



*Hakol*  
הקול ..... 'The Voice'

## An interview with Rabbi Judith HaLevy

Rabbi Judith HaLevy lived in Taos from 1976 to 1991. She is currently the Senior Rabbi at the Malibu Jewish Center and the new President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California. This interview concludes the "The Roots of Judaism in Taos," series. We trust you have enjoyed reading the stories of Rabbi Chava Carp, Rabbi Judith HaLevy and Ron Kalom. At some point in the near future we hope to have the interviews on a pod cast format available on the TJC website.

Interview with Rabbi Judith Ha Levy, September 7, 2011, Malibu Jewish Center

Hakol: When did you arrive in Taos and how did you get here?

JHL: I came to Taos in 1976 with Carl Fritz, whom I later married. I came from Mexico City, where I had been working with the Jewish community. I had two kids, Daniela and Eliam in rapid succession. They were eighteen months apart, and they were born in Mexico.

In Taos, I fell in love with the Lama Foundation and was offered a teaching position in what was then Da Nahazli School, where we all laugh and say no kids had socks that matched. It was time for me to make a new life. I was really on my way back to the East Coast and perhaps to Israel, and I was only going to spend one year in Taos. I was in transition, and that transition took eighteen years in New Mexico.

Hakol: While you were living in Taos you also were teaching at the high school?

JHL: The second year I went to the public schools, where I was

hired immediately because I was bilingual and there were very few what we would call Anglo teachers at that time. Really it was only Nancy Jenkins and Peggy Davis. Eddie Abeyta was the superintendent, and he hired me on sight, and I was just asking for a sub-job, and he said, "You want a full-time job? You can come into the school tomorrow as a bilingual teacher," and I did it. I spent eight years in Taos High School, teaching both drama and bilingual education.

Hakol: Were you involved with B'nai Shalom?

JHL: I was involved from the beginning, and on a personal level, I needed a Jewish home for my children. I needed to make sure that Eliam became a Bar Mitzvah. I didn't push Daniela, but she had an amazing Bat Mitzvah as well. Good story. But I wanted a Jewish education for my children and I looked to the locals, whether it was Carol Carp, whether it was Ron Kalom.

Ron and I had bonded immediately in the first year I was there, when I directed Fiddler on the Roof, and Ron was my Tevya. So I entered with Tevya and Ron, and we were bonded forever. And I certainly didn't do it alone. I had spiritual partners from the beginning.

When B'nai Shalom became B'nai Shalom was not really until the end of the story. But I was involved with the Jewish community from the day I stepped foot in Taos. Ron at that point was doing services at a pizza place called The House of Taos.

And clearly then, we were about a hundred people all told, on the holidays.

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## Chanukah 5772 at the TJC

This is a spirited, joyous season – one of victory and miracles, giving and receiving, light and joy. On Tuesday, December 20 we kindle the first candle of the Chanukah – followed by 7 more on succeeding days. At TJC we begin our celebrations early this year. Here's the festive calendar:

**Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, Opening the Gates to Chanukah at the Millicent Rogers Museum Holiday Festival. Volunteers will decorate children's bags with the Magen David, spin dreidels, distribute pennies, and generally share our traditions with the larger community,

**Tuesday, December 20, time TBA**, Chesed Brings Chanukah Cheer to the Taos Living Center. Join Roberta Lerman in this traditional visit. Children are especially encouraged to come. The First Chanukah Light.

**Thursday, December 22, 4 to 6 p.m.**, The TJC Family Chanukah Party. Organized by our Sunday school parents, this lively event will be highlighted by Dreidel Games, Gelt Giving, Story Telling, Candle Lighting, and Latke Munching. All are invited to partake in the fun, food, and joy. The Third Chanukah Light.

**Friday, December 23, 5:30 to 7 p.m.**, Peace Chanukah. This is our 10th Annual celebration of brotherly and sisterly love among all human kind. Telling of the Chanukah story, mass Chanukah lighting, musical and spoken messages of conciliation, mutual caring and respect from representatives of the many traditions that constitute the greater Taos community. The Fourth Chanukah Light.

# Hakol

is the voice of the Taos Jewish community and its friends, published quarterly by the Taos Jewish Center.

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**TAOS JEWISH CENTER** is dedicated to fostering a positive Jewish identity by providing programs and services that enrich the lives of the people it serves in Northern New Mexico. The Center is open to all who wish to explore and participate in these experiences that reflect and incorporate Jewish ethics, culture, and observances.

