

SAVE THE DATE:



Challah Shabbat
with **Josh Kleyman & Judd Grossman**
Jan. 21, 5:30 p.m
Novak Residence

The Jackson Kol



NEWSLETTER FOR THE JACKSON HOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY • JANUARY 2011

Letter from the president

I talked to Uncle Moishe last Monday. He wanted to wish me a happy new year and just catch me up on family news. He went to his friend Abe's 85th birthday party the Sunday before I talked to him. All of Abe's family was there and friends from the Fordham Road Senior Center were there, too. Everyone was wishing him the best and many happy returns. Unc said that Abe was so excited and carried away with the moment that he decided to announce to everyone his forthcoming marriage to his companion, 50 year old Hetty. Everyone was buzzing about this announcement, the yentas were beside themselves with this juicy news and everyone else was yelling Mazel Tov. After things calmed down a bit Uncle Moishe took Abe aside and said that he didn't mean to offend his old friend but this seemed so sudden. Unc asked Abe if he really loved Hetty. Abe told Unc, "To tell you the truth Moishela, I'm not really sure". "Well then, is she a good cook? Is her chicken soup special?" Uncle Moishe inquired of his friend. "I don't know, I've never seen her in the kitchen." Uncle Moishe then asked if she was rich. Abe said that they never discussed money. "So if you aren't sure you love her and you don't know if she is a good cook and you don't know her financial situation then why are you marrying her?" But Uncle Moishe could only nod in understanding when Abe replied, "She can drive at night".

With the beginning of the secular new year it is a custom in our country to make resolutions for the new year. We, as Jews, are lucky in that we get two chances to make resolutions or in many cases, renew the ones we may have already broken or forgotten after Rosh Hashannah and Yom Kippur. Although New Year's Day is a secular holiday characterized by partying and watching college football bowl games while the Days Of Awe are religious holy days characterized by repentance and solemn reflection and prayer they do share something

in common. Both occasions, because they symbolize a fresh starting point, offer us an opportunity to look back on the past year, take stock of the past 12 months and chart our course for the new year ahead. Part of the High Holidays liturgy is the recitation of Kol Nidre. This prayer is meant to absolve us of any promises, vows, oaths or resolutions that we may make as G-d understands that we are only human and that despite our best intentions we do make mistakes, we do falter and we do lose our way sometimes in trying to keep our resolutions.

Faced with our own imperfections it is very challenging to hold true to the resolutions or promises we made to ourselves on New Year's Day or to G-d during the High Holy Days. Some of the tasks we set for ourselves seem impossible – feeding the world's hungry, finding cures for diseases, improving interfaith relations or effecting peace between warring nations. However, I believe that in engaging in tikkun olam, fixing the world, each of us by making resolutions on a small scale, such as resolving to strengthen our relationships with family and friends, by resolving to lead an ethical and spiritual life, by speaking out for tolerance and by performing tzedakah, can make the year ahead better in our personal lives, in the Jewish community and in the world.

So, don't be afraid to make some New Year's resolutions because you feel you might fail in keeping them. We may not always be able to achieve the goals we set or do the right thing in every circumstance but the idea is to do our best every day, try our hardest and strive to make the most of every precious day. That is all we can ask of ourselves and I think that is all G-d asks of us, as well.

A happy and healthy (secular) New Year to all.

*B'Shalom,
Al Zuckerman
JHJC President*

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Jewish Pet of the Month



Herschel Walker
Texas Ranger Fishman

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

JHJC New Office Hours
 Wednesdays from 1 – 5pm
 Fridays from 1 – 5pm

January 6: Toddler sing-along. Join the Bet Sefer students and teachers from 4:15 – 4:45 pm. LDS church

January 10: Traditional Jewish Cooking series begins. *Hummus the Hard Way.* Mary Grossman. 6pm. \$15.



You'll never open another can of chickpeas again. Learn the art of gently roasting and grinding a special blend of spices combined with slow-cooked and hand-shucked chickpeas, making a very creamy and aromatic Syrian style hummus. If there's time, we'll make a batch of Ful (pronounced fool), traditional fava bean stew often served with hummus. Contact JHJC for location directions.

January 20: Tu B'Shvat

January 21: Annual Challah Shabbat.



Join the JHJC in one of our liveliest events. Learn to make traditional braided challah with Josh Kleyman.

Potluck oneg, families encouraged. 5:30 pm. Home of Rose and Ron Novak.

January 31 Chicken Soup with Kelly Zelikovitz. \$15 6 p.m. Contact JHJC for location directions.

Volunteer opportunities:

- We are looking for an energetic youth group leader.
- Teach Traditional Jewish cooking classes for Summer
- Passover Seder committee volunteers for our April 19 Seder at Old Wilson School.
- Committee volunteers for various tasks and events.

Contact Mary at info@jhjewishcommunity.org if you are interested.

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

MEMBER'S NOTEBOOK :

The Mystery and Lore of Challah by Rose Novak

"Hold the challah or hold on to someone who is holding the challah or is holding on to someone who is holding the challah!" Gathering around the challot is our Jackson Hole Jewish Community ritual. Why do we do it? TRADITION! A special few moments close together chanting the blessing before we literally break bread together. Then, of course, it's each man, woman and child for her/himself as we go for the Oneg or the pot luck buffet.

