

January 2008

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Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com January 2008

23 Tevet-24 Shevat

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly newsletter of the **Keys Jewish Community Center**

P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070

President's Message Steve Steinbock

Here we are in 2008. I am looking forward to a better vear. not that this last year was not good. As a matter of fact. it ended very well. This Chanukah was the best I have ever had in my entire life.

As a child and in past years as an adult. Chanukah did not mean much to me. This year, however, was a new and wonderful experience. What made this Chanukah so memorable? The success of our Chanukah-Shabbat dinner attended by over 75 people (organized by my wonderful Carol. a woman whose talents and energy never cease to amaze me, and sponsored once again by Joel and Linda Pollack, whose generosity means we don't have to charge for dinner), the children's play, the joy I saw in the eves of the parents and members of the congregation watching the children. the Shabbat service, hearing our new temple choir sing, and then seeing the new crown for the Holocaust Torah, a gift to KJCC from Stan and lenny Margulies, all combined to make this Chanukah one I will never forget.

I come from a reform background. My temple in New York City had a choir and organist that was part of every Shabbat service. We

had two student cantors with beautiful voices, one of whom had been an opera singer before he became a cantor. For me. music in the sanctuary is most inspiring. I look forward to hearing our choir often

As always. I would like to see more participation by our members in whatever aspect of KICC life they are interested in. You have so many choices: attend services. decide to lead a service, attend a board meeting, attend a Sisterhood meeting, join the choir. chair or become a member of one of the many committees we have, help with our Sunday school. There are many things to do and never enough people to do them.

Once again. I would like to thank each and every member of our Board. They do a magnificent job. Thank you to all who have made contributions to the temple, whether in the form of money, time, expertise or specific items. Thank you to all who have submitted stories and photos to Chai-Lights. I hope you continue to do so in the coming year.

Carol and I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2008.

Steve





Nosh

Second Seder Reservations

Hard to believe, but planning has begun for the second Passover seder. The date is Sunday, April 20th, and the place is again the Islamorada Fishing Club. The cost is \$40 for all adults. Children 12 and under are free.

Reservations are limited to the first 100. We will accept reservations for members and their families only until April 10th. Then we will open reservations to visitors. It is never too early to make that reservations as we always fill up quickly. Please make your reservation by mailing your check to the KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

For further information, please call Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0822.

On Sponsoring an Oneg

There is no time of the week quite like Friday evening. Time seems to slow down as we look forward to unwinding and relaxing, doing our own thing. Our time belongs to us, not to our work. We seldom stop to ponder the value of this gift.

Here in the Keys, many of us--members of the KJCC--celebrate that gift by coming together for Shabbat services. We take part in the hour-long service, which varies somewhat, depending on who leads that particular week. Then we retire to the social hall, sing Kiddush (and then drink minis of wine),

BOOK PLATE

IN MEMORY OF JOEL S. COHEN By Michal Kamely make "ha motzi," and sit around shmoozing with friends for another hour. It is said, "Jews don't keep the Sabbath – Sabbath keeps the Jews." This easy camaraderie is part of the glue that keeps us together. If you haven't made time in your life recently to join us on a Friday night, whether at the regular 8 p.m. time or at 6:30 p.m. on the last Friday of the month, why not come this week?

That said, we have to give a big "thank you" to our many sponsors, whose donations pay for the wine, challah, coffee, soda, cake and paper goods, not to mention the able assistance of Angela in setting up and cleaning up. If you would like to honor a loved one or share a celebration, a basic sponsorship is only \$50. I would be happy to arrange it. My e-mail is Joyce@adoctorsbag.com, my phone number is (305) 451-0665. You, too, can be a part of who we are and what we do.

-Joyce Peckman

January Anniversaries

		rears
lst	Leslie & Thomas Dillon	12
4th	Amelia & Steve Kasinof	27
26th	Pamela & David Marmar	23
l7th	Elaine & Alan Schulberg	15
	Muriel & George Swartz	

New Member

The KJCC is proud to announce our newest member (actually, she's a lapsed and newly renewed member): Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett of Tavernier. Welcome back, Erica. We've missed you. The piano in the sanctuary will be glad to see you, too.

Upcoming Events

The Third Annual Tu B'Shevat Seder and Tree Planting is being planned for January, and is open to members of the congregation. For details please contact Steve Steinbock at president@keysjewishcenter.com. Also, look for Gloria Avner's article on Tu B'Shevat in this issue on page19.

To contact Chai-Lights

Use the new e-mail our webmaster Alan has added to the KJCC web site. It's chailights@keysjewishcenter.com. Please send all ideas, comments, and questions there, as well as all submissions.

Jewish Princesses of Comedy

Through January 13th the Broward Center for the Performing Arts is presenting a salute to the pioneers of Jewish comedy such as Totie Fields and Belle Barth. Created by and starring Cory Kahaney, the performance also features Jessica Kirson, Adrienne Tolsch and Sherry Davey. The event takes place in Miami Beach's Spiegeltent at 22nd Street and Collins Avenue. Go to browardcenter.org for tickets and info. \Diamond

Ongoing Committees and Activities

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor- To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665.

KJCC *Tree of Life Leaves* and *Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yartzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates* for siddurim. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF *Trees in Israel* - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Chai-Lights Mitzvah - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertising in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds: e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund.

January Memoriam

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein In Blessed Memory of BERNICE BERNSTEIN Eternal Rest

By Laurence & Renee Green In Blessed Memory of RALPH BERNSTEIN Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

> By Jeff & Lynn Dils In Blessed Memory of WILLIAM BROOKS Eternal Peace

By Pauline Roller In Blessed Memory of ETA BROWNSTEIN Forever In Our Hearts

By Meredith A. Cline In Blessed Memory of CAROLYNNE H. CLINE In Our Heart And Memory

By Jules & Nettie Seder In Blessed Memory of JOSEPH COHEN Always In My Memory

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs In Blessed Memory of SYLVIA EMSIG Rest In Peace

By Robert Jay & Gloria Auston In Blessed Memory of CLARA GOLDSTONE Rest In Eternal Peace By Marilyn Greenbaum In Blessed Memory of MARVIN GREENBAUM Always In Our Memory

> By Mollie Gross In Blessed Memory of HENRY GROSS In Our Memory Always

By Richard & Barbara Knowles In Blessed Memory of WALTER HANKIN Long, Blessed Sleep

> By Steven Hartz In Blessed Memory of LOUIS HARTZ We Remember Always

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg In Blessed Memory of ERNEST ISENBERG With Loving Remembrance

By Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein In Blessed Memory of BERNARD KAMINSTEIN Sleep In Peace

By James & Joan Boruszak In Blessed Memory of EMMA KOHLENBRENER Remembered With Love

By Marilyn Greenbaum In Blessed Memory of JUDY LOMBARDI Forever Remembered With Love By the Blumberg Family In Blessed Memory of CELIA MARKOWITZ Always Remembered

By Meredith A. Cline In Blessed Memory of MIRIAM S. MARKS Always Remembered With Love

> By Flo Neiman In Blessed Memory of JACOB NEIMAN Rest in Blessed Peace

By Alan Netzman In Blessed Memory of ANN NETZMAN Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Jackie LePree In Blessed Memory of SAMUEL NEUBAUER Always Loved and Missed

By Marjorie Present In Blessed Memory of SYLAN OSER Eternal Rest

By Salomon & Mary Terner In Blessed Memory of ABRAHAM RAIJ Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

> By Gene & Gail Saks In Blessed Memory of BLANCHE SAKS Eternal Peace

By Marjorie Present In Blessed Memory of ANNA SAVAGE Forever In Our Hearts

By Richard & Barbara Knowles In Blessed Memory of GOLDIE SCHWEITZER In Our Heart And Memory

By Robert Jay & Gloria Auston In Blessed Memory of CAROL SIPERSTEIN Always In My Memory

By Randy & Eileen Kominsky In Blessed Memory of HARRY STOLER Rest In Peace

> By the Cohen Family In Blessed Memory of SALLY SUSSMAN Rest In Eternal Peace

By Eric & Ruth Schrader-Grace In Blessed Memory of BETTY WEINSTEIN Always In Our Memory

> By Jerry & Sheila Olsen In Blessed Memory of BETTY WEINSTEIN In Our Memory Always

By Dick & Rita Bromwich In Blessed Memory of BETTY WEINSTEIN Long, Blessed Sleep By Gerri Weisberg In Blessed Memory of NATHAN WEISBERG We Remember Always

By Janice Gorson In Blessed Memory of MARCUS WEISS With Loving Remembrance

By Donald & Nancy Zinner In Blessed Memory of SYDNEY ZINNER Sleep In Peace

January Birthdays

Barry Alter	
Matthew Barrett	
Jeffrey Boruszak	
Meredith A. Cline	12
Murray Cooper	
Alex Dutton	12
Suzi-Sarot Feder	17
Mark Feinberg	30
Benjamin Freidman	19
Randi W. Freundlich	4
Heather Gilson	15
Howard Gilson	4
Jamie Goodman	15
Laura Goodman	I
Janice Gorson	6
Stuart Grossman	24
	24
Stuart Grossman	24 15
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson	24 15 27
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz	24 15 27 18
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson Henry Isenberg	24 15 27 18 9
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson Henry Isenberg Sarah Kamely	24 15 27 18 9 28
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson Henry Isenberg Sarah Kamely Yardena Kamely Beth Kaminstein	24 15 27 18 9 28 29
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson Henry Isenberg Sarah Kamely Yardena Kamely Beth Kaminstein Andrea Kluger	24 15 18 9 28 29 17
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson Henry Isenberg Sarah Kamely Yardena Kamely Beth Kaminstein	24 15 18 9 28 29 17 24
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson Henry Isenberg Sarah Kamely Yardena Kamely Beth Kaminstein Andrea Kluger Randy Kominsky	24 15 18 9 28 9 28 29 17 24 26
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson Henry Isenberg Sarah Kamely Yardena Kamely Beth Kaminstein Andrea Kluger Randy Kominsky Arnold Lang Brieze Levy	24 15 18 9 18 9 18 9 18
Stuart Grossman Charlie Horowitz Beth Hudson Henry Isenberg Sarah Kamely Yardena Kamely Beth Kaminstein Andrea Kluger Randy Kominsky Arnold Lang	24 15 18 9 18 9 18 9 18

Lawrence Novak	21
Jerry Olsen	I
Sheila Olsen	22
Cathy Rakov	9
Neal Rakov	
Stanley Rosenberg	2
Sidney Samuels	
Kristen M. Schur	
Sandy Seder	19
Carol Ann Steinbock	
Matthew Storeygard	24
Jill Taksey	15
Mary Terner	
Sherrie Willner	2
Donald Zinner	16
Michelle Zinner	11

Mishebeyrach List

For those of you not regularly at services, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. Our printed list is read, and then the leader asks if anyone in the congregation has names to add. If you can't be at services, and would like someone you care about to be included in the mishebeyrach prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KICC number is 852-5235. The web site, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.

YEDA - Knowledge Yardena Kamely



The Mitzvah of Jewish Solidarity

uite possibly, *mitzvah* is the most important word in Judaism. We are taught that in order to lead meaningful lives and to make the world a better place, we, each of us, must assume many responsibilities, like visiting the sick and saying the *MiShe'Berach* praver, feeding the hungry, performing tzedakah (mitzvah of charity) and cherut (the *mitzvah* of freedom). By performing mitzvot (the plural of mitzvah, for those not in one of my Hebrew classes), we learn the proper way to live: how to treat our family, our friends, our community, our world and, just as importantly, ourselves. *Mitzvot* are lewish values in action. They teach us the Jewish way to live our lives - everything from observing Shabbat and celebrating the holidays, to helping the homeless and supporting Israel.

K'lal Yisrael is the mitzvah of Jewish solidarity. "Israel is one, though dispersed among the seventy nations." -Zohar Exudus 16:6. K'lal Yisrael means literally "all the people of Israel" and is the mitzvah of promoting Jewish unity. This mitzvah reminds Jews that they are responsible for one another no matter where they are or how high or low their station.

One of the reasons it is a *mitzvah* for Jews to feel responsible for one another is simply that the Jewish people have never been large in number. Do the math: today only one-third of one percent, or less, of the world's population is Jewish. (Even though we receive a full one-third of all Nobel Prizes.) The fragility of our numbers is certainly one factor contributing to the importance placed on this *mitzvah*. Shared history is another reason for working on behalf of *K'lal Yisrael*. Jews understand a simple and powerful truth: the solidarity of the present generation of Jews is necessary to ensure a future Jewish community.

In the past few months we have been celebrating joyous events together: Sukkot. Thanksgiving and Chanukah. The Jewish communities of South Miami took the occasion of the kindling of the first light of Chanukah to celebrate Yom L'Chaval. Day of the Israeli Soldier. Yom L'Chayal is an opportunity for us to give thanks to the Israeli soldiers of the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces). A group of young soldiers was there, in uniform, to receive the appreciation of the local lewish community. In turn, they expressed their own gratitude for the solidarity and support offered them by the Jewish community here. I am impressed by how young these soldiers are. They look like kids, but they are young adults - responsible, dependable, courageous, full of life and with dreams of their own

In an article from Israel, "Thanking the Troops," I was introduced to Ya'akov Selavan, a young Israeli who shows his appreciation for Israeli soldiers in a deep and personal way. In the summer of 2006, during Israel's conflict with Lebanon, a close encounter with death prompted Ya'akov to establish *Itchem Kol Ha'Derech (With You All the Way)*. He had just graduated from high school and not yet entered military service. Ya'akov and his cousin were volunteers in Tzefat, fixing homes destroyed by Hezbollah missiles. Suddenly, a bomb exploded nearby. "All my life, I realized, I had been safe because soldiers were protecting me, "Ya'akov said. "If they're risking life and limb for us, we need to find a way to say Thank You."

As wounded troops arrived at a local hospital, he and his cousin visited them. "I wrote home explaining what I was doing," says Ya'akov, "and my Dad distributed my letter to many people. Suddenly I started getting emails expressing support." Donations flowed to *Itchem Kol Ha'Derech* from around the Jewish world.

"Ya'akov was simply an angel for us," says Dubi, a commander in the engineering corps who lost a leg while rescuing a comrade. Ya'akov carried messages between Dubi and the soldier whom the commander had saved. Surgeons and nurses reattached Dubi's leg, but *Itchem Kol Ha'Derech* also helped him heal from the trauma of war. "Emotionally, Ya'akov helped me maintain a sense of proportion," says Dubi. The volunteer's kindness (*chesed*), reminded the wounded hero that his personal sacrifice was appreciated.

There are many different ways we can show our connection to the Jewish people. It may be our celebration of the Jewish holidays, the wearing of a *kippah*, or the hanging of a mezuzah. There are different ways we can show our solidarity and express our commitment to *K'lal Yisrael*. When American Jews helped and supported Jews in the Soviet Union, they were demonstrating *K'lal Yisrael*. When Jews participate in the Maccabia Games, they help to build unity and pride. When Queen Esther risked her life to save the Jews of Persia, she fulfilled the *mitzvah* of *K'lal Yisrael*.

How are we going to express our commitment to *K'lal Yisrael*, especially now, when Israel and the Palestinians are starting yet another attempt at peace talks, and on Israel's 60^{th} anniversary this year? \diamond



An Evening of Solidarity:

These photos were taken at last years Yom L'Chayal at the JCC in Kendall. The young Israeli officer pictured with Joseph Beth at right, and Freda and Bill Ferns above, is currently commanding a combat unit defending the border with Gaza.



Shabbat Dinner

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEMPLE/CONGREGATION? INVITE THEM TO COME AND SPEND AN EVENING AT THE KJCC! WE WANT TO REACH OUT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE KEYS AND MEET MORE OF OUR MISHPOCHA.

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008, WE WILL OPEN OUR TEMPLE TO JEWISH ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO COME AND MEET MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION, JOIN US FOR A BUFFET DINNER, AND ATTEND A SERVICE WITH US.

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008 TIME: DINNER AT 6:30 PM FOLLOWED BY A SHABBAT SERVICE AND THEN BY AN ONEG. INFORMATION: CAROL STEINBOCK 305-393-1205

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Hamas calls for recision of 1947 UN plan

To mark 60 years since the United Nations plan for the partition of Palestine, Hamas has called for the UN to rescind the decision which led to the establishment of the State of Israel. Reported by Israel's Army Radio, the Hamas statement was quoted as saying, "It is not shameful to correct a mistake. Palestine is Arab-Islamic land from the river to the sea, including Jerusalem, and Jews have no place there." (*The Forward*, 11-29-07)

Jewish chaplain in Iraq

Until about 2 months ago. Andrew Shulman had the distinction of being the only Jewish chaplain in Iraq. His yarmulke and a patch he wears of the Ten Commandments crowned by a Star of David made him somewhat of an oddity. Shulman, who counsels soldiers in their emotional needs, tells of the time he was called to testify for a soldier stationed in Baghdad who claimed that Iudaism forbade him from washing pots in which pork products had been cooked. "I had to inform his superiors that, regrettably, this claim was not true. (He may have confused us with Muslims.) We later discovered the guy wasn't even Jewish. He was just looking for a creative way to get out of work."

(Jewish Journal, 12-2-07)

LBJ's Jewish granddaughter

Claudia Taylor Brod, 28, the youngest child of Luci Baines Johnson Turpin - President Johnson's youngest daughter - is married to the grandchild of Holocaust survivors. She converted to Judaism in 2003. "I started to read about the Jewish faith and I was really taken by it," she says. "I related to its unity and survival over thousands of years." Brod, who does not keep kosher and goes to temple only on holidays, says she has embraced Judaism's emphasis on family and traditions. She has lived in Miami Beach since 2000. To celebrate the birth of their first child, Brod and her husband Steven donated \$10,000, drawn from the Lyndon Johnson Family Foundation, to the Holocaust Survivors Program run by Jewish Community Services, a non-denominational agency for residents of Miami-Dade County.

(IsraelBehindTheNews.com/archives/Jul-13-04.htm)

Turkey in Israel

According to a report cited by *National Geographic* magazine, residents of the Holy Land eat an average of 34.5 pounds of turkey each per year, making them the world's leader in the amount of turkey meat consumed. Second place is held by the Slovaks, with the United States coming in third. Turkey is a bird native to the U.S. (and the bird that Benjamin Franklin wanted as the new nation's national symbol, instead of the eagle). It was imported to Israel in the 1950s. (*The Forward*, 11-21-07)

Luxury bagel

Chef Frank Tujague of the Westin New York at Times Square has created a \$1,000 bagel. This (very rich) bagel comes complete with Alba white truffle cream cheese and goji berry-infused Riesling jelly with golden leaves. All bagel sales will benefit Les Amis d'Escoffier Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to culinary art students. This is, to say the least, a far cry from a schmear with lox...... (*The Forward*, 11-28-07)

Tombstone of Hannah Szenes

On November 7. the 63rd anniversary of Hannah Szenes' (Senesh in English) execution by firing squad in Hungary in 1944, her nephew completed a four-year campaign to bring her gravestone from Hungary to Israel. The marker stood at Szenes' grave in Budapest's lewish cemetery. Now, 57 years after Szenes' body was reinterred in Israel, the gravestone has followed. It was placed at Szenes' kibbutz, Sdot Yam, while a platoon of paratroopers stood behind it. Szenes was enlisted in pre-Israel Palestine to parachute into Yugoslavia during World War II. the mission that led to her arrest and execution. She had said, "A voice called out to me and I went." In 1950, Szenes' remains were brought to Israel with ceremonies in Tel Aviv. Ierusalem and at the port in Haifa. She was buried on Mount Herzl. (www.haaretz.com, 11-25-07)

Pfefferberg, Keneally and Schindler

To the Nazis, Leopold Pfefferberg was prisoner 69006. To his family and friends, he was simply Poldek. Without this Holocaust survivor's perseverance, author Thomas Keneally probably would not have won the Booker Prize in 1982 for *Schindler's List*, and Steven Spielberg would not have collected his first Academy Award in 1994 for the movie version. More importantly, if not for Poldek, Spielberg might never have established the Survivors of the Shoah Foundation, an archive of more than 52,000 testimonies from 56 countries in 32 languages.

Now, 25 years after writing *Schindler's List*, Keneally has written "Searching for Schindler," which tells the story of how a chance 1980 encounter with Poldek began the incredible chain of events that so touched millions around the world. Poldek, #173 on Schindler's now-famous list, had been trying to find a writer for his story. He told Keneally how he and his wife, Misia, were saved by the German industrialist who risked everything to save 1,200 Jews near the end of World War II. (The movie, by the way, touches on only parts of the amazing and complex Schindler story.)

Keneally explains what drew him to Poldek's tale: "I looked at his big honest face and thought, 'What is it about him that made the metropolitan Europeans believe he was a virus on European civilization and that he had to be obliterated?"' For Keneally, born in Australia to Irish immigrants, the 25 years since *Schindler's List* was published have been lifechanging. He now posts a *mezuza* at the entrance to his office. "Part of being Jewish is trying to honor the people that are gone," he says. "I feel that I should stand in for the people who are gone, too, even though I'm a gentile." Poldek died in 2001. (*Jerusalem Post*, 11-19-07)

United on the issue of pork

In August 2005. Sam Habib and Cindy Gluck opened their first Dunkin' Donuts. Mr. Habib is a 47-year-old Muslim immigrant from Egypt and Ms. Gluck, 34, is an Orthodox lew from Brooklyn. The two had known each other only a few months when Habib, who savs he dreamed for decades of running a Dunkin' Donuts, asked Gluck, a real estate broker he had met while looking for a location. to join him in business. Habib arrived in New York in 1982 with only the change he had in his pocket, and went to work in the kitchens of Brooklyn restaurants. Gluck grew up in Hasidic Williamsburg, and at 20 was married off to a man of her parents' choosing. Four children later, she went into real estate to try to make some money. Regarding pork, any money the business makes on the sale of bacon, sausage or ham - foods that are forbidden in both their religions - is split and given away, hers to her synagogue and to Israel, his to the workers as bonuses. (The New York Times, 11-18-07)

Shimon Peres and Jerry Seinfeld

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld met with Israeli President Shimon Peres in November on his arrival in Israel to promote his computeranimated film, "Bee Movie." Seinfeld told the president that he was very excited by the warm welcome he had received. Seinfeld first came to Israel in 1971 as a 17-year-old and worked as a volunteer on Kibbutz Saar in the Western Galilee near Nahariya. Kibbutz Saar, like the state, will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2008. (Jerusalem Post, 11-23-07)