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Peter Wengert, Interim Executive Director  
Kathleen Burg, Chesed Project Director

*The Taos Jewish Center is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico.*

## Editor's Message

There is always a first time. Wednesday, November 9, 2011 my grandson Clay Aster Ausubel Grossman was born. What a stunning gift for Chanukah! It is an affirmation that the first light continues to burn, and the proverbial torch of my ancestors is passed along for another generation. Chanukah, like all holidays, offers opportunities. There are two celebrations at the TJC that you can read about in this issue. Hopefully you will be able to attend one or both.

This Chanukah marks the first time we have not had Beth Goldman as our Director. Peter Wengert is our first "interim" Director and he is doing an admirable job filling in until a new Director is hired. Every flame of the menorah provides new light that illuminates a fresh idea, initiates a prayer, and signals a change in one's life or behavior.

Chanukah is actually a minor Jewish Holiday that honors the rededication of the Temple on 25th Kislev in 165 BC. It has evolved to a kind of "Avis" type holiday for Jews in America. Of course, it has nothing to do with Christmas beyond both being celebrated in December. And it has everything to do with Christmas if your Jewish children ask you questions about why "we" celebrate Chanukah and not Christmas.

How we answer these "first time questions," says a lot about our own willingness to explore the depth and truth of Jewish history and tradition. What does it exactly mean to have a positive Jewish identity? And how can the Taos Jewish Center facilitate that exploration? Come by and celebrate with us. Perhaps you'll find out. There is always a first time!

Thanks to our contributors; Rabbi Judith Halevy, Kathleen Burg, Peter Wengert, Leah Alexander, Joanne Forman and special thanks to former Hakol Editor, Karl Halpert for copy editing this edition. ■

Happy Chanukah  
— Bruce Grossman, Editor



Simchat Torah Celebration



### Vision Statement:

The TJC is a Jewish community that embraces and invites all to build relationships in a vibrant, welcoming home.

## Words from our Interim Director

Today, TJC faces a serious if exciting challenge as we seek to shift from a strong executive based operation where the “CEO” played key roles in almost everything that went on, to a decentralized one where the volunteer Board, committees, and event point people take prime responsibility for the bulk of our undertakings. The office mainly plays a facilitating, administrative role. Under this scenario, initiatives and most implementation energy must come from the grassroots. We already have good examples of this formula in our Library, Sunday School, Hakol, Minyan, Kabbalah, and Chanting programs, all of which are essentially self-run, have fairly stable constituencies, and are cost-effective. Much the same can be said for certain major events – our celebration of the High Holy Days, Pesach and Peace Chanukah.

Beyond such activities, however, we enter a kind of participatory void where there is little or no community enthusiasm, financial resources and attendance drop off sharply, and few if any people show up for essential tasks.. Under these conditions, the TJC director now faces something like his counterpart in a lay choral group where that person can't rehearse or present pieces for which there are insufficient voices. The group's repertoire depends upon the right mix of willing, capable singers which is often hard to come by. TJC stands at this juncture. When colleagues with the skills and energy come forward and lend their talents to our collective efforts, things can and will be done. Otherwise, we will necessarily cut back. The essential first step in this transition is for everyone to know where help is lacking and, thus what will be sacrificed if motivated volunteers are not found very soon. If you are at all interested, check the “Help Needed” column elsewhere in this issue, notices in our periodic community emails, postings at the TJC, and a new listing on our website ([www.taosjewishcenter.org](http://www.taosjewishcenter.org)). Your responses will determine where we go from here. ■

— Peter Wengert  
Interim Executive Director



High Holiday Services: 5772 at the TJC



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## Hakol Submissions

We are a Jewish quarterly journal of local news, commentary and activities. Our deadlines are the 25th of October, January, April and July.

Letters to the Editors should be 300 words or less, and essays such as memoir, Jewish travel and commentary between 300-500 words. We prefer documents in Word format, please do not add extra formatting.

Please e-mail your submissions to [tjc@newmex.com](mailto:tjc@newmex.com). If you need to mail us something, please address it to Hakol, 1335 Gusdorf Rd., Suite R., Taos, NM 87571. We reserve the right to edit and publish at our discretion.

## Hakol Subscriptions

Hakol is printed quarterly and is available in its entirety on the Taos Jewish Center's website at [www.taosjewishcenter.org](http://www.taosjewishcenter.org).

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Non-members may subscribe to the printed version of Hakol for \$36 a year. Please make checks payable to Taos Jewish Center and write Hakol in the memo line. Send check to TJC, 1335 Gusdorf Rd., Suite R, Taos, NM 87571.

If you have any questions please contact the TJC at 575 758-8615 for assistance.

# Chesed Project: A Time of Transition

At the last possible moment, before the freeze of late fall, I cover the garden with a quilt of orange, green, and spotted yellow leaves from our lilac and aspen trees. The garlic has been planted, the perennials have curled back into the earth and I am putting the garden to bed. The act of doing so implies hope that what is underground is not at its conclusion, but the beginning of next spring's resurgence.

This time of darkness leading up to Solstice and Chanukah is so rich it almost feels too short. When else are we forced into quiet contemplation of not only what is but what can be? I find this especially helpful in thinking about the Chesed Project. Continuing economic uncertainties have affected the number of activities we can offer. Grant funding, Chesed's financial backbone, has fallen off. Although we still receive donations, it is not enough to support a paid position. I will remain over the next few months, to guide it through a transition.

One of Chesed's strengths has been its resilience. For the past several months, we have been in a period of transition. Our objective

is to keep the best part of Chesed, the care of our elders, intact. To maintain that, we call on TJC members to become part of Chesed's unique and rewarding world. Our vision is that Chesed Project and the concept of loving kindness, is for everyone — youth, families and active seniors. Using volunteerism as the engine, our hope is for more intergenerational participation. This infusion of energy would combine the talents of all generations, for not only the benefit of our senior members but for our youth. Join our amazing group of bakers and cooks who supply meals to Taos's needy. Be on the list to visit the infirm and hospitalized. How about an intergenerational Passover play? What are your ideas?

Thank you to everyone for your support of the Chesed Project. Be part of Chesed's transition and then there will be spring. ■

Happy Chanukah,

— Kathleen Burg, Director Chesed Project

## Chesed Project Events Ongoing at the TJC

**Rosen Method of Exercise** Weekly Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 am taught by Susie Verkamp TJC.

**Caregiver Support Group** Monthly 2nd Tuesday of month from 5-6:30 pm TJC.

**Artstreams: From the Well of Memory** Monthly the last Wednesday of month 1-2:30 pm Call for location.



## Letter to the Editor

### *Celebrating Chanukah and Christmas with a Jewish Child*

*by Liz Kelner*

My granddaughter Cheylah turned three this past August. Celebrating the last holiday season with her gave us the opportunity to create the beginning of a new and meaningful holiday tradition. We chose to celebrate both Chanukah and Christmas, and this is why and how we did it. I believe that celebrating both holidays with Jewish children may be a way to play a part in narrowing the great historical divide between Christians and Jews, and to create a holiday season where there is no need for Jewish children to feel alienated at Christmas time.

The inspiration for creating this new tradition came from my own painful experience growing up in an anti-Semitic town in New Jersey where, as a Jewish child, I was accused of terrible things and where the boy next door was not allowed to talk to me. Sadly, no one had bothered to tell me that Jesus was Jewish! I long wondered what kind of difference knowing that might have made for me. How might it affect the uninformed children and families in the world?

Coming from a secular, politically radical Jewish family, I was not taught that Jews were different from anyone else; rather that "all people are brothers", and "we are all created equal". We lit candles for Chanukah and received a few presents at Christmas time, but there was no significant meaning ascribed to either holiday and the anti-Semitism around me continued to be a great and unexplained puzzle.

As an adult, Jewish holidays became more significant and symbolic, especially Passover and Chanukah. However, when my own daughter was little, I was too caught up in the drama of my life and the challenges of parenthood to give our traditions the attention it should have received. "Tanks be to God" as my Russian immigrant grandmother would say, I have another chance, the blessing of a granddaughter, a miracle!

Last year we lit Chanukah candles, said prayers and made wishes for eight nights. We talked about the miracle of light and how in the face of great challenge, miracles are always, always possible. We gave presents to Cheylah, ate latkes and were happy to be a part of this celebration of our Jewish heritage.

Soon after, we also celebrated Christmas. We explained that Christmas is a "birth" day party for the baby Jesus, who was Jewish. We talked about what a good man Jesus was — a man who wanted peace for all the world, who cared about the poor, and who strove to make a better world. We helped Cheylah pick out Christmas presents for all the people she loves, Jewish and not Jewish, and explained that we give presents to each other because Jesus was generous and wants us to be generous, too. We took a small branch from a nearby tree and put bright colored balls and tinsel on it. For many months it

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# An interview with Rabbi Judith HaLevy

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Hakol: When did you decide to become a rabbi?

JHL: I became a rabbi because of my time in Taos. I began to deepen my Jewish involvement in order to bring it to Taos. I studied how you did a holiday service, et cetera, because somebody had to step up and do that, and I wasn't alone, I wasn't the only one, but for me, I started to get involved in deepening my Jewish studies and my Jewish practice. I used to study every Shabbat afternoon with my friend, may she live in peace and rest in peace, Sue Ann Lasker.

Sue Ann and I used to study Kabbalah, and she did a series of paintings depicting the Alef-Bet. There is no such thing as you just become a rabbi, and I began to study. And I connected to Zalman Schachter, who I had met before, and began to attend conferences and events, and I was told that I should meet a rabbi named Jonathan Omer-Man, who was "the spiritual rabbi." It was 1984. I called and I asked after having seen him in Santa Fe, "Could I study with you privately?" I had no idea he was big-deal rabbi. And he took me on in a way that few people ever get taken on, as an apprentice, and I spent the next eight years before I was ordained, studying Jewish text with Jonathan once a week.

I didn't have fabulous Hebrew skills; I still don't, but I had enough of a base because I had lived in Israel. I had married an Israeli. I lived in Israel as an Olah from the years 1968 to 71, and spoke Hebrew in my home. So I had a base that few people have. You can't just launch back in at midlife so easily, and I was very, very, privileged, and I got to expand and expand my Jewish studies until it took up large chunks of my life. I went back and forth to Los Angeles.

I studied with Jonathan and the things that I studied hold me to this day. I've since been able to do large study pieces with very famous people and I've been very privileged at what I've been given, but that time in Taos really solidified it.

Now, what I brought to it was a Taos sensibility. We live in a sacred place, and I came to it through that sacred door, not through the "lets just go to school, learn, and see what we're going to do." Which gave me a unique perspective that I have ended up bringing into the work that I do, and has really made me the rabbi that I am.

I would not have become the Rabbi I am today had I been living in Los Angeles. It was very linked to my life in Taos.

BG: So how did you cross the bridge from Taos to the Malibu Jewish Center?

JHL: Well, it's very interesting that you ask this at this point in time, and as I was writing a sermon this morning, because, believe me, this is the time of year that I prep and I give five sermons. I was thinking about truth and the story of our lives, and how much truth do we tell? How much truth do we tell to ourselves? How do we reinterpret our stories over time? And how do we see the impact of our stories on ourselves and on the people around us? How much truth do we tell, and what is that truth?

This is a story that's shrouded in an enormous amount of emotion, and I for many years did not approach the story. It was both painful, and a story that I had no way to stop it's trajectory, in a way.

I'd been in Taos since 1976, and the year was 1988. And I was very embedded in Taos. I was, you know, I can still remember the guy in Centinel Bank saying you can't just sign Judith on the bottom of your checks. But he would know who it was, right? And I was Judith the Arts Lady, and we all knew that, and my children were in Taos and I had been married in Taos and I was a Taoseña. And as B'nai Shalom came

together, it came together in some ways that were not entirely transparent. And as the problem in any small religious community, it's very hard to be rabbi in Taos or leader in Taos, because small divisions make a big difference. Every community has its challenges. Communities (and I've learned this) of under a hundred families; have very specific challenges because everyone pulls in a different direction.

On one hand, I now see at the end of this story — and there's no end, the story's not over, and my life in New Mexico is not over — I see the end of the story that this was pretty much predestined and preordained. I had reached the place in 1990 when it became apparent that I would be ordained, and I was ordained in 1992. But those last two years I really knew I was going to become a rabbi. My teachers said, "You need to do this, and we need to ordain you. You need to be a real rabbi. And you need to finish these pieces that are necessary to do that," which I did.

And I never brought it to the community, understanding two things: one, to make divisions in a community, what are you going to gain? And, two, the words of my Rabbi Zalman Schachter, "I'm sorry, darling, you need to be a big rabbi, that's who you are. You need to go. You need to leave."

And so I did and I was devastated.

I spent my last year in New Mexico in Santa Fe, and then at that point I ended up interning at the synagogue in Santa Fe, and then that rabbi lost his job, and I took over, and I ended up being really the rabbi in Santa Fe — which is ridiculous — while they were doing a job search. I was in no way prepared to put my hat in the ring, nor to be a rabbi of a synagogue that size. Plus I really — I was totally wet behind the ears.

In retrospect, it reminds me of the story of Joseph. In the story, Joseph says to his brothers, don't be upset about the pit guys, God has ordained us, and it is for this that I have been sent here.

I came to L.A., "for six months", never really moving. I never ever thought I would leave New Mexico. And I came to help my teacher, Jonathan Omer-man, found something called the Metivta, which was an institute for Jewish meditation. My time with Jonathan, which was about four years of really working directly with him, was the time that established my life here in Los Angeles. Out of that grew a community — grew two communities actually.

One was called Sarah's Tent, which was a community that I started right away, with women, because I knew how to do that. I came out of Taos and Taos magic had not quite hit L.A., and there were no women my age doing that. I started in my apartment, studying on the floor, and with a group of women, but doing creative art work. And that was my entrée to Los Angeles. It was like a giant theatre class, only with Rabbi Nachman stories.

It was incredibly difficult for me to leave Taos. I mourned for years. I never admitted that I lived here, and it was like a second exile because I didn't mean to leave Israel when I left Israel, and I didn't mean to leave Taos when I left Taos, but I needed to leave the community alone, and let it thrive on its own. And I needed to grow into the rabbi that I am.

When I was ordained in Santa Fe, my teacher Jonathan said, "You are now a 51-percent rabbi. And as Hillel says, now go and study."

I am now probably an 80-percent rabbi, and frankly, today, I sit here as the head of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California. I represent the rabbis of L.A., which is an amazing statement consid-

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## Ongoing Activities at the TJC

New schedule for **Current Affairs**, the first Wednesday of the month, 5:30-7:00pm.

Lively discussion group about current issues in the news, with a focus on Jewish community interests. Whether you itch to express your point of view or prefer to listen, it is the place to be.

Donations accepted.

### Chanting at TJC led by Ziva Moyal *Meditation through Chanting*

First Friday of the month 9:30-10:30 am

Dec. 2; Jan 6, Feb. 3

### *TJC Chanting Circle, Thematic Meditation*

Third Tuesday of the month 5:30-6:30 pm

Dec. 20, Jan.17, Feb. 21



*Ziva teaches Chanting and Kabbalah classes at the TJC*

### Taos Minyan's Torah Study

Saturdays Taos Minyan's

Shabbat Services 7:15 am

Torah Study at 9:00 am

Prayer book: Mishkan T'filah

## New Activities

Mark your calendars for the following special events which are still in the planning stage:

**Chanukah 5772 at the TJC.** See page 1 for times and events.

**Friday, January 13, 6 to 8 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat and Potluck at the TJC.** We start with uplifting group chanting led by Ziva Moyal followed by one or our five star potluck dinners. A lovely, hearwarming way to receive the Shabbat at a time of year when outside it's still cold and dark.

**Wednesday, February 8, 2012, Tu B'shevat celebration** – a bit early to plant new trees (as they do b'Aretz) but we can focus on spiritual beginnings. Stay tuned.

**Sunday, February 12, 6:30 to 8 pm, TJC Sunday at the Movies** (film and discussion leader to be announced)

**Sunday, February 26, 7 to 9 pm, TJC's Ninth Anniversary Celebration** A delicious dessert buffet honoring Ziva Moyal and our other valued volunteers upon whom we rely so heavily. These events offer a most special opportunity for enjoying the company of our community. Who knows, we may even have a bit of good humored roasting.

## Letter to the Editor

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had its place in the living room next to the menorah.

As Cheylah gets older, both stories will grow deeper and more complex. I believe they are good stories that can help our children expand their tolerance; deepen their understanding and their acceptances of each other. I hope that other Jewish families will create holiday traditions with their children that include the Jewish Jesus. Miracles can happen! "Tanks be to God".

Liz Kelner

I welcome all feedback [LKelner@crocker.com](mailto:LKelner@crocker.com)

Editors note: This article was submitted by the author and does not reflect the editorial opinions of the Hakol staff. The author wanted it printed as written, hence it received no editing by our staff. I chose to publish it because it raises the question of how do families celebrate and honor Jewish holidays. I encourage our readers to respond in writing with views of their own.

Bruce Grossman, Editor

### **Annual Mountain Trek:Roy Sharfin Hike:**

From Left: Carol Wells, Sharon Rosenthal, Bette Myerson and Betty Backer.



# TAOS JEWISH CENTER

## DECEMBER • KISLEV/TEVET 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1  Kabalah 101 4-5:30PM	2  Meditation thru Chant 9:30-10:30am  Light Candles 4:29	3  <i>Vayetzei</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 5:29
4  Religious School Class meets 10-11:30	5  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	6  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am	7  <i>Current Affairs @</i> <i>TJC 5:30-7:00PM</i>	8  <i>Kabbalah 101</i> 4:30-6:00pm	9  Light Candles 4:29	10  <i>Vayishlach</i> <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i> Holiday Festival, Millicent Rogers Museum, 10 a.m.-2 Havdala 5:59
11  Religious School Class meets 10-11:30	12  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	13  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am  Caregiver's Support Group 5-7:00PM	14	15  Kabalah 101 4-5:30PM	16  Light Candles 4:30	17  <i>Vayeshev</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:01
18	19  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	20  <i>Chanukah I</i> Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am Chant Circle (thematic), 5:30-6:30PM Bring Chanukah Cheer to the Taos Living Center time TBA.	21  <i>Chanukah II</i>	22  <i>Chanukah III</i>  TJC Family Chanukah party, 4-6 p.m	23  <i>Chanukah IV</i>  Peace Chanukah, 5:30-7 p.m  Light Candles 4:33	24  <i>Chanukah V</i>  <i>Mikeitz</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:04
25  <i>Chanukah VI</i>	26  <i>Chanukah VII</i>  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	27  <i>Chanukah VIII</i>  Rosen Method Exer- cise 9:30-10:30 am	28	29  Kabalah 101 4-5:30PM	30  Light Candles 4:38	<i>Vayigash</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:09

## JANUARY • TEVET/SHEVAT 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	3  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am	4  <i>Current Affairs @</i> <i>TJC 5:30-7:00PM</i>	5  Kabalah 101 4-5:30PM	6  Meditation thru Chant 9:30-10:30am  Religious School kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  Light Candles 4:45	7  <i>Vayechi</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:15
8	9  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	10  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am  Caregiver's Support Group 5-7:00 PM	11	12  Kabalah 101 4-5:30PM	13  TJC Kabbalat Shabbat/Potluc , 6-8 p.m  Light Candles 4:50	14  <i>Shemot</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:21
15	16  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	17  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am  Chant Circle (thematic), 5:30-6:30PM	18	19	20  Light Candles 4:57	21  <i>Vaera</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:28
22	23  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	24  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am  Healing Chant Circle 5:30-6:30PM	25	26  <i>Tu B'Shevat</i>  <i>new class starts today</i> The Way of G-d Kabalah 102 4-5:30PM	27  Light Candles 5:05	28  <i>Bo</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:36
29	30  <i>Advanced Kabalah</i> 4:30-6:30PM	31  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am				<i>Mishpatim</i>  <i>Services 7:15am</i> <i>Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:05

# FEBRUARY • SHEVAT/ADAR 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  <i>Current Affairs @ TJC 5:30-7:00PM</i>	2  The Way of G-d Kabalalah 102 4-5:30PM	3  Meditation thru Chant 9:30-10:30am  Light Candles 5:12	4 <i>Beshalach</i>  <i>Services 7:15am Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:43
5  Religious School Class meets 10-11:30	6  <i>Advanced Kabalalah 4:30-6:30PM</i>	7  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am	8  Tu Bishvat celebration 6:30-8 p.m.	9  The Way of G-d Kabalalah 102 4-5:30PM	10  Light Candles 5:19	11 <i>Yitro</i>  <i>Services 7:15am Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:50
12  TJC Sunday at the Movies (film TBA), 6:30-8 p.m	13  <i>Advanced Kabalalah 4:30-6:30PM</i>	14  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am  Caregiver's Support Group 5-7:00 PM	15	16  The Way of G-d Kabalalah 102 4-5:30PM	17  Light Candles 5:27	18 <i>Mishpatim</i>  <i>Services 7:15am Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 6:58
19	20  <i>Advanced Kabalalah 4:30-6:30PM</i>	21  Rosen Method Exercise 9:30-10:30 am  Chant Circle (thematic), 5:30-6:30PM	22	23  The Way of G-d Kabalalah 102 4-5:30PM	24  Light Candles 5:34	25 <i>Terumah</i>  <i>Services 7:15am Torah Study 9:00am</i>  Havdala 7:05
26  Religious School Class meets 10-11:30  Annual Celebration, 7-9 p.m	27  <i>Advanced Kabalalah 4:30-6:30PM</i>	28	29			

## SHABBAT WITH THE TAOS MINYAN

Shabbat Services 7:15 am. followed by Torah Study at 9:00am.

**ARTSTREAMS: FROM THE WELL OF MEMORY** is an interactive art discussion for the memory-impaired and their caregivers sponsored by the Chesed Project. New participants should pre-register by calling Kathleen at 758-8615. Held the last Wednesday of each month from 1:00 to 2:30 at area museums, the Taos Fire Station and art galleries.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS AT THE TJC** TJC is a monthly "round-table" (1st Wednesday of the month) discussion of international and national news as well as issues of local interest: local politicians, movers/shakers, and other VIP's frequently join for Q&A session; refreshments; donations accepted.

