



ON BOARD WITH OJO

A Poem

The Rabbis joined us once again
From New York and Maryland
Welcoming in the Jewish New Year
Through Days of Awe, we gently steer
Listen, pray, self-reflection
Communal confession and introspection



Homemade challah

As sun sets way out to sea
Boats bob up and down gently
Blessings whispered
Shabbat candles flickered
Molded, sweet challah bread
Round-shaped instead



L to R: Melanie Rabirot & Lynne Rackmil

A personal story not yet told
Surprise, amazement, as it unfolds
Young girl, brave and undeterred
A step-father's supportive words
Rituals guide our congregation
Passed down through generations



L to R: Rabbis Miriam Burg & Jessica Lenza

AT HOME IN OUR COMMUNITY

From Farm (to Trunk) to Table

My 2000 Toyota Camry was in the repair shop recently. I did some light cleaning beforehand, vacuumed the rugs, and removed a stash of reusable grocery bags, a plastic Starbucks cup, my make-up bag, a beach hat, and a container of birdseed. (Yes, I occasionally feed the mother hens and their babies wandering the Whole Foods Kailua parking lot.) Fortunately, the service didn't require cleaning out my trunk, which is not embarrassingly messy, but I am not proud of its contents. Not true for OJO Board member, Paul Gracie who drove over the Pali to Kailua with a trunk full of fruit grown on his family's 2-acre farm in Mokuleia on the North Shore. His partner,

Keo Sananikone, a retired chef and restaurateur, purchased the plot to grow the herbs, vegetables, and fruit, which became the ingredients featured in authentically Thai-inspired dishes at his Honolulu and Waikiki restaurants. Today, the farm continues to produce a variety of local produce. In the past, Paul and Keo have generously opened their home on the grounds of the farm to other OJO members, the Saturday morning Torah Study group, and rabbis visiting from the outer islands. On October 8th, following dinner with Rabbis Miriam Burg and Jessica Lenza, Paul unloaded his trunk, while OJO members selected their favorites from among the boxes of papaya and jabong that lined the sidewalk outside Kapawai Market. From a farm, to a car trunk, to your table, we are linked by our connections within the OJO community and beyond.



L to R: Sharon Gordon, Katie Friedman, Paul Gracie



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



A Time of Hope

A modern Chinese proverb teaches hope is like a road in the country -- there was no road but when many people walk on it the road comes into existence. - Lu Xun

You may find it odd that we're talking about hope when there seem so many reasons for despair-- the ongoing war in Israel and Gaza, rising antisemitism, the results of the

recent election and the polarization of our country, along with threats to institutions and norms of American democracy that we thought were sacrosanct. And yet, the season of Hanukkah is a season of light that occurred during a time of great despair -- a time to celebrate a victory against all odds and light in the face of darkness, celebrating the miracle of the lasting flames of the menorah in rekindling hope amid the ruin of the 2nd Temple. There are many wonderful and joyous events planned at OJO in December and January, including our annual Hanukkah celebration on Saturday, December 28th, along with rabbinic torah study, services, and learning, as well as Cindy Paley in person singing the Musical History of Israel. As we celebrate this season of light, we learn that Hanukkah translates to "dedication," so let us join arms with old friends and new ones at OJO as we dedicate ourselves to walking the road of hope for our congregation, our country and the world. Happy Hanukkah!

*Shalom,
George*



CELEBRATIONS - SIMCHAS

November

December

Birthdays



Alma Lemus
Keo Sananikone
Harvey Rackmil
Dona Armstrong
Chalene Flanter

Earl Kawa'a
Andrea Snyder
Mary Wilkoski
Whitney Natto
David Rabihoff

Anniversaries



Melanie & David Rabihoff
Lynne & Harvey Rackmil

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/17 Virtual OJO Board Meeting
- 12/20 Virtual Shabbat Candle Lighting
- 12/21 Virtual Torah Study with Rabbi Burg
- 12/28 Hanukkah Party @ Hongwanji

[More events click here...](#)

KIDS KORNER



[Reader's Digest](#)

Make a menorah from things around your house. Submit your photo to be featured in our next newsletter.



WORTH MENSCH-NING



Craig Washofsky

Congrats to Craig Washofsky from completing his 10th (and final he says) Honolulu Marathon!

Jean Rosenfeld completed a trip to Germany and Poland this Fall with her sons Eric (L) and Ben (R), that included many Holocaust sites, including this stop at the Wannsee Villa — no smiling matter, as it was the location where the Nazi leadership met in 1942 to plan the “Final Solution” for the Jews.



L to R: Eric Rosenfeld, Dr. Jean Rosenfeld, & Ben Rosenfeld



L to R: Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, George Apter & Tracey Wiltgen

George Apter was humbled to be honored by the Mediation Center of the Pacific as Pro Bono Mediator of the Year and recognized by the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission in its Pro Bono Celebration. Pictured with Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald and Mediation Center of the Pacific's Executive Director, Tracey Wiltgen



Serena Noelle Apter

ADVERTISING



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George & Sandy Apter are proud grandparents of a new addition to the family, Serena Noelle Apter, born August 15, 2024.