Baptist works to build Jewish library

Wyman Brent isn't lewish. He has no funding, or high-level contacts, or the support of any lewish institution. Together with only his non-lewish airlfriend, he's collecting books by lewish authors or featuring lewish themes—2.700 so far—in the hopes of creating a Jewish library in Vilnius, Lithuania, once a premier center of European Jewish learning and scholarship. [For more information about lewish Vilnius. see Liati Mavk's report "Notes From Vilna" in the November Chai-Lights.] A bit of a Jewish restoration is already underway in Vilnius. The Vilna Gaon lewish State Museum exhibits artifacts from the pre-Holocaust period, and an effort is underway to rebuild the city's Great Synagogue. For reasons only he could possibly understand. Brent hopes to contribute a 100,000-volume library (all in Englishlanguage books) and help re-infuse Vilnius with a vigorous Jewish intellectual life. (The Forward, 11-30-07)

Masada concert filmed by PBS

Israel singer-songwriter David Broza had performed 13 times before at the foot of the Roman ramp leading to Herod's fortress at Masada near the Dead Sea. This time, the 14th, the concert was filmed by Chicago's PBS affiliate, WTTW, for national distribution. Joining Broza at the concert were, among others, American Jackson Browne and the Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam IsraeliPalestinian School Choir, from a village cofounded by Jews and Arabs in the 1970s. The concert was sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel and by the Israel Ministry of Tourism. (*The Forward*, 11-16-07)

Jewish Rookie of the Year

There have always been Jews in major league baseball. Hank Greenberg of the Detroit Tigers and Sandy Koufax of the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers—both in the Hall of Fame—come immediately to mind. Perhaps there's a new star in the making. Ryan Braun, the Jewish third baseman of the Milwaukee Brewers, was voted the 2007 National League Rookie of the Year. He finished the season with a .324 average, 34 home runs and 97 runs batted in. If he can sustain these numbers, he'll surely become one of the elite. (*The Forward* 11-16-07)

A truly righteous gentile

Giovanni Palatucci, the Italian police chief of Fiume before and during World War II, saved as many as 5,000 Jews from the Nazis. He disregarded Mussolini's orders to gather Jews for concentration camps, forged visas and documents, destroyed files, and sent Jews to live in neighboring towns to live among the Italians. In his honor, The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has created the Giovanni Palatucci Courageous Leadership Award. Palatucci's efforts eventually landed him in Dachau, where he died in 1945, not quite 36 years old. (*The Forward*, 11-16-07)

Israel urging Disney to sue Hamas

The Israeli consulate in L.A. has asked Disney to pursue copyright infringement against Hamas. Farfour, a human dressed as a mouse with a striking resemblance to Mickey, taught the superiority of Islam and hatred of America and Israel in its children's shows. International outcry led Hamas to kill off Farfour. He was beaten to death by an actor portraying an Israeli security officer. (ynetnews.com) \Diamond

COLLEGE DIARY

As we check in with our freshman class, they're preparing for finals and

the end of their first semester in college.. By the time you all read this, they will be new members in the I-mayhave-stayed-up-all-nightbut-I-survived-finals club. Congratulations.

<u>Suzie</u>

A belated Happy Chanukah to everyone! I'm sure you all enjoyed your warm 80degree weather as you sat back eating latkes. I actually went to a latke party this week, but I had to tramp through the snow to get there.

It is freezing up here, literally. Today is the first day it's been above 35 in a while. But everything is so gorgeous. Snow just accentuates the city, highlighting and pointing out its beauty by quieting everything else. The ugly parts of the city are conveniently covered by snow. But, besides admiring this gorgeous city, I have been extremely busy these past few weeks. Since the week before Thanksgiving, Musical Theatre Guild has been gearing up to put on *Pippin*. I threw myself into the production. These past two weekends we've put on six shows and we just closed Sunday night. It was



so much fun. The last couple of weeks, the cast really gelled together and got to know each other. All of us are having "Pippin withdrawals." The production itself was amazing: between our talented actors and stage effects, all of my friends who came to the show left completely creeped out. I was so

proud. :) The important thing, though, is that I had fun and met a bunch of really great people who I would not normally have met.

Along with theatre, I've been keeping up with school, which is much harder than it sounds. As the semester drew to a close, professors stepped everything up a notch, making sure there was nothing they'd missed. I was in a frenzy trying to study for tests, finish *Pippin* sets and go to rehearsal and still have time to sleep.

But today is the last day of the semester. I went to my last day of work on Monday (I tutor a local girl, teaching her how to read at the Community Center). and my last day of classes today. My chemistry teacher came in to class in a tux and made a toast of champagne to the class for getting through our first semester at MIT. As proud as he may be of us, we are so much more proud of ourselves. I have worked harder and been busier this semester than any other time of my life. I have never been this challenged before, or faced with things that I just could not do. It has been a new, incredible experience and I really look forward to second semester. As for now, I'm calmly sitting back, celebrating the end of semester with my sorority's semi-formal. Then, early tomorrow morning, I begin studying for exams. So wish me luck :).

<u>Andrea</u>

Hi all,

Greetings from Nashville. Well, it is finals time, which is by no means fun. Our finals run from December 15th until the 23rd, which is much later than typical colleges. I also have to come back from winter break about a week early for January rush, so my winter break is not long at all.

This is also the time when we have to pick our classes for next semester. Picking classes is very tough during freshman year considering that our most popular major is "undecided." Right now I am thinking of double majoring in Cognitive Studies and Political Science, but that may very well change. I am very excited to come home for winter break, which is one week from tomorrow! I actually have three friends from here that are coming down towards the end of break, so that will be fun.

It is currently 44 degrees, which is painful considering it is probably double that in the Keys. I am writing a paper right now for a class called The Business of Music. One thing I love about Vanderbilt is that all of the professors are so well versed in the subjects they teach. Most of them have worked in the field they teach, and some are even known around the world. My Business of Music professor, Jim Foglesong, is a retired country music producer. He is in the Country Music Hall of Fame, and has signed a plethora of country music artists such as Reba McEntire and Garth Brooks

Well, I better get back to this paper, but enjoy the heat and maybe I will see you over break! \diamond



Keys Jewish Community Center Fashion Show Luncheon

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 11:30 am Outback Steakhouse MM 80 Oceanside

> Fashions by Angelika & Sunny Exposures

Contact Joan for information & tickets 394 2417 joanstark@bellsouth.net

Donation \$25



Sisterhood Joan Stark



S halom! Happy New Year! Sisterhood is in the midst of planning for a busy season. We wrapped up the Chai Closet clothing drive, with a large number of bags and boxes delivered to the Women's Domestic Abuse Shelter. What a great motivation it was to clean out our closets! This will almost definitely be an annual event. We thank Meredith for her efforts and her guidance. The shelter also has need of children's books, and that will be our next focus.

Our Chanukah-Shabbat dinner could not have been a success without the hard work of so many of you. Thanks to those who decorated and fried! A special thanks to Carol Steinbock for coordinating, and to the Pollacks for sponsoring.

We're looking forward to the Fashion Show Luncheon, to be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2008. It will take place at the Outback Steakhouse, MM80, and be hosted by our own Stuart and Lauren Sax of "Angelika" and "Sunny Exposures." They make it a fun time for all. Even though our cost has increased, we are keeping the ticket price at \$25. So mark your calendars and bring your friends. We have two theater outings planned this season: "Altar Boyz" on February 3 and "Footloose" on March 30. They are both on Sunday afternoons. Call or e-mail Bea Graham at 852-0214 or mbgrham@bellsouth.net.

Our annual fundraiser is just around the corner. Look for details in the next Chai-Lights, but don't make any other plans for Sunday, March 9th.

Joan Boruszak does a great job in keeping the gift shop stocked with items for all Jewish occasions. She's always available at 852-0833 or at joanborus@aol.com.

Our wonderful oneg Shabbats do not happen on their own. Joyce Peckman is the woman behind the scenes, as well as in front. She co-ordinates all the sponsors, does the shopping, and makes sure we have kosher challahs. Please call her if you have a special event you would like to honor.

Thanks again to all of you who show up for the meetings and who volunteer your time to make everything happen. The KJCC is really a "home away from home" for so many of us.



See you at the next Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, January 6, 2008. Nosh is at 9 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 9:30. \Diamond

Photo Gallery



Thanks to the generosity of Stan and Jenny Margulies, the KJCC Holocaust Torah now has a crown. It had its public debut at the Chanukah Shabbat service on December 7th. Our Torah is one of three remaining from Susice, Czechoslovakia, all of whose Jews save one were killed by the Nazis. KJCC has it on permanent loan.

The Chanukah Shabbat service also saw an award given to Alan Beth. It reads: "In Honor of Alan Beth for his Continuous Dedication and Hard Work as Ritual Chairman of KJCC, from Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood 2007." The award was presented by Linda Pollack. Hi Steve,

This year we celebrated 39 years of hosting the Dayton, Ohio community's free Thanksgiving dinner. We provide a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings, a live band, clowns, and plenty of pumpkins, gourds and balloons! It is for anyone alone on the holiday. This year we had well over 3,000 people. This tradition was



started by Barbara's father Arthur Beerman and our family has continued it. We look forward to next year, our 40th anniversary.

The picture attached is of me (Bill), our daughter Corey, and her friend Gary Shapiro.

Sincerely, Bill Weprin





Cammie Berk displays her shana punim and her spokesmodel skills at her recent birthday party, left. Above, Thanksgiving at the Steinbock's. Steve was the photographer. Reservations will be taken for members only until April 1 at which time it will be opened for others. Send your check early to confirm your place. Call Joan Boruszak at 852-0833 for information and reservations.



Sunday, April 20, 2008 6:30 pm Islamorada Fishing Club



Adults \$40 Children 12 and under are our guests.

Happy New Year (of the Trees)

By Gloria Avner

I think of myself as fairly well informed about the time-marking customs of cultures throughout the world. I am familiar with the rituals of the Chinese New Year, the Tibetan New Year, the Bhutanese New Year, the Dhivali celebrations in India, and the Times Square ball-dropping ritual observed (on television) by millions of Americans. Still, I can think of no culture—in this or any other period in history, that celebrates four entirely different New Years, all of them in a single year, every year—like our own Jewish culture.

We, the multi-New Yeared, can talk about celebrating the birthday of the world on the first of *Tishrei*, with shofar blowing and honeyed apples. There are two other New Years, too, the one for counting the reign of kings that begins on the first of *Nisan*, and the New Year for tithing livestock that begins on the first of *Elul*. We will describe each of these in a new article when they occur.

But today let's talk about the New Year of the Trees, *Tu B'Shevat*, one of my favorite holidays.

Even when we had no homeland we still remembered and celebrated Tu B'Shevat Although many could not plant trees because it was not spring during the fifteenth of Shevat where they lived, they ate the "fruit of the trees" and remembered. Work is not prohibited on this particular New Year. There are no required festive meals. There can be, however, a ceremonial seder in which one blesses all variety of fruit, nuts, and grains that grow in Israel, including almonds, dates, figs, raisins, carob, wheat, barley, grapes and pomegranate. It is considered a *mitzvah* to eat these fruits and recite the blessings. Our students have been celebrating with such a seder and planting trees for the past three years.

The Tu B'Shevat seder acknowledges the

seasons of dormancy and growth through the metaphor of wine. Four cups are blessed and drunk. The first is totally white, representing winter and the outward appearance of death, invisible energies waiting for the time in which to again blossom. The second cup of wine has a few drops of red mixed in, a hint of warmth and growth to come. The third, equal parts red and white, evokes the flush of fruition from flower, and finally, with the fourth cup, fully red, emblematic of the power of intense summer sun, the cycle is complete. The fruit is ripe. It is time to harvest, taste, say thank you, and bless the works of creation.

Jewish tradition talks and sings about "the tree of life," a symbol that transcends time and geography. Trees came into being on the third day of creation, making all else possible by providing food and shelter for the coming animals, birds, creepy crawlies, and two-leggeds. The Torah tells us that if the Jewish people were to go to war and besiege an enemy, it would be forbidden to needlessly destroy fruit-bearing trees.

The Torah has compared Man to a tree of the field. The tree is symbolic of mankind's vitality . We should not be disheartened in the winter, the dark, quiet time just before *Tu B'Shevat*. From the outside, trees may seem lifeless. Hidden from sight though, deep inside, sap is beginning to rise. New growth is swelling. Warmth, fruit, and nourishment are about to burst forth. We too have unseen vigor inside us. When we celebrate *Tu B'Shevat* we are not just celebrating the New Year for Trees. We are celebrating our own renaissance, both physically and spiritually.

In ancient times, Israel had a lovely custom involving trees. When a baby was born, the parents planted a tree in its honor on the next *Tu B'Shevat*, a cedar for a boy, a cypress for a girl. As the children grew, so did the trees. When the children married, the wood from their trees was used to build their *chuppas*. As the two trees are joined in the making of the *chuppa*, so were the bride and groom's different qualities joined in marriage. Birth, death, and continuity loom large in the New Year of Tu B'Shevat. \Diamond

ACTORS PLAYHOUSE Sunday, February 3, 2008 2:00 pm

2



WINNER of the 2005 Best Off-Broadway Musical Outer Critics Circle Award, ALTAR BOYZ is a laugh packed musical comedy and a phenomenal hit in NY. Actors' Playhouse will produce the first regional production with the "BOYZ," Mathew, Mark, Luke, Juan, and Abraham. Music and lyrics by Gary Adler and Michael Walker, and book by Kevin Del Aguila, ALTAR BOYZ is a soul searching fun experience of love and acceptance with witty music and hot dancing.

> TICKETS ARE \$36.00. FOR RESERVATIONS CALL BEA GRAHAM AT 852-0214.

KJCC Celebrates Chanukah

A Scrapbook of KJCC's 2007 Festival of Lights.







"The Play's The Thing"

After the deliciousness of Sisterhood's Chanukah dinner on December seventh came a very sweet treat. Our KJCC Religious School students and tutors entertained themselves, their par-

ents and a nearly full congregation with an enthusiastic and humorous (but respectful) performance of our playwithin-a-play, "The Miracle of Oil."

Written and directed by, well, me (in collaboration with co-teacher Yardena Kamely, School Principal Susan Gordon, and the children themselves), the play told the Chanukah story (through the booming, manly voice of our tutor/narrator Cory Wasser), by focusing on the bravery necessary to stand up for



Cammie Berk, Max and Zach Schrader-Grace, Jerrie, Moira, Hannah and Lily Werthamer, Joshua Bernstein, and Danielle Zinner, for playing multiple roles--from grandchildren to Maccabees to rabbis to dreidels-all with joyous ease. Nyan Feder made a superbly hostile King Antiochus, and Mark Wasser, as the Greek soldier befuddled by Torah students.



one's beliefs, even under threat of death. Folded around that story, Bubbe Susan and her grandchildren (no,



there's no news; it's a *play*) were delightful as they prepared for their party, sang their songs with anarchic gusto and spun down the aisles as dreidels. Many thanks to struck just the right note of disgust with "those Jews." (Why does Mark always have to play the heavy? Next year he's going to be a good guy.)

The evening was also marked by two debuts. Joshua Bernstein began the festivities with a solo piano recital of Beethoven's "Fur Elise." His playing was remarkable, assured, and roundly applauded. The second debut was that of the newly formed KJCC choir, comprised of David Feder, Linda Pollack, Susan Gordon, Zoe Berk, Yardena Kamely, Sam Vinicur, Alan Beth and, well, me. We owe thanks also to our piano accompanist, the multi-talented Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett. -Gloria Avner



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The Channah Behind Chanukah?

By Gloria Avner

Her name was Channah. She was the daughter of Matityahu, the high priest. She was about to be married. Her brothers, the band that would come to be called the "Maccabees," were not yet called "The Hammers." They were then still the equivalent of yeshiva students, like most of their countrymen doing what they could to avoid the soldiers, striving to study Torah and survive as Jews in a world where Greek idols and practices had invaded even the holy Temple.

It was extremely dangerous to be a non-Hellenizing Jew, a Hasidean, in the era around 167 B.C.E., and disconcerting at best for those about to become a bride. The Seleucid Greeks had instituted the custom of *droit signeur*, the right of government officials to sleep with a Jewish bride before she had consummated her marriage. (Interestingly, Alexander himself, just before his untimely death at 32, had instituted a policy of having his soldiers and officials intermarry with local populations, in order to cement ties to the conquering regime.)

Imagine with me the following scene: Here are the sons of local high priest Matityahu, assembled with their Jewish community to celebrate their sister's wedding. Channah is beautifully bedecked. Suddenly, without warning, she rips off all her clothes and stands utterly naked before her family and guests. The family is horrified. Imagine the uproar. "Cover yourself!!" shouts Judah, her brother. "What are you doing? You are SHAMING us!!!"

Channah refuses to put on her clothes. Armed with a righteous indignation that any woman would applaud, she shouts back to Judah, pointing at herself, "THIS shames you? THIS???" And then she asks, "And you are NOT ashamed of what you will allow to happen to me, your sister, this very night?" The gathering must have gone utterly silent. The men's collective numbness, their refusal to think about her coming forced night with the governor, was breached. They got it. The brothers rallied around Judah, who was no longer furious at his sister but at himself and the Graeco-Assyrian rulers. Sparked by her courage and in her honor, the men armed themselves and began the revolution.

I always wondered what event could have inspired such unheard-of courage in the face of such odds and culminate (well, 25 years of continuous fighting later) in such a dramatic victory, restoring both the Jewish Commonwealth and, in large part, the Jewish spirit.

But did this event really happen? The story comes to us through the oral tradition. Chaim Schaffer, a "frum" friend some of you met last year, sent me a teaching by Rabbi Gershon Winkler, based on an old lesserknown *Midrash* recorded in *Midrash Ma'aseh Chanukah*, which in turn was recorded in *Otsar Ha Midrashim*. Do we say, "Oh, that's just oral tradition. How do we know whether this really happened?" But wait. The genius of oral tradition is that its stories so well illustrate larger truth often obscured by dry details.

We know for a fact that *droit signeur* was the custom of the day. Among obvious other indignities, it was intended to obscure paternity of the firstborn. (There are commentaries that say Goliath was the product of such a union.) I say that this historical *Midrash* illuminates the story of Chanukah for me in a way that makes more sense than anything I've ever read about those times.

I say thank you not only to the brave Jewish men who risked their lives (and frequently lost them) to make continuation of our way of life possible. I say a special thank you to the women who inspired them, or else the Jewish light might have been extinguished over two thousand years ago. (How many cultures have a history of strong women as illustrious and documented as ours?) I also thank those who had the courage and foresight to commit this oral tradition to parchment and preserve it, in the face several hundred years later of another attempt to assimilate or destroy us, this time by the Romans. \Diamond

The weather in Denver was snowy and cold, but family was warm and energetic, especially with three children aged four and under. I showed up with a suitcase loaded with bargains from the Oshkosh B'gosh outlet, and gourmet kosher cheese from Miami. When I visit with Daniel, my eldest son, and his wife Guisela, I am immersed in Jewish practice and tradition, and joyously busy from the moment that Eliana and Yosef wake up and come looking for me, to the moment we (yes, all of us) read bedtime stories and collapse. I'm holding Michal.

-Joyce

Two separate Chanukah celebrations: Brittany and Jeremy Schur, above, grandchildren of Lee and Bob Schur. At the Graham's home, Michal and Yardena joined Bea and Nissan for a special mother/daughter evening.





Chanukiah Lighting Ceremony

For the third year in a row, the KJCC Religious School sponsored a night of blessings, candle-lighting, and latkeeating intended to strengthen the bonds between the families of our young students and the elders among our congregants. Pauline Roller, our gracious matriarch, hosted us once again. Songs were sung, great food was eaten, stories were told, and we all got to know each other a little bit better. This "haimishe" event is one of our proudest evenings.

High on the list of happy moments

was the spontaneous birthday party and honoring of George Swartz, who turned 77 that evening. He was surprised



and appreciative of the card made for him by our students, not to mention his improvised jelly donut birthday cake.





Shabbat Dinner

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEMPLE/CONGREGATION? INVITE THEM TO COME AND SPEND AN EVENING AT THE KJCC! WE WANT TO REACH OUT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE KEYS AND MEET MORE OF OUR MISHPOCHA.

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008, WE WILL OPEN OUR TEMPLE TO JEWISH ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO COME AND MEET MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION, JOIN US FOR A BUFFET DINNER, AND ATTEND A SERVICE WITH US.

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008 TIME: DINNER AT 6:30 PM FOLLOWED BY A SHABBAT SERVICE AND THEN BY AN ONEG. INFORMATION: CAROL STEINBOCK 305-393-1205

Keys Jewish Community Center Fashion Show Luncheon

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 11:30 am Outback Steakhouse MM 80 Oceanside

> Fashions by Angelika & Sunny Exposures

Contact Joan for information & tickets 394 2417 joanstark@bellsouth.net

Donation \$25





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2. Palace Training & Education Center

Because our residents come first, every employee must reflect the higher standards of our communities. Based on Ritz-Carlton procedures, a comprehensive orientation program reinforces this focus. Regular training and educational programs continue so that residents will always receive the very best care and services.

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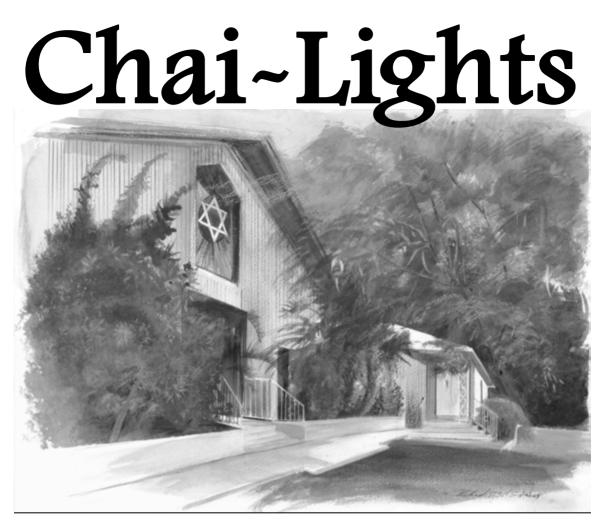
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February 2008

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Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com

Nosh

Second Seder Reservations

Hard to believe, but planning has begun for the second Passover seder. The date is Sunday, April 20th, and the place is again the Islamorada Fishing Club. The cost is \$40 for all adults. Children 12 and under are free.

Reservations are limited to the first 100. We will accept reservations for members and their families only until April 10th. Then we will open reservations to visitors. It is never too early to make that reservation as we always fill up quickly. Please make your reservation by mailing your check to the KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

For further information, please call Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0833.

Lecture Series to Begin

Yardena's adult lecture series for 2008 will begin with an analysis and discussion of Alan Dershowitz's recent book, "The Case for Israel." The book is an ardent defense of Israel's right to exist. Each chapter is set up to simulate a trial, with Dershowitz as Israel's defense attorney. The discussion, part I of which will take place at 7:30 on Thursday, February 21st at KJCC, will include analysis of history and international law, and address frequent calumnies such as whether Israel has itself created the Palestinian refugee problem and has intentionally prevented a solution.

TO HONOR

Dr. and Mrs. Steve Smith

By Ralph Tallent

KJCC Annual Meeting

The KJCC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 10, 2008 in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall at 11:00 am. The Board meeting is scheduled for the same day at 9:00 am. All members are invited to attend both meetings.

Lunch will be served to all present immediately following the Annual Meeting. Please attend these meetings.

The primary order of business is the election of the new Officers and the Board of Directors.

TREE OF LIFE

IN HONOR OF LINDA RUTKIN'S BIRTHDAY 2008

By Joel and Linda Pollack

New Members

The KJCC is pleased to welcome our newest members, Gerald Wretzky of Key Largo and David and Pat VanArtsdalen or Islamorada. We would also like to welcome back a newly re-joined member, Shelby Strean of West Palm Beach. We look forward to your active participation.

2007-2008 Officers and Board

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Executive Vice President Mark Wasser

Vice Presidents Alan Beth – Susan Gordon Neal Rakov

> **Treasurer** Linda Pollack

Recording Secretary Beth Hayden

Financial Secretary Rene Rose

Corresponding Secretary Roberta McNew

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Historian Meredith A. Cline

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Newsletter Lisa Richardson Rutherford Editor Marty Graham Editor Emeritus

CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly newsletter of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070

President⁹s Message

Steve Steinbock

ASK & YE SHALL RECEIVE!

Last year. I asked for new Shabbat leaders and more music in our services. On lanuary 4, 2008, we had a double-header. We had a new. first-time leader. Sam Vinicur, and also, together with him on the *bemah* and offering beautiful, harmonic versions of familiar music and also some tunes new to our service—in their South Florida debut-were the Shabbatones (starring, in alphabetical order, musical director and arranger Gloria Avner, Susan Gordon. Yardena Kamely and Linda Pollack), the almost-ready-for -prime-time choir! They all did a marvelous iob. The week before that, another newbie. Ken Atlas. returned and led a great service. Who will be next to step up and lead a service?

On New Year's Day, George Swartz did a magnificent job officiating the Blessing of the Fleet at the Whale Harbor Bridge. Many of our members had their boats blessed, including Jim and Joan Boruszak's "Thanks Kids," Mort & Gene Silverman's "AuSUM II," with many temple members aboard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary boat "Fischurman" with Bob Schur and Nettie & Jules Seder, David Goldfinger's "Goldfinger," Alex Adler's "Kalex," Michael & Suzanne Gilson's and "Shalom," with me, Carol & our Rottie Katie aboard. I hope I did not miss anyone.

Thanks to all of you who brought us over the top to match David & Toby Goldfinger's \$5,000 donation to the Scholarship & Holocaust Funds. We now have \$10,000 more for those funds. I'm awed at your response.

On December 21, 2007, my wife Carol represented the temple at a memorial service for the homeless who died in the Keys in 2007.

Our Annual Membership Meeting and Election of the KJCC Board of Directors and Officers will be on Sunday, February 9, 2008. Please attend. Sisterhood will be putting out a spread afterwards to celebrate.

It has been my pleasure to serve you this past year. I believe we have continued to move forward. Our members have been most generous with their donations of items, including a new Torah crown, *bemah* covers, books, a Powerpoint projector, money and, just as important, their time and expertise.

Steve



Nosh

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By Joel and Linda Pollack

New Members

The KJCC is pleased to welcome our newest members, Gerald Wretzky of Key Largo and David and Pat VanArtsdalen or Islamorada. We would also like to welcome back a newly re-joined member, Shelby Strean of West Palm Beach. We look forward to your active participation.

YARTZEIT PLAQUE

Fred Ross

Beloved Father, Grandfather

1920-2006 14 Tammuz

Thank you, Stan and Jenny

Once again, we find ourselves thanking Stan and Jenny Margulies for their generosity. We recently ran a blurb in Chai-Lights noting that the KJCC classroom needed a projector capable of Powerpoint presentations, and wondered if someone had one they'd be willing to donate. Stan and Jenny did, and did. Our president thanks you, our school thanks you, and we thank you.

February Anniversaries

		rears
21st	Claire & Murray Cooper	60
20th	Susan & Bill Gordon	
9th	Liliam & Uri Kamely	
6th	Gale & Arnold Lang	36
23rd	Jessica & Eric Pollack	6
llth	Linda & Joel Pollack	46
	•	

Ongoing Committees and Activities

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665.

KJCC *Tree of Life Leaves* and *Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yartzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates* for siddurim. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF *Trees in Israel* - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Chai-Lights Mitzvah - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertising in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds: e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund.

February Memoriam

By Mark & Sofy Wasser In Blessed Memory of MINNIE BERGER Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein In Blessed Memory of SUNNIE BERNSTEIN Eternal Peace

By Steven & Barbara Smith In Blessed Memory of MIRIAM BLINDER Forever In Our Hearts

> By Shirley Boxer In Blessed Memory of IDA BOXER In Our Heart And Memory

By Shirley Boxer In Blessed Memory of MAX BOXER Always In My Memory

By Mel & Blanche Taks In Blessed Memory of PAUL BUCHMAN Rest In Peace

By the Cohen Family In Blessed Memory of SARA J. COHEN Rest In Eternal Peace

By Jim & Lynn Nobil In Blessed Memory of SARA J. COHEN Always In Our Memory By Arthur Feinberg In Blessed Memory of WILLIAM FEINBERG In Our Memory Always

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe In Blessed Memory of MORRIS FEINBERG Long Blessed Sleep

> By Shirley Boxer In Blessed Memory of J.L. FIERBERG We Remember Always

By Joel & Linda Pollack In Blessed Memory of MALKA FRANK With Loving Remembrance

By Milton & Claire Geller In Blessed Memory of LOUIS GELLER Sleep In Peace

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson In Blessed Memory of CHARLES GILSON Forever Remembered With Love

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson In Blessed Memory of ROSE GILSON Always Remembered

By Marty & Bea Graham In Blessed Memory of NICHOLAS GOLDENBERG Always Remembered With Love By Janice Gorson In Blessed Memory of JOSEPH GORSON Rest in Blessed Peace

By Robert & Eileen Hermann In Blessed Memory of FRED H HERMANN Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Pauline Roller In Blessed Memory of SHIRLEY HOROWITZ Always Loved and Missed

By Melvin Jacobson In Blessed Memory of ISAAC JACOBSON Eternal Rest

By Michal Kamely In Blessed Memory of PINCHAS KAMELY Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

> By Gerri Weisberg In Blessed Memory of ROBERT KINNEY Eternal Peace

By Michael Krissel In Blessed Memory of JOSEPH KRISSEL Forever In Our Hearts

By Arnold & Gale Lang In Blessed Memory of ROSE LANG In Our Heart And Memory By David & Pamela Marmar In Blessed Memory of SAMUEL MARMAR Always In My Memory

> By Stanley Nason In Blessed Memory of GLORIA F. NASON Rest In Peace

> By Jim & Lynn Nobil In Blessed Memory of IRENE NOBIL Rest In Eternal Peace

By Mel & Blanche Taks In Blessed Memory of BEA PASCH Long, Blessed Sleep

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg In Blessed Memory of FANNIE PHILLIPS We Remember Always

> By Joel & Linda Pollack In Blessed Memory of WILLIAM POLLACK With Loving Remembrance

By Marjorie Present In Blessed Memory of AMOS M. PRESENT Sleep In Peace

By Marjorie Present In Blessed Memory of IDA O. PRESENT Remembered With Love By Ron & Dorothy Horn In Blessed Memory of IDA RATCHIK Forever Remembered With Love

By Robert & Sylvia Berman In Blessed Memory of LOU ROAZEN Always Remembered

By Pauline Roller In Blessed Memory of AL ROLLER Always Remembered With Love

By Sid Samuels In Blessed Memory of SOPHIE SAMUELS Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Steven B. Sanders In Blessed Memory of IRVING SANDERS Always Loved and Missed

By Robert & Lee Schur In Blessed Memory of JOHN A. SCHUR Eternal Rest

By the Sherman Family In Blessed Memory of LOUIS SHERMAN Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By the Blumberg Family In Blessed Memory of DAISY WEINTRAUB Eternal Peace By Janice Gorson In Blessed Memory of A. JAMES WEISS Forever In Our Hearts

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe In Blessed Memory of SAMUEL WOLFE In Our Heart And Memory

> By Meredith A. Cline In Blessed Memory of REUBEN L. ZALK Always In My Memory

> By Meredith A. Cline In Blessed Memory of SARAH P. ZALK Rest In Peace

By Teresa Kwalick In Blessed Memory of M. TERESA ASTRAY-CANEDA Eternal Rest

By Larry & Stephanie Gilderman In Blessed Memory of ELSIE GILDERMAN Remembered With Love

By Alan Beth & Candy Stanlake In Blessed Memory of KITTY NYMAN Always In Our Memory

By Alan Beth & Candy Stanlake In Blessed Memory of TED NYMAN In Our Memory Always



YEDA - Knowledge Yardena Kamely



The Jewish Relationship With Community

The KJCC is organizing a new member drive. We are inviting family, friends, and neighbors who are not currently members of our Jewish community to come and learn more about our temple and congregation. We want to reach out to the Jewish community in the Keys and meet more of our *mishpoche*. Creating a vibrant community whose members are connected in multiple ways is an important part of the Jewish way of life.

Today, the importance of sharing experience and expressing communal support is practiced in Judaism by the idea of *minyan*, the quorum of ten which is traditionally required for a prayer service. Without a *minyan*, some prayers are not to be recited aloud. This is a metaphor for the void we feel when we are not fully supported by family and friends. God is not enough to overcome our existential loneliness. We need each other. Hillel said: "Do not separate yourself from the community." (*Mishnah Avot* 2:5). The desire for community is not necessarily the search for friendship. It is the search for shared responsibility.

Community is also our context for *tikkun* olam, repairing the world. In our prayers we say, *Sh'ma Kolenu* – "hear our voice" – indicating our collective, communal responsibility and power. We pray *for* the community, which reminds us that we belong to the community. Community comes from the word "common." The word makes us aware what we share in the most basic way: tears, loss, love, illness, joy, fear, birth, death, life. We are not meant to live alone. We are not supposed to ignore what we have in common as human beings. That is the power of community, *kehila*. In Judaism, we recognize that the community is strengthened by individual action, *ma'aseh*, which is really individual responsibility coming together for the sake of the community. As Heschel wrote, "We must continue to remind ourselves that in a free society all are involved in what some are doing. Some are guilty, all are responsible." As Einstein wrote, "To be a Jew means to bear a serious responsibility not only to his own community, but also toward humanity."

Community does not come about spontaneously. *Pirke Avot*, (The Words of the Elders), tells us, "Find a Master, Acquire a Friend." We need to recognize our own vital role in creating community. Often this consists of seeking out an already existing community and trying to be part of it.