The beautiful braided challah bread is special, and it is hard to imagine a Shabbat or holiday without it. Traditionally, Shabbat and all holiday meals (except the Seder) begin with two complete loaves of bread to commemorate the manna that G-d gave the Israelites after they ate up all the matzo wandering the desert after the Exodus.

You recall that G-d told the Israelites to take only one portion of manna each day, but some took more which annoyed the Almighty so s/he caused their hoarded manna to spoil, i.e. it "bred worms and stank." This was a great object lesson which has passed down to us from our mothers: Do as I say or else.

A few days later the Eternal told our ancient forebears to take two portions because the Shabbat s/he had recently mentioned in the Ten Commandments was going to be the next day, and s/he was going to be resting and refreshing all day so manna wasn't going to be happening. Ergo, the traditional two loaves.

A good old-fashioned challah is loaded with eggs and white flour and just a little sugar or honey. Good juicy raisins can't hurt. If you are baking on a humid or rainy day, the extra flour needed for the dough to "look right" can produce a mound of challah dough the size of a small child, which is pretty exciting for the small child you are baking with.

Another tradition is breaking off a piece of the dough to bake for the Kohaneim, the priests, who could not grow wheat and make challah. These days when we observe this ancient ritual we simply burn the piece of dough.

Finally, you will roll the dough with your hands into long ropes and then braid it. The braided bread will impress everyone if you use more than three ropes, but it's not so hard to do. And if you need help, the JHJC has a copy of Braiding Challah for Dummies. Then it's just a quick brush with an egg wash, which makes for a shiny loaf when it comes out of the oven.

In Jackson there are several places that bake Challah weekly (see the list below) but once a



Rachel and Ben Stam (and Mike Sher!) get gooey at last year's Challah Shabbat.



year the JHJC celebrates **Challah Shabbat** to make and break bread together. This year, **Challah Shabbat is Friday, January 21, 5:30pm at the Novak's.** Come, one and all perchance to learn, to teach, to kibitz, to daven, to shmooze or just to eat. Josh Kleyman and Judd Grossman will be leading songs and Challah making. Email the JHJC office for directions to the Novak's home info@jhjewishcommunity.org.

Where to find it:

■ **Jackson Whole Grocer:**

974 West Broadway Jackson, WY 83001
 (307) 733-0450 Fridays.

■ **Wild Flour Bakery:**

(307) 734-2455.
 Fridays at various locations in town.

■ **Great Harvest Bread Co.:**

155 Center Street Jackson, WY 83001
 (307) 734-8227

Every Friday or by special request.

■ **e. Leaven:**

175 Center Street Jackson, WY 83001 (307) 733-5600

Challah French toast on menu. Individual loaves per request with 24 hr notice.

SCENES FROM DECEMBER '10

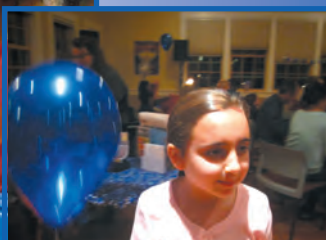
CHANUKAH GELT • CHANUKAH PARTY • MITZVAH DAY



Mountain "Chai" Chanukah Gelt final product.



32nd Annual Chanukah Party



32nd Annual Chanukah Party



Kelly Zelikovitz (left) and Patty Chapman (center) visit the Living Center on Mitzvah Day, Dec. 25.



Chazzan Judd Grossman sings holiday songs at the Living Center on Mitzvah Day, Dec. 25.

MANY THANKS

- **Kelly & Steve Zelikovitz, Christine Schuller, Patty Chapman, Judd Grossman, Esther & Isaac Grossman, Carol & Ariel Mann** for participating in our first Mitzvah Day at St. John's Hospital.
- **Phyllis Fischer and Ari Goldstein** for hosting Oneg at the December Shabbat.
- **Esther Grossman and Aviva Thal** for babysitting at December Shabbat.
- **Christine Schuller** for making challah for December Shabbat.
- **Audrey Cohen-Davis** for co-chairing and organizing the Chanukah Party.
- **Rachel Ravitz and Sydney Daniels** for working the Chanukah Party.
- **Larry Thal and Al Zuckerman** for helping with the Chanukah Party.

MAZEL TOV!

- **The Bet Sefer Students** sold 160 packages of handmade Mountain "chai" Chanukah Gelt. Kol ha'Kavod!



- **Joan and David Goldfarb** for the birth of their baby granddaughter, Alexia Judith Shindler, born December 26.

CONDOLENCES

- **To the family of Erwin Deutsch** who passed away on December 4 at the age of 94.



Erwin lived here for several years and many in the Jewish community knew him. Erwin was a Holocaust survivor and several times went to the schools to talk about his experiences during the war and to promote tolerance. Donations in his name can be made to the Shoah Foundation.

Become a member to the Jackson Hole Jewish Community

Being a member is the best way to support the Jackson Hole Jewish Community. 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 applications have been mailed. If you did not receive one, please contact our office at 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.



"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 Hole
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.



With many recent births and young families moving to the valley, we now have a large toddler community! This year we are thrilled to

begin a new program for toddlers and their parents.

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 21

May 5

On the first Thursday of every month, Judd and the teachers at Bet Sefer invite you and your toddler(s) to join the Bet Sefer from 4:15-4:45 pm.

TODDLER SING-A-LONG WITH JUDD:

