

SAVE THE DATE:

Chanukah Party
Café Bohème
Thursday, Dec. 22
6 p.m., \$5

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • DECEMBER 2011

Letter from the president



When I talked to Uncle Moishe on Sunday after Thanksgiving he relayed a story to me he heard from his friend Reuben at the oneig in Shul on Shabbous. On Black Friday Reuben's wife Golda had dragged him

along shopping with her. They were in the ladies department at Lane Bryant for 45 minutes as Golda tried on outfit after outfit. Reuben was getting tired and irritable when Golda came out of the changing room for the 7th time wearing yet another outfit. Reuben told Unc that he looked her up and down and said, "OK Darling, that's the one. Not only does the outfit fit you perfectly but it is your favorite color, too. So, buy it and let's go get something to eat." To which Golda shouted at him, "Reuben, you schlemiel. This is the outfit I wore when we came in here!" Unc said he laughed so hard he almost choked on his pickled herring.

Four or five years ago a tourist called the office to see if we could gather a minyan so he could say Kaddish for his father, who's Yarzeit it was. Unfortunately, we could not muster 10 men on such short notice for this ritual and so his opportunity to say Kaddish went unanswered as he was strictly observant. I was very upset by this at the time and still smart from it.

The word minyan means to count or number. Jewish law requires ten Jewish adults to be present for certain religious rituals and prayers. In more Orthodox congregations a minyan needs to be made up of ten men. In less Orthodox congregations minyans consist of men and women.

Some of the rituals and prayers that require a minyan are reciting Kaddish, Barechu, Kedusha and reading from the Torah. In a pinch, if there are nine people present the Torah can be counted as the tenth. In fact, we once did just that for a Saturday morning Shabbous service with Rabbi Mike Comins.

In large congregations gathering a minyan is usually not an issue. However, in small communities like ours, it often is. Especially if fulfilling that requirement in order to conduct certain rituals and prayers is important to some members of the congregation. I think the importance of observing the minyan requirement goes a lot deeper than being just a law to follow. The minyan reminds us that we are responsible for each other. It helps us to create a sense of community. It does not compel JHJC members to attend services for personal reasons but to consider attending services to be counted among the ten to enable others to pray.

Think about the times here in Jackson or elsewhere when you thought about skipping a service because it was inconvenient or you thought you had something better to do but then decided to come and were the one that made the minyan. Think about the times when you saw someone else walk into the service to create the minyan so you could recite Kaddish for a loved one and feel strengthened by those around you. Being available to create a minyan is the promise we make to each other to help uphold our Jewish traditions.

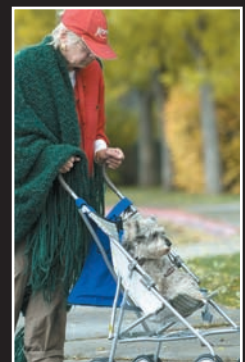
Whether you are spending the holiday season here or there have a Happy Chanukah filled with the light and warmth of family and friends.

B'Shalom
Al Zuckerman
JHJC President

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**Jewish
 Pet
 of the
 Month**



In loving memory of Sadie

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

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

Dec. 9: Shabbat with Judd Grossman. 6 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, small chapel. Oneg to follow.

Dec. 11: The Klezmatics. 7 p.m. at Center Theater at the Center for the Arts. \$25 for reserved seating. **Special Meet and Greet reception afterwards** (around 8:45 p.m.) with the musicians for JHJC members in attendance. Please RSVP if you would like to attend this reception.

Dec. 15: Mtn. Chai Chanukah Gelt pickup. 5 – 6 p.m. at Oscar Ortega's downtown location CocoLove (130 N. Glenwood across from the Wort Hotel side entrance.)

Dec. 22 - 29: No Bet Sefer classes.

Dec. 22: Annual Hanukkah Party. Café Boheme. Latkes provided, potluck everything else. See page 3 for details.

Dec. 25: Mitzvah Day. Help with providing holiday treats and music for St. John's Hospital employees and for families of patients. Email if you'd like to participate. info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

Jan. 5, 2012: Bet Sefer classes begin.

Jan. 9 & 10, 2012: Hebrew classes begin. 5:30 at the JHJC Office conference room. Participants must register. See this newsletter for details.

Interested in Jewish Film Club? If you are interested in watching movies and would like to be part of a JHJC sponsored film club drop us an email. We also plan to collaborate with other local organizations screening multi-cultural films. If you'd like to be part of this startup club, let us know! 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.

Mountain Chai News



ORDER NOW IN TIME FOR CHANUKAH!

Bet Sefer Fundraiser: Mountain "Chai" Chanukah Pick Up:

With the help of the world famous chocolatier Oscar Ortega, the kids of the Jackson Hole Jewish Community bring you this special Chanukah gelt. Help support the growing Bet Sefer Hebrew school by ordering your Mountain Chai Chanukah gelt gift pack. \$12 for 10 hand-crafted chocolate coins. Pick up orders on Thursday, December 15 Oscar Ortega's downtown location, CocoLove (north Glenwood across

No need to feel "gelty." On the eighth day G-d created chocolate, and it was very good.

from the Wort Hotel side entrance) or during the Chanukah Party at Café Boheme Thursday, December 22. We'll order a few extra, so if you missed out on ordering, contact the JHJC office at 734-1999, info@jhjewishcommunity.org

Klezmatics just for JHJC

The JHJC is hosting a special "Meet and Greet" with the band (around 8:45 p.m.) after the concert for any JHJC members who attend the concert. **Please RSVP if you would like to attend this special reception to**

info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999.