Judaism is lived most fully with family and community. We are fortunate to live at a time and place where we are free to choose how to live our lives as Jews. We are taught that what makes us a community is the sense of shared responsibility: when one is in need, the other simply responds. I believe that to be fully actualized as an individual, becoming an integrated person, you must belong to a larger community, asking yourself what you can do for your community.

In this spirit, I hope to see more than a few new members joining the KJCC this year and becoming part of our *mishpoche*. \Diamond



World Jewish Report Medina Roy



The comfort tree

A 150-year-old chestnut tree across from 263 Prinsengracht, in Amsterdam, is slated to be taken down by Dutch officials. The tree, said to have comforted Anne Frank while looking out her window as she hid from the Nazis, is ailing due to fungus and moth infestations. A campaign to save the tree has been started by a variety of nonprofit groups and they have managed to postpone the tree's demise until all recovery efforts have been exhausted. "For Anne, the tree represented comfort, consolation... [and] a longing for freedom," said an official from the Anne Frank Museum. (Dateline: World Jewry, Dec. 2007 / Jan. 2008)

Bill Ott's best

Having arduously sifted through a year's worth of reading, Bill Ott, editor and publisher of "Booklist," and his staff, have selected Michael Chabon's "The Yiddish Policemen's Union," as one of his top three books published in 2007. In his review of the book, Ott says: "...Chabon creates an epic alternate history in which Alaska, not Israel, is the embattled Jewish homeland. ...what allows the novel to soar is its humor and humanity." "Booklist," published by The American Library Association, is a periodical for professional librarians. (*American Libraries, January / February 2008*)

The Diary That Almost Wasn't

From an essay written by David Oshinsky in the N.Y. Times book report: "In the summer of 1950, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. turned down the English language rights to a Dutch manuscript after reading a particularly harsh reader's report calling the diary 'very dull, a dreary record of typical family bickering, petty annoyances and adolescent emotions.' Sales would be small because the main characters were neither familiar to Americans nor especially appealing. *The Diary of Anne Frank* would be rejected by 15 others before Doubleday published it in 1952." The year 2007 marked the 60th anniversary of the Dutch publication of Anne Frank's Diary. Nearly 40 million copies have now been published in 66 languages, making it one of the best-selling books in history. (Newsletter of The Anne Frank Center, USA, Nov. 2007)

Fatah's New Map

Founded in 1965, Fatah is planning to mark its 43rd anniversary this year with a new poster showing all of Israel as Palestine. The poster was designed specifically for the occasion featuring a map of Israel that is entirely draped with a Palestinian *keffiyeh* scarf, along with a drawing of a rifle, symbolizing the "armed struggle" against Israel. The message of the poster is that Fatah, like Hamas, has no intention of recognizing Israel's existence. The emblem violates Fatah's declared policy, which envisions an independent Palestinian state alongside, and not instead of, Israel. (*Jerusalem Post, 12-23-07*)

"Live Long and Prosper"

The Vulcan salute, which first appeared on the original Star Trek series in the second season-opening episode, was devised by Leonard Nimoy, the actor who played the half-Vulcan Mr. Spock. The salute consists of a raised hand, palm facing forward with the fingers parted between the middle and ring finger and with the thumb extended. In his autobiography, *"I Am Not Spock,"* Nimoy wrote that he based it on the priestly blessing performed by *Kohanim* on the Jewish High Holy Days with both hands, thumb to thumb in this same position, representing the Hebrew letter *Shin*. Nimoy wrote that when he was a child, his grandfather took him to an Orthodox synagogue where he saw the blessing performed and was very impressed by it. The blessing (*Birkat Kohanim*) is also known as *Nisiat Kapayim*, which translates to "raising of the hands." (*TVLand*, "100 *Greatest TV Quotes and Catchphrases*," 12-15-07)

\$25 Million Matzos

The Streit's matzo factory, on Manhattan's Lower East Side, where thousands of matzos a day roll out of two ovens and then get shipped across America, is on the market for \$25 million. The bakery, started in 1916 by Aron Streit, an Austrian immigrant. is America's last family-owned matzo factory. Customers of the historic bakery include some of New York's most famous delis - Katz's, Carnegie Deli and the 2nd Avenue Deli. The real estate agent handling the 47.000 square foot property expects a developer to convert it into luxury residential or commercial space. It is a change that mirrors what has happened to the neighborhood which was once populated by generations of lews. The factory will keep producing matzo (about 16,000 pounds a day) until the family builds a new factory, most likely in New Jersey, in about a year. (Associated Press, 12-22-07)

Jewish Pitcher Named in Steroids Report

Of the 80 named baseball players linked in some way to steroid use, pitcher Scott Schoeneweis was the only Jewish player named in the report headed by George Mitchell, the former U.S. Senate majority leader. The left-handed pitcher, who has played for 5 teams since 1999, is not as famous as others who were named in the report but has been a solid player. Back in 2006, he was 0-2 with a 5.03 ERA in 70 appearances with the NY Mets. Schoeneweis was cited in a report by ESPN that he received six shipments of steroids while he was playing for the Chicago White Sox from 2003 through 2004. Schoeneweis has denied the ESPN report. (www.jta.org, 12-14-07)

"Last Chance" Targets Nazis

Most of them would now be in their 90s and they have managed to keep their identities hidden and escape punishment. Concerned that they might die without being held accountable, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has announced plans to ramp up efforts to locate and prosecute elderly Nazi war criminals living in South America with "Operation Last Chance." Efraim Zuroff, the top official with the Center, was quoted as saving, "The natural tendency is to be sympathetic toward people after they reach a certain age, but these are the last people on earth who deserve sympathy. ...in no way does the passage of time lessen their crimes." There are 1.019 ongoing investigations of former Nazi war criminals in 14 countries. Since the beginning of the program, 488 suspects have been identified. In particular, the operation is targeting Aribert Heim, wanted for the deaths of hundreds of prisoners at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria from surgeries done without anesthesia. Heim is believed to be living in Chile or Argentina despite claims by his family that he is dead. (Washington Post 12-6-07)

A Charity You Can Count On

Charity Navigator, America's premier independent charity evaluator, has bestowed its second consecutive four-star rating on the Jewish National Fund (JNF) for the organization's sound fiscal management. "This indicates that JNF, United States, outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate the most fiscally responsible way possible. Started in 1901. The lewish National Fund began collecting coins in blue boxes to purchase land and return the Jewish people to their homeland. Among its many achievements, JNF has evolved into a global environmental leader in its 106-year history. It has planted 240 million trees, built over 1,000 parks and recreational areas, discovered drip irrigation and new ways to grow plants under

arid conditions and, most notably, brought green to the desert. JNF has built over 190 reservoirs and water recycling centers, increasing Israel's water supply by 10 percent. (www.jnf.org, 11-8-07)

Will an Arab be honored at Yad Vashem?

Although no formal request has been submitted to have Mohammed V. a former king of Morocco, admitted to Yad Vashem's "Righteous Among the Nations," which recognizes non-Jews who risked their lives to rescue lews during the Holocaust, it is happening behind the scenes. Morocco and Israel have a longstanding relationship involving quiet diplomacy and discreet intelligence cooperation. In his book, Among the Righteous: Lost Stories From the Holocaust's Long Reach Into Arab Lands, Robert Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, describes the persecution of lews in Arab countries during WWII and sheds new light on the positive role played by Mohammed V, who died in 1961. Of Yad Vashem's 22,000 Righteous, some 70 are Muslims, most of whom are from Turkey and the Balkans. Mohammed V would become the first Arab admitted. The most difficult criterion would be proof that the late king actually risked his life to save lews. (The Forward, 12-12-07)

Muslim Student Fights for Jews

On the night of December 7, 2007, Hassan Askari, a 20-year-old Muslim student at Berkeley College in Manhattan, came to the aid of Walter Adler when he and three friends were attacked in an apparent hate crime on a New York subway train. Ten men and women, aged 19 and 20, verbally and physically assaulted Adler and his friends after they wished the assailants "Happy Chanukah" in response to their "Merry Christmas" wish. Askari tried to fight off the attackers, which gave Adler time to pull the emergency brake on the Brooklyn-bound train. The assailants were arrested at the next stop. (World Jewish Congress Foundation, 12-13-07)

CNN "Hero"

From a list of more than 7.000 candidates nominated by CNN viewers, a celebrity panel of judges considered Rick Hodes, who runs the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's (AIIDC) medical program, for the top spot in CNN's "Heroes." A Johns Hopkinstrained physician. Hodes oversees the treatment for thousands of people in Addis Ababa seeking to emigrate to Israel. In his spare time. Hodes and a group of nuns care for people suffering from TB, malaria and cancer at Mother Teresa's Mission, also sponsored by IDC. In addition, he has taken several of his younger patients into his home and paid for their treatment himself. (The Forward, 12-12-07)

National Yiddish Book Center

At its midwinter conference in Philadelphia, the American Library Association held a session on January 13th entitled, "A Morning with Aaron Lansky." Lansky, at age 24, set out to rescue the world's Yiddish books by locating priceless books in basements, attics, demolition sites and dumpsters. Today, the National Yiddish Book Center, the nonprofit organization he founded, has recovered almost 1.5 million volumes. (American Libraries, January / February 2008)

Israel's First National Library

In November 2007, the Israeli Knesset unanimously passed a historic law, effective January 1, 2008, creating Israel's first national library to be established in Jerusalem.

The Jewish National and University Library has acted as the *de facto* national library since its creation in 1892 as the "Abarbanel Study Library." It was taken over by the Zionist Congress in 1905 and incorporated into the Hebrew University of Jerusalem when it was founded in 1925. The Jewish National and University Library houses over 90 percent of known Jewish manuscripts and is also home to handwritten Maimonides manuscripts. The library also has two copies of every work published in Israel since the 1950s. (Jerusalem Post, 11-27-07) ◊

Eye on The Arts Gloria Avner



The Season is upon us, dear friends and culture buffs; February is as full swing as it gets. Let's delight in and take advantage of the music and art offerings spread before us on this splendid table. Most of the events listed below take place in our Upper Keys or Miami. Make plans, invite friends, create outings, carpool, volunteer!! My recommendations are the concert offerings of the South Florida Center for the Arts, I.C.E. performances, and the Art Shows starred below. (Yes, this shows blatant favoritism).

**Now until April 30th:

Jewish Museum of Florida, Miami Beach. Look! Up in the Sky! It's a Bird, It's a Plane! It's Zap Pow Bam, a colorful dynamic exhibit that immerses visitors in an interactive world of Super Heroes, highlighting the Jewish creators of comic books from 1938 – 1950. (Let's get a group together for this one. Highly recommended reading: "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay.")

Now through May 31st:

Lichtenstein at the Fairchild; The Fairchild Tropical Garden kicks off a new exhibit featuring the work of acclaimed pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. 10901 Old Cutler Road.

**Tuesday, January 29th:

South Florida Center for the Arts Concert Series presents Arvel Bird and One Nation. Native American music. 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. sfca-arts.org. (Best Native American Instrumental Group--2007)

**Thursday, January 31st-Sunday, February 3rd:

noon - 9 p.m., **The Original Miami Beach Antique Show**, Miami Beach Convention Center (305) 673-7311 (*The most amazing* collection of art, collectibles, jewelry, and antiques you'll ever see; wear comfy shoes.)

