Oneg; members that get involved through their very thoughtful and generous donations that help to provide the resources we need to maintain the organization; and members that make it their business to show up regularly for events and services, even if it means travelling over Teton Pass in the winter. That's who keeps this small congregation in this small community going. It is you who carries the social and moral responsibility to keep this congregation relevant, dynamic and meaningful, and I dare say that you do it well.

In my humble estimation this past year was a very good one for the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. We had a lot of programming, saw to our spiritual needs, kept with Jewish traditions, Jackson Hole style of course, and were a positive presence in the greater Jackson Hole community. However, a new year is upon us. We all must continue to be involved through volunteering, dues and donations and good works within and outside the Jewish community. In a small community like ours we need everyone to participate in some way and to be able to count on everyone, as few as we are, to share the responsibility of sustaining the JHJC.

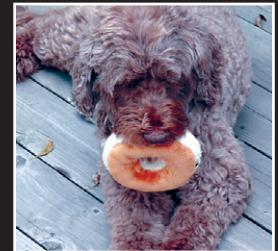
And finally, may I add a little prayer for the New Year. May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your stomach, your stocks, not fall. May your blood pressure, your cholesterol and your mortgage rate not rise. May you remember to say "I love you" at least once every day to your partner, your child, your parents. May your checkbook and your budget always balance. May we live as intended, in a world at peace with the awareness of the mountains, the sunset, a baby's smile. May you experience happiness, great health, peace and much love in the new year.

*B'Shalom,  
Al Zuckerman  
JHJC President*

## DIRECTORS 2009

Al Zuckerman, President  
Josh Kleiman, Vice President  
Ari Goldstein, Treasurer  
Mary Grossman, Secretary  
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Phyllis Fischer  
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## JEWISH PET OF THE MONTH



**Allie Chapman**

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](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org).

## CALENDAR

**October 4: Community Sukkot celebration.** Home of Laurie Thal. 4 -7 pm. Potluck fall meal in the Sukkah. Please bring a dish! Contact the office for directions 734-1999 or [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org).

**October 9: Daniel Pearl World Music Days concert.** Free interfaith concert featuring **Eddie Anders** from the Chapel at River Crossing and **Judd Grossman** from JHJC. 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Center for the Arts lobby. Coordinated by Esther Grossman as her Bat Mitzvah project. Free.

**October 11: Simchat Torah** with Josh Kleiman and Judd Grossman. 5-7 p.m. Old Wilson School House.

**October 18: Youth Group Get-Together.** Calling all Jewish teens in 8th - 12th grade. Join our youth group advisors Stephan and Jo for our first get-together of the year. 4 - 6 pm. Home of Joanna Snyder. Please contact the office for directions 734-1999 or [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org).

**October 31: Bat Mitzvah of Esther Grossman** with Carl Levenson, Rabbi Mike Comins and Chazzan Judd Grossman. 10 a.m. St. John's main sanctuary. Light lunch to follow.

**November 20:** Shabbat with Rabbi Wenger and Chazzan Judd Grossman.

### Smith's Earn and Learn

The Jackson Hole Jewish Community's Bet Sefer program is enrolled in Smith's Earn & Learn Program. Everyone can be a part in helping fundraise for our Hebrew School through this program. All you have to do is request a letter from our office, 734-1999 or [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org). We will then mail or fax the letter to you. You must present the letter and your fresh values/rewards card to your cashier during your next visit to Smith's. Your cashier will scan the barcode on the letter to link your card to our Bet Sefer program and you will start earning points for our school. We thank you for your participation and support in our children's programs.

## MEMBER'S NOTEBOOK: *Dr. Michael Gellis* *The journey to become a mohel*

Dr. Michael Gellis, a board certified plastic surgeon for the past 32 years, was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1946. His family relocated to Flint, Michigan, and he became part of a very strong Jewish community. During his high school years he became active the AZA (Aleph Zadek Aleph) of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization rising to become the President of the Great Lakes Region. In his senior year of high school and due to his activity in BBYO throughout the United States he was chosen as the International Jewish Heritage Chairman of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.

While in colleges at the University of Michigan Dr. Gellis was active in Hillel and performed as Cantor for the annual High Holiday Services. He still continues to lead many Shabbat services at Adat Shalom Synagogue as well as participating in the Shivah Minyan program, travelling to local homes to lead services in the homes of mourners.

Within the Detroit Jewish Community Dr. Gellis has served on the Executive Board of

Adat Shalom Synagogue as secretary, treasurer, and Vice President. On an international level he has served B'nai B'rith as the International Chairman of the Center for Jewish Identity. During that time he wrote the book, *A Practical Guide of Jewish Practices from Dying Through Shivah*,

which is published by B'nai B'rith International. This book helps mourners understand the various issues concerning death and subsequent shivah (week of mourning).