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Advanced Kabbalah Study, Mondays, 4:30 – 6 p.m.  
Rosen Method Exercise, Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Kabbalah 101, Thursdays, 4 – 5:30 p.m. (last session 1/12/12)  
Taos Minyan Shabbat Service, Saturdays 7:15 – 8:45 a.m.  
Torah study, Saturdays 9-11 a.m.

## TJC HOURS

Office, Library, & Gift Shop: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
And by appointment  
Chesed: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Closed Sunday and Monday

## HAPPY CHANUKAH FROM THE TAOS JEWISH CENTER

### RESOURCE GUIDE - PLEASE SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

**B'NAI SHALOM HAVURAH**  
Telephone : 575-751-1454 (voice mail)  
Address: PO Box 161, Taos, NM 87571  
Contact: Bette Myerson

**CHABAD**  
Chabad of Taos  
208 Paseo Del Canon East Suite C  
Taos, NM 87571  
(575) 751-1323  
Rabbi Eli and Batsheva Kaminetzky

**ERETZ SHALOM CEMETERY**  
Contact: Roger Lerman, 575-758-0710

**NEW MEXICO KOSHER CO-OP**  
Telephone: 575-770-1101

**TAOS JEWISH CENTER**  
Telephone: 575-758-8615  
Address: PO Box 149 or  
1335 Gusdorf Road, Suite R, Taos, NM 87571  
Web Site: www.taosjewishcenter.org / E-mail: tjc@newmex.com

**TAOS JEWISH CENTER LIBRARY**  
Telephone: 575-758-8615

**TAOS MINYAN**  
Contact: Bruce Ross, 575-758-7174 (day) or  
575-758-8258 (evening)

# Bubbe Leya's potato kugel

by Leah Alexander

According to Leo Rosten in "The Joys of Yiddish" there's an old saying: "If she can't make kugel, divorce her." Bubbe Leya says, "Make this potato kugel. It's delicious. You won't get divorced."

## INGREDIENTS

8 medium potatoes, peeled, cut small  
1 medium onion, cut small  
4 eggs, beaten  
1 ¼ tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. white pepper  
½ c. bread crumbs  
¼ c. olive or safflower oil  
Additional oil to smear inside baking dish  
Optional: paprika, sprinkled on top

## PROCEDURE

Put potatoes in blender or food processor. Grate until fine. Place in large mixing bowl. Grate onion same way. To potatoes in mixing bowl, add grated onion, beaten eggs, salt, pepper, bread crumbs, oil. Mix well.

Preheat oven to 350. Prepare 9x9 baking dish or casserole by oiling. Place potato mixture in pan.

If using, sprinkle with paprika. Bake for 45 minutes. Serve hot.

## Help Needed

As TJC adjusts to its new phase, we rely far more heavily upon volunteers to handle a wide range of important tasks. Our immediate aim is to identify people with the necessary interest, skills, and time to assist in our office and implementation of various programs. Our most immediate requirements are in the following areas.

**Phone Tree Coordinator** (4 hours for startup – 1 per week thereafter – can be done from either office or home – should have an email address; knowledge of Excel preferable)

**Callers** (15-20 minutes per week from home – main requirement is willingness to call 10 or so pre-selected people once or twice a month – should be able to receive emails)

**Calendar Assistant** (list TJC activities in Hakol and in the Calendar and Upcoming Events sections of the website – done mainly from the office, though home inputting is possible – once one is familiar with the routines, should take no more than 3 hours every 2 weeks. Word inputting skills necessary.)

**Advertising Assistant** (help compose and place newspaper calendar listings and radio PSAs; develop and post event flyers. 1-2 hours per week office and home work)

**Database Management** (inputting and data checking – good Excel skills – 2+ hours per week in the office)

**Fundraising** (committee openings; help on bi-annual raffle; some phone solicitation – time depends upon task)

**Event Point People** (coordinate promotions and implementation of a scheduled event -e.g., TJC's Anniversary Celebration or visiting speakers – time depends upon event – no special skills needed)

# An interview with Rabbi Judith HaLevy

*continued from page 5*

ering it's really coming out of Taos and out of the life we led in Taos, of our appreciation for beauty, of our appreciation for the need to find the spiritual element at all times. And I will not lead a service unless what I call the Shekinah shows up. Unless there is a holy spirit in the room, and frankly, I learned to do that back home.

Hakol: Tell us a little bit more about the Malibu Jewish Center. You mentioned earlier that it's a Reconstructionist —

JHL: Right. This is a Reconstructionist synagogue, which I did not start. I'm the third rabbi. It was started, now, almost thirty years ago by people who wanted something along this coast and a place for their kids to go to preschool. And many of those families are still here, and I have baby-named their grandkids.