Saturday. Feb, 2nd

Keys Images Past and Present 5-7:30 p.m. The Artists Gallery at DeClue's Fine Art Printing and Framing, Tavernier Towne Shop Cntr. MM 91.3, Tavernier. 852-4840.

**Saturday, February 2nd and Sunday, February 3rd:

"Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival." Lorelei Restaurant Field, MM 81 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada. 664-3571.

**Tuesday, February 5th:

Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company presents A Compás! at I.C.E. Islamorada TIB Amphitheater; 8 p.m.; Email: jessica@keysice.com; 305-395-6344 (This should make another excellent group outing.)

**Saturday, February 9th - Sunday, February 10th:

Pigeon Key Art Festival. Juried outdoor art show. Music, food, art raffle. \$7 adults/\$3 students/children free. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Marathon Community Park, MM 49 Overseas Hwy., Marathon. 289-9555. (*One of the best of all So. Florida Art Shows*)

**Tuesday, February 12th:

South Florida Center for the Arts Concert Series presents Puccini's "LaBoheme" Seven singers perform this classic opera in concert style. 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. 304-9059. www.sfca-arts.org.

**Friday, February 15th:

Purple Isles Art Guild presents "Birds in Nature." Art among the gardens. Francis Tracy Garden Center, Key Largo. 852-7494.

Saturday, February 16th:

Keys Community Concert Band outdoor concert. "That's Entertainment." Bring blankets, lawnchairs. Free. 4 p.m. Islamorada Founders Park, MM 87, bayside, Plantation Key. 853-7294.

keyscommunityconcertband.org.

**Saturday-Monday, February 16-18: Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

The Coconut Grove Arts Festival is one of the nation's premier outdoor fine arts fairs.

**Saturday, February 16th:

South Florida Center for the Arts presents "Yesterday: A Tribute to the Beatles." A celebration of the music of the "Fab Four."

8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. 304-9059.

www.sfca-arts.org. (*Perfect Valentine's Day Date--"All You Need is Love"--Diamond* Heart pendant to be raffled--benefit for "Arts for Youth" Scholarship Fund) Don't miss this memory-filled fun evenina!!

**Saturday, February 16 - Sunday, February 17:

Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival. Waldorf Plaza, MM 100 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo. 664-3571.

Monday, February 18th:

Middle Keys Concert Association presents Ji Yong, pianist. (Rising Star series) Winner of New York Philharmonic Young Artists Competition. 7:30 p.m., San Pablo Church, 122nd St., Marathon. 743-4687.

**Monday, February 18th:

I.C.E. Islamorada TIB Amphitheater, MM 87 bayside, 8 p.m., **Will Maring and Robert Bowlin,** e-mail: jessica@keysice.com Call: 305-395-6344 Sat., February 23 - Sun., February 24: Key West Art Center presents 43rd Annual Old Island Days Art Festival. A juried fineart show with exhibitors from across USA and Canada. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Whitehead and Caroline Streets, Key West. 294-1243. keywestartcenter.com.

**Saturday, February 23 - Sunday, February 24:

Upper Keys Rotary Nautical Flea Market / Purple Isles Art Guild Big Tent Gallery. Founders Park, MM 87 bayside, Plantation Key. 853-1685.

Sunday, February 24th:

I.C.E., Islamorada TIB Amphitheater, MM87 bayside, 8 p.m., **Pierre Bensusan; e-mail** jessica@keysice.com; Call: 305-395-6344

Monday, February 25th:

I.C.E. TIB Amphitheater, MM87 bayside, 8 p.m., **Michael Pickett**, e-mail: jessica@keysice.com Call: 305-395-6344

**Tuesday, February 26th:

South Florida Center for the Arts Concert Series presents New Orleans and Dixieland Jazz classics with Marcus, Charlie and Joan. 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. 304-9059. www.sfca-arts.org.

Friday, February 29th:

Pipe organ concert with special guest artist Charles Stanley. 8 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 108 Ocean Dr., Tavernier. 852-0621.

Saturday, March 1st:

Key West Pops presents THE PAJAMA

GAME. Starring Lee Roy Reams and Glenn Wilson. Conductor Vincent Zito. Choreographed by Lorinda Haver and Penny Leto. \$40, \$60, \$100. 8 p.m., Tennessee Williams Theatre, 5901 College Rd., Key West. Call 305-295-7676 or keystix.com.

Saturday, March 1 - Sunday, March 2: "Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival," City Events Field, Marathon. 289-7656. ◊

Keys Jewish Community Center





Sunday, March 30, 2008 + 2:00 pm Actors Playhouse + Coral Gables Donation \$36 Call Bea Graham for tickets and information 852-0214

Nominated for 4 Tony Awards and has the potential to become the next Grease with its high energy, exuberant entertainment, bursting to life with music, romance, and dance. One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory, the FOOTLOOSE sound track was #1 on the billboard charts. Stage adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie and based on the original screenplay by Dean Pitchford, music by Tom Snow, lyrics by Dean Pitchford and additional music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins, and Jim Steinman.

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The Thirteenth Month

The Adar I / Adar II Mystery Explained

by Joel Pollack

here is much confusion associated with the lunar Jewish calendar, especially when a congregant purchases a *yahrzeit* plaque. They want to know whether to inscribe the Hebrew date or the English date. The English date may change from year to year but the Jewish date is always the same. For example, Hanukkah is always the 25th of *Kislev* even though it may appear on a different day each year on the solar, or Gregorian, calendar.

The Jewish calendar is based on three astronomical phenomena: the rotation of the Earth about its axis (a day); the revolution of the moon about the Earth (a month); and the revolution of the Earth about the sun (a year). These three phenomena are independent of each other, so there is no direct correlation between them. On average, the moon revolves around the Earth in about 29½ days. The Earth revolves around the sun in about 365¼ days, that is, about 12.4 lunar months.

The Gregorian calendar used by most of the world has abandoned any correlation between the moon cycles and the month, arbitrarily setting the length of months to 28, 30 or 31 days. The Jewish calendar, however, coordinates all three of these astronomical phenomena. Months are either 29 or 30 days, corresponding to the 29½-day lunar cycle. Years are either 12 or 13 months, corresponding to the 12.4 month solar cycle.

The lunar month on the Jewish calendar begins when the first sliver of moon becomes visible after the dark of the moon. In ancient times, the new months used to be determined by observation. When people observed the new moon, they would notify the *Sanhedrin* (the Jewish High Court). When the *Sanhedrin* heard testimony from two independent, reliable eyewitnesses that the new moon occurred on a certain date, they would declare the *rosh chodesh* (first of the month) and send out messengers to tell people when the month began.

The problem with strictly lunar calendars is that there are approximately 12.4 lunar months in every solar year. so a 12-month lunar calendar loses about 11 days every year and a 13-month lunar gains about 19 days every year. The months on such a calendar "drift" relative to the solar year. On a 12-lunar -month calendar, the month of Nissan, which is supposed to occur in the spring, would occur 11 days earlier each year. eventually occurring in the winter, the fall, the summer. and then the spring again. To compensate for this drift, an extra month was occasionally added. The month of Nissan would occur 11 days earlier for two or three years, and then would jump forward 29 or 30 days, balancing out the drift. In ancient times, this month was also added by observation. The Sanhedrin observed the conditions of the weather, the crops and the livestock, and if these were not sufficiently advanced to be considered "spring," then the Sanhedrin inserted an additional month into the calendar to make sure that *Pesach* would occur in the spring, on the full moon. (It is, after all, referred to in the Torah as Chag he-Aviv, the Festival of Spring!).

A year with 13 months is referred to in Hebrew as *Shanah Me'uberet*, literally, a pregnant year. The additional month is known as *Adar I, Adar Rishon* or *Adar Alef*. It is inserted before the regular month of Adar (known in such years as *Adar II, Adar Sheini* or *Adar Beit*). Note that *Adar II* is the "real" *Adar*, the one in which *Purim* is celebrated, the one in which *yahrzeits* for *Adar* are observed, the one in which a 13-year-old born in *Adar* becomes a Bar Mitzvah. *Adar I* is the "extra" *Adar*. \Diamond



Andrea Kluger poses with some of her new Kappa Delta pledge sisters at Nashville's Vanderbilt University. (That's Andrea second from right.)

The January 4th service saw the premiere of The Shabbatones (left to right): Linda Pollack, Susan Gordon, Musical Director and arranger Gloria Avner, and Yardena Kamely. They were supporting the guy in the middle as he led his first service.





On Tu B'Shevat

One of my favorite teaching stories is about a young boy watching an old man working hard digging a hole in which to plant an olive tree. The boy asks the man how long it will be before they can eat from the tree. The man says, "in about 70 years." The boy blurts out, "But you'll be dead." The man replies, "When I came into this world there were already fruit trees planted here for me."

The trees were ready, both the

Key Lime from my backyard and the avocado from Bea and Marty's. The pineapple was a bonus. Bags of fresh, wholesome dirt provided by the Werthamers lay on the ground. Anticipation filled the air.

Students brought every form of fruit, fresh and dried, pitted and seedless, to share, bless, thank, and eat. It was a birthday party, a New Year's celebration for the trees. The four glasses of grape juice—symbolic of the seasons, ranging in color from pure

white through rose to red—were blessed by our students' voices, and drunk. It was time to plant.

If I could use only one word to describe the core of all Jewish ceremony, I would choose the word "gratitude." (It was nearly a tie with "love," but that poor word has such a burden already, and somewhere deep, I suspect the two are synonymous). What are we really teaching our children? What are all the blessings and psalms really talking

the surface of the earth. All was present, but only "in potentia." It was only after *HaShem* created the first humans and placed them in *Gan Eden* that the true nature of our partnership appeared. Adam and Eve needed two intrinsic gifts, awareness/appreciation of the natural world and a sense of a force larger than themselves, in order to survive. They needed to pray for rain. Their prayers were heard. The rain came. The grass grew. The trees shot up. Fruit burst forth.

about? As Jews, we are always in partnership with the Creator. *HaShem* cannot live by bread (stars?) alone. The full act of creation requires cooperation. Literally.

I offer this story to the puzzled (and this reference to the learned: Rav Assi, Talmud, Chullin, 60b: it was put to parchment some 2500 years ago): On the third day of creation, all vegeta-

tion came into being—the trees, the grasses, flowers and weeds. But, according to this interpretation, none of it was higher than



hardship, but still, we, their "fruit," survive.) Back in our own garden, grownups join the children. More songs are sung. Generations

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join together in prayer, larger then their individual selves. The young trees, fruitless so far, are not unlike our young students, beautiful in their "potentia." We nourish the children as we nourish these plants, trusting that in years to come, their knowledge of these prayers, this language, this partnership, their memories, will sustain them and grow them good lives as members of the larger tribe: our community. All prayer is, at bottom, recognition of HaShem's bounty and thankfulness for it. (What, after all, does the word for Jewish people, "Yehudim," mean? It comes from the tribe Yehudah, but the root of that word is "hodah," from which we get the word "todah," or "thanks." Jewish people are "the ones who appreciate.") One day our avocados will grace a Shabbat dinner and our students will return to taste a "haimische" Key Lime pie. And we will all be appreciative for our blessings once again. -Gloria Avner

Scenes from KJCC's January 20th celebration of *Tu B'Shevat*: At left, the children plant a tree. Below, Bernie Ginsberg leads a prayer of gratitude. Herb and Elinor Grossman, just back from Toronto, are pictured at the seder that followed.