As an extension of his surgical skills and religious interests he has studied with Rabbi Gary Atkins of Hartford, Conn., a well known teacher of the ritual of circumcision, and became certi-

fied in Brit Milah. He also trained with Dr. Neil Pollock of Vancouver, British Columbia, and became certified in the technical aspects of circumcision.

Being a Board Certified Plastic Surgeon and a Ritual Circumciser (Mohel) are very complimentary to each other. Brit Milah is an extremely important way for Dr. Gellis to serve the Jewish Community.



Dr. Michael Gellis

SCENES FROM  
HH 5770



Rabbi Stuart Geller leads the kids service for Rosh Hashamah last month.



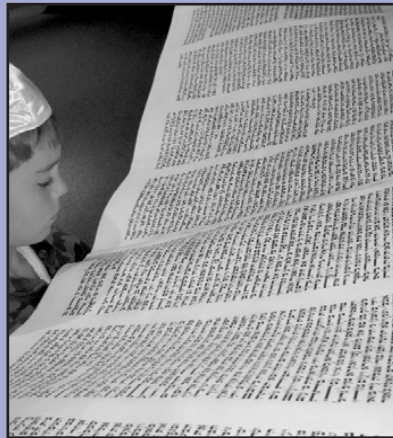




## Sukkot & Simchat Torah 5770

The Jewish Holidays don't end with Yom Kippur. We will be celebrating Sukkot, the festival of booths, at the home of Laurie Thal on Sunday, October 4 from 4 – 7 p.m. Come help the Jackson Hole Jewish Community decorate the community sukkah, shake the lulav and etrog and enjoy a fall afternoon potluck meal. 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.

A few days later we are blessed to celebrate Simchat Torah as a community. Join Chazzan Judd Grossman and Josh Kleyman in helping "roll the scroll" back to the beginning and celebrate our torah on October 11 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Old Wilson School House. We look forward to celebrating the fall holidays with you and your family!



## Bat Mitzvah of Esther Grossman

Please join the Jackson Hole Jewish Community and the Grossman family on Saturday morning, October 31 as Esther is called to the Torah on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah. Shabbat morning service will be conducted by Carl Levenson (with special guest Rabbi

Mike Comins) and Chazzan Judd Grossman and will be at 10 a.m. in the main sanctuary at St. John's Episcopal Church.

JHJC members are also invited to the join the dance party later this night (after trick-or-treating!) at 8:30 p.m. at Lyndsay McCandless Contemporary Gallery on



Esther picks out her prayer shawl in Safed, Israel

Jackson St.

Rock out with Judd Grossman's 6-piece dance band, enjoy light refreshments and other ghoulish surprises this Halloween eve.

## MAZEL TOV

■ **Josh Beck and Kerri McNutt** on your recent marriage.

## MANY THANKS

■ **Tom and Diann Mann** for housing Rabbi Geller and Ellyn Geller during the High Holidays.

■ **Carol and Robin Farkas** for the use of their car during the High Holidays.

## MORE SCHTUFF

### ■ JHJC Youth Group

Do you have a child in 8th-12th grade? Make sure they don't miss out on getting involved with the Jackson Hole Jewish Community's youth group. This year Stephan Abrams and Joanna Snyder are back for their second year as our youth group advisors. The youth group's first gathering will be held on October 18th from 4 pm – 6 pm at the home of Joanna Snyder. Please contact the office for directions, [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto:info@jhjewishcommunity.org).

### ■ 92Y Live

Hear big city speakers in a small-town setting. Gather with friends, neighbors and some of the world's most fascinating people for compelling and thought-provoking discussions on the issues and events that affect our lives.

This fall, Teton County Library and Foundation present several lectures from the 92Y Cultural Center in New York City. The programs are broadcast exclusively to Teton County Library and cannot be viewed on television or the Web.

Speakers include contemporary thinkers from politicians to religious leaders to business pundits. The talks generally run one hour, followed by a nationwide Q&A, during which the local audience may also submit questions via email. The program is free.

All broadcasts take place in the Ordway Auditorium. For information, call 733-2164 ext. 135.

**Thursday, October 22:** 6:15 p.m. Nobel Prize Winning economist Paul Krugman

**Thursday, October 29:** 6:15p.m. Rabbi Harold Kushner on Fear; Gail Saltz, interviewer



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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.*



## 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 mem-

bership 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 web-

site at [www.jhjewishcommunity.org](http://www.jhjewishcommunity.org) or contact our office [info@jhjewishcommunity.org](mailto: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.