A way to describe Reconstructionist Judaism is that it leans politically to the left of the reform movement, liturgically to the right. Truly it is based on the teachings of Mordecai Kaplan, who looked at Judaism as an evolving American civilization. Right now we probably have 250 families

Like all synagogues we face financial challenges right now, but it has become a very strong synagogue in Los Angeles. When I came, there were plans for building but no money, and we raised the money for the building. We do have a mortgage. This is my sorrow in life. Jews like to build, what can I tell you?

Hakol: I think you have met Rabbi David Stein?

JHL: Oh, indeed! He's also a Reconstructionist. And he's lovely, and you are very lucky to have David. And he's a very learned man. I will never, as we say, touch the rabbi's — the bottom of his tallit on the amount of knowledge that David has. He comes from a very strong knowledge base.

We all have different skills. My skill is in building community, and in creating a home for people. I have made Taos happen here, and I'm very conscious that it's Taos. In Taos, we expect that, well, when they're bored in the winter we can go be in a play. We are deeply

involved in our kids' schools. We hope that we will retire together and live together. I can't imagine being sick in Taos without everybody coming to the fore.

This is Los Angeles. It is an anonymous community. In Malibu people live behind gates. And so you are literally creating community, person by person. There is no need for them to show up. They don't even know that they want to be. And they have an endless menu of choices of which you are just one.

Community is the hallmark of this synagogue, and I took it step by step. What you see outside this door is a bunch of volunteers out there today. They're part of this community. And it's not easy to make happen. And in Taos, you are isolated. You do have to — if you're going to educate your kids, you do have to do it yourself. You can't drop them off to be laundered.

And so every Bar Mitzvah, every wedding, every life passage is deeply moving to the community.

My son's Bar Mitzvah was the second, actually, Jonah Bishop was the first, but my son's was the second. The whole community owned that Bar Mitzvah. Ron prepared him. Dinner was at the restaurant that I co-owned with Carl. It was a family event, and it still is.

And I think that that model has a lot to teach.

On the other hand, Taos has a lot to gain from bringing in a David, from bringing in me, from bringing in anybody you can get who's going to up your level of text study, knowledge. Here is a foundation to Judaism that is a very rich tapestry, and we need to pass it on, as my teacher David Hartman says now, teach it to our children.

Hakol: Thank you so much, Rabbi Judith for giving us this time and sharing this with our Hakol readers. We really appreciate it. Shanah Tovah.

JHL: Shanah Tovah, and I love you all. ■

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## Library Corner from Joanne Forman

### **THREE CITIES by Sholem Asch**

reviewed by Joanne Forman

That hackneyed but useful term "sprawling" is the only word that adequately describes this epic novel published in the English-language edition way back in 1933. The earlier years of the century, WW I and the Russian Revolution were not dimly remote happenings, but still fresh in millions of minds.

If not quite Tolstoyan—perhaps because of this being a translation—THREE CITIES provides a panorama of characters and happenings in St. Petersburg, Warsaw and Moscow. They swirl around

Zachary Mirkin, whom we follow from aristocratic boyhood to Bolshevik to the beginnings of disillusion. He shares with Tolstoy the incurable misfortune of having lost his mother early.

But there's a major difference: Mirkin belongs to that thin, precarious layer of rich Jews—a world that Tolstoy does not bring forward. The insults, the injustices, the fears, the sense that one's whole life may topple over at any moment—these Asch exposes very well. If you're looking for a big novel to curl up with during the long winter, this may well be it. ■

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## Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Mona Ausubel and Teo Grossman on the birth of their son, Clay Aster Ausubel Grossman born November 9, 2011. From Grandpa and Grandma, Bruce and Cindy Grossman.

Congratulations to Bruce and Cindy Grossman and to Susan Berman on the arrival of grandson Clay Aster Grossman. Congratulations also to Uncle Robin. From Karl Halpert.

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## Todah Rabah

Taos Land Trust donated a case of wine for the TJC High Holidays much appreciated!

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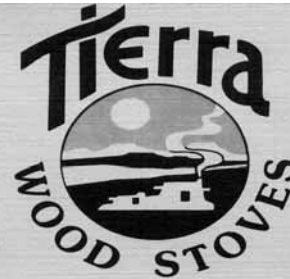
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•**BEQUESTS-** Join the Taos Jewish Center Heritage Society by including the TJC in your will, or living trust.

•**LIFE INSURANCE-** Name the TJC as the beneficiary of a new or existing individual life insurance policy or of a group term policy.

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