The Klezmatics are a world-renowned Grammy-winning klezmer superstars whose music is "as deeply compassionate as it is invigorating, as accessible as it is virtuosic" (Time Out New York). They erupted out of New York City's East Village in 1986 and revitalized klezmer for the new century. The music is steeped in Eastern European Jewish tradition and spirituality, while incorporating contemporary themes such as



human rights and anti-fundamentalism and eclectic musical influences including Arab, African, Latin and Balkan rhythms and jazz. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seating call 733-4900 or www.jhcenterforthearts.org.

Mitzvah Day on Christmas Day

Help others in need on Christmas Day. Join the JHJC at St. John's Hospital at 2 p.m. leaving treats and goodies for the staff and families of patients who will be celebrating the holiday and



assisting patients at the Living Center while Judd Grossman sings holiday songs. If you are interested in being part of this

community outreach project, please email Mary Grossman at info@jhjewishcommunity.org for available shifts. Good Karma.

Remember the Jackson Hole Jewish Community at the end of the year

As you make your year end donations, remember the Jackson Hole Jewish Community and the vital role it plays in promoting local Jewish culture. You can do this by either becoming a member, or making a general donation. The JHJC reaches out to the Jackson Hole community in many ways, through education of our young ones, by volunteering and giving tzedakah; by presenting cultural programs and lectures, or by providing opportunities for traditional Jewish ritual or observance - and all of these great things cost money. The JHJC



would also like to grow beyond the status quo so that we can expand our presence by offering more classes and great events like Swingin' Sabbath, increasing our tzedakah to all in our Jackson Hole community, finding a space where we can consolidate all of our programs to one location, or to improve administrative operations so that we can make being Jewish in Jackson Hole a breeze. Contact the office if you did not receive a membership application this year: info@jhjewishcommunity.org or Mail your donation to: JHJC, Box 10667, Jackson, WY 83002.

Hebrew Classes Begin in January

Hebrew: Experiencing Sabbath Prayers

Jan. 9 – March 19: JHJC Office Conference Room
 Fee: \$100 nonmembers, \$60 for JHJC members
 Instructor: Daniel Haber

Minimum 3 people (class will be cancelled if not met, so please register in advance!)

Having trouble following along with the Hebrew prayers during services? Wish you could read those prayers during Shabbat like that guy next to you? This class will teach you how to read and understand the Sabbath prayers in Hebrew and how to have your own Shabbat service in your own home without a rabbi. Instructor, Daniel Haber will teach you basic understanding of important words and phrases, letters and vowels. No prior knowledge of Hebrew necessary. Does not cover modern conversational Hebrew.

Intro to Conversational Hebrew

Jan. 10 – March 20: JHJC Office Conference Room
 Fee: \$160 (Limited scholarships available)
 Instructor: Daniel Haber

5 person minimum (class will be cancelled if not met, so please register in advance!)

This class is great for anyone who may be taking a trip to Israel in the near future, keeps up with Israeli news, will be visiting relatives who speak Hebrew or has a general interest in this amazing language. No prior knowledge of Hebrew necessary. When you're done with the course you'll be able to have simple conversations, know the aleph bet, and read and write basic letters, vowels and construct simple sentences. ALL FAITHS WELCOME. Does not cover intermediate/advanced Hebrew grammar.

Text book: \$20 additional (includes shipping) Ivrit Alfon: A Hebrew Primer for Adults.

Contact the JHJC if you would like to take either of these classes and if you would like to apply for the scholarship for Conversational Hebrew: info@jhjewishcommunity.org or 734-1999. Please make sure you receive a confirmation either by email or phone before you show to class.

MANY THANKS

■ **Christine Schuller** for donating and roasting turkeys and making challah for Thanksgiving Shabbat in November.

■ **Isaac Grossman** for helping set up/clean up Thanksgiving Shabbat and for being the doorman at the Kafka talk in November.

■ **Judith Levenson, The Thals, Daniel Haber, Sandy Ress and Susan Foster** for helping to clean up after Thanksgiving Shabbat.

CONDOLANCES

■ To **Rachel Selikoff** for the loss of her beloved dog, Sadie

GIVING

■ Smith's Earn and Learn

The Jackson Hole Jewish Community's Bet Sefer is enrolled in Smith's Earn & Learn Program. Everyone can be a part of helping fundraise for our Hebrew School through this program. If you have participated in Smith's Earn and Learn Program before, you must re-enroll each year. All you have to do is visit www.smithsfoodanddrug.com and have your rewards card handy, or go to www.jhjewishcommunity.org and look for the link to download the parent letter to request enrollment. 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 in and support for our children's programs!

Chanukah Party 5772



Thursday, December 22 • 6 p.m.

Café Bohème (formerly Hard Drive, 1110 Maple Way)

\$5 per person (children under 5, free).

Includes latkes, non-alcoholic drinks, games, activities and favors.

Come to this action-packed party complete with kids Chanukah games and activities, cash bar by Café Bohème including blue martinis, organic wines and beers, great Israeli music and the poignant community candle lighting so bring a Hanukiah (menorah) and we'll provide the candles. Latkes and toppings provided by Cafe Bohème, everything else is potluck. Please bring a dish: A – I bring a main dish, J– R bring a salad or side dish, S –Z bring a dessert. This will be the last chance to purchase a limited supply of Mountain Chai Chanukah gelt from Bet Sefer students or to pick up for those who pre-ordered Chanukah Gelt. Any questions, please email: info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

• Mountain Chai Chanukah Gelt pre-order pick up! Bet Sefer will also be selling a limited supply of Mountain Chai Chanukah Gelt!



"Jackson Hole Jews"





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

December 1

January 12

February 2

March 1

May 3

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.