After the plantings on the KJCC grounds, teachers, students, parents and everyone else gathered to dance in appreciation of the bounty at hand and the precious bounty to come. Corey Wasser and Joe Beth, at right, are shown at the seder held in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall.



Visiting Family in Israel

By Linda Rutkin

A favorite bumper sticker: Not all who wander are lost.

This past September/October I returned to the wonderful land of Israel, in order to spend precious moments with many family members of my mother's sister and brother. The extra-special thing about this trip was to get acquainted with the newest member, Shira, who turned one year old while I was there. How very exciting that I got to attend all three of her wonderful birthday parties!

We traveled, and saw numerous interesting sites, for example the newest section of *Yad Vashem* (not to be missed!), Utopia Park (full of exquisite orchids) and Park Mini-Israel (the entire country on a small scale). The Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) Hula Valley, where Lake Agmon is located, has become an extremely popular international bird-watching site, where people Linda with cousin Ruthie at the Golan Heights. Below, Ruthie's son Yuval, right, alongside his cousin Matan.

gather to observe cranes on their annual migration between Europe and Africa in the autumn and vice-versa in the springtime. This area is also a place where farmers have learned to coexist with 30,000 cranes—naturally. In order to not have

In order to not have the cranes disturb the agriculture, by swooping down on the fields and damaging the crops, the farmers have set aside 175 acres for the birds. There they scatter two tons of corn kernels for the cranes each day during the winter months. They also flood the farmland, to drive the rodents up and out of the ground, which provides additional food for the birds and all the while enables them to control the rodent population, both things at the same time without the use of chemicals! A very good thing!

My cousin Ruthie, her husband Mati and I enjoyed a fun day at the monkey park in the Ben-Shemen Forest with the baby, and one





day experienced a very relaxing time at the *Hamei Ga'ash* kibbutz spa, which Mati said has more salt content than the Dead Sea!

Yet another day, Ruthie walked me through a most interesting town museum located in Ra'anana, the city in which they live. In its infancy it was referred to as "the little city of New York," because it was begun by 24 Zionists, mostly of European origin, who had gathered in New York and wanted to obtain land in Israel. The year was 1912.

We picnicked with another cousin, Ruthie's son Yuval, who is an army officer and stationed on the Golan Heights at the Syrian border. (Visits from home and family are always welcomed, and very much appreciated—especially when they include delicious homemade brownies.)

It was terrific to attend classes with Ruthie, who teaches arts and crafts, and we made decorations for the *Sukkot* in those classes. It was also great to go to exercise classes, to see how Pilates is done the Israeli way!

It truly was a FULL three weeks of pure fun and enjoyment with family, and as always I have returned with lots of nice memories to forever cherish. \Diamond

Top photo: Linda at the Rosh Hanikra border crossing into Lebanon. At bottom, Linda with first cousin Ilan (Ruthie's brother), his wife Shula and their son Eran.



Keys Jewish Community Center 5th Annual Women's Seclet

MONDAY APRIL 14, 2008 6PM @ KJCC Homemade Seder Dinner w/Wine

Limited seating - Contact Meredith at 451-3664 or maccline2@aol.com Donation \$15

Join us in celebration as we continue our efforts of Tikkun Olam - repair the world. Tzedakah donations are encouraged.



The Native Tourist

This is our first entry in a special series highlighting activities or attractions in South Florida that you may not have heard about. They are off the beaten path, off the tourist radar, or just off the wall. Keep them in mind if ever you are looking for a different diversion when family comes to visit, or even just for something to do on the weekend.

Our first stop: Knaus Berry Farm 15980 SW 248th Street Homestead, FL 33031 305-247-0668

Tucked away in the Redlands is a family-run farm stand with a delicious difference. Not only do they have beautiful u-pick tomatoes and strawberries, but they also have fresh baked goods and fabulous ice cream treats. Additionally, they feature a wide selection of seasonal vegetables, herbs and even fresh-cut flowers. But the lines you'll see snaking around the property on Saturday mornings are for two particular items—fresh baked, hot-out-of-the-oven cinnamon rolls and made-to-order milk shakes and ice cream sundaes.

The bakery here makes everything from breads to cakes to shoo-fly-pie. But the big sellers are their infamous cinnamon rolls. People buy them by the dozens. They carry them out in cardboard flats, aiming to take them home for Sunday breakfast, or to put them up in the freezer. But you'll see more than a few of these patrons sitting in their cars eating one or two (or five) of these



temptations before they can even make it home. Next up are the ice cream shakes and sundaes, which they make with their own strawberries, as well as the usual flavor and nut varieties. This berry farm even has homemade jams, jellies and honey.

A visit to Knaus Berry Farm makes for a nice drive through country scenery on a Saturday morning, and you get the added bonus of a tasty rest-stop once you're there. After you've had your ice

cream or cinnamon roll (or both), don't forget to get a loaf of bread and a dozen rolls for your freezer! ◊

IF YOU GO: They only take cash, so make sure you have some. They are open seasonally from Mid November through April, Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed Sundays.

COLLEGE DIARY

<u>Andrea</u>

This month's journal entry will be much more exciting, as I now have 170 new siblings! That's right, 170 new sisters—well, sorority sisters. I am a new member of the Kappa Delta chapter at Vanderbilt and couldn't be more excited about it. Greek life seemed pretty foreign when I came to Vanderbilt and rush took me for a whirlwind. A

whole week of sucking up to older girls was not something I thought I would ever partake in. Fortunately, I was accepted into the chapter that I have wanted to be in since the very beginning of school, because throughout my first semester I learned that KD girls are the most down-to-earth of all the sororities on campus.

After only a few days of officially being in Kappa Delta, I will tell you a little bit about what it is

like, or at least what I know so far. First of all, sororities at Vanderbilt are run very differently than they are at most schools. The houses are not as big as the ones at big state schools. There are six bedrooms within the houses, which belong to the officers of the sorority (president, VP, recruitment chair, etc.) and those are the only people who live there. At most other schools 50 people could live in the house. There are also a ridiculous amount of people who rush at Vanderbilt, and the number is growing. They estimated that 70 percent of girls in my freshman class rushed this year and there are 51 girls in my pledge class, where last year's pledge class, I believe, had 43.

We were initiated a few days ago in a very interesting ceremony. Everyone wore white and we walked around a special room in a very specific pattern while reading an oath and signing papers. So I am officially a



pledge. Now comes the two-month period where I am showered with gifts by my older sorority sisters. We have been given t-shirts, blankets, cups, bags, and of course I received some wonderful gifts from my amazing parents :). This week consists of us attending events like "Sundays with Sophomores," and

"Junk food with Juniors," to help us get to know everyone in our sorority.

Getting away from Greek life...school is great. I am actually taking classes that I enjoy, whereas last semester I was just trying to fulfill some requirements. All of my classes are incredible (with the exception of one), but my favorite is my American Government class. I have always been very interested in politics, and I would pretty much say that no matter

what the subject material is or who the professor is, any political science class would intrigue me. However, this particular class is special for two reasons. First of all it is election time, which means that everything we talk about in class serves a purpose and can be related to what we are reading in the news. It is soooo nice to listen to the thoughts and beliefs of my well-educated professor rather than watch....oh, I don't know...FOX!

But this class is special for another reason. You would assume that my American Government teacher would be American, right? Wrong. He is a cute little British guy! And let me tell you it is truly a privilege to hear just how our country is operated from someone who was not raised in our system.

Well, I am off now to take sorority pictures. They take graduation-looking pictures of us and then display our pledge class in a gigantic frame. Remember....GO $K\Delta$!!

<u>Suzie</u>

It's certainly been an amazing year. So much has happened: moved to a new city, started a



new life. I've met so many new people and learned about things that I had never before even contemplated. My life has become a busy bubble of school, studying, theatre, and college life. And I absolutely love it.

This past month has been a bit strenuous, though. After Thanksgiving and *Pippin*, I started gearing up for my winter vacation. But I had to get through finals first. After spending days studying for one test, I woke up the morning of only to find it had been postponed. I'm actually taking it on Monday. So that was a real bummer. There was so much snow in the city that weekend: I could have been skiing!

The day after my presumed test, I had my tonsils removed. My mom and family came up to take care of me and make life easier by allowing me to stay here instead of flying home. So I spent my winter break in New Hampshire quietly convalescing. My sister Kelley had just returned from the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, so we all had so much to catch up on.

There's really not much to tell about my break. I spent most of it on the couch, with ice cream and smoothies, my two best friends, keeping me company. I did manage to come down to the Keys for a couple of days before school started. Now I'm taking two classes and finishing up my exams. So, physically, not much has been going on. But in the past few weeks I've really been giving a lot of thought to my future.

I'm pretty much set on a Brain and Cognitive Sciences major, versus the Aerospace Engineering that I had intended at beginning of the year. I've found myself a mentor, one of my friends from the Theatre Guild, and planned the next couple of years out. As for my new major, well, there are actually lots of different concentrations. I personally am thinking about a neuroscience path. My interest is basically how the brain works on a cellular level. As part of my major, I have to take psych classes and learn about the behavioral and cognitive aspects of the brain, but I am more focused, right now, in the science of the brain: how the brain conveys messages and "talks" to the body, how it works, what makes it tick, that sort of thing.

I'm really getting excited about my future. It seems so bright, with no barriers except that I can't do everything at once. Maybe next Chanukah I'll ask for a couple extra limbs and brains :).

<u>Joe</u>

Hello once again. Spring term has begun and everyone is choosing classes. I am now taking English 2, college algebra, business intro and a marine biology class. I am really looking forward to this term's classes.

This semester's English class is one of my favorites this time, a

big improvement from last term's. I am constantly making new friends and I have no complaints regarding this term's classes or professors. Although I must say my algebra instructor does have a quirk, which is that he says the word



"what" way too much during his lectures. It got so out of hand that I started counting the number of times he said it. I counted 150 times during the 50 minutes we were there on the first day of class. Besides the "what" professor there really isn't much else I can say that is a negative about this term at all. But I will keep you informed in the Diary articles to come, as classes proceed. Well, I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe month. \diamond Reservations will be taken for members only until April 1 at which time it will be opened for others. Send your check early to confirm your place. Call Joan Boruszak at 852-0833 for information and reservations.



Sunday, April 20, 2008 6:30 pm Islamorada Fishing Club



Adults \$40 Children 12 and under are our guests.

New Year's Scrapbook

A look back at how KJCC members celebrated the New Year.

KJCC members filtered in and out of Michal Kamely's house on New Year's Eve. Among the revelers were Linda **Rutkin and** Cammie Berk. bottom left, and Bea Graham with granddaughter Liati Mayk, below right.





Chai-Lights columnist Medina Roy along with Liati, enjoying the buffet.

A Busy New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve Day was a fine four-act play for me. It started with a morning canoe ride through parts of Pennekamp with the skinniest trails I've ever paddled. Three times I had no choice but to flatten myself--not easy while still sitting on a seat (a water-borne "limbo" dancer) in order to make it through to clear waters. From Starfish Lane to Spoonbill Cove (um, don't look for these names on maps), we alternately paddled and lolled in breeze-filtered sun, reveling in nondoing and nature. Dinner with good conversation and a friend in a favorite cafe. The Kevs Conch House, was followed by a warm, semispontaneous get-together at the home of Michal Kamely. While there I saw a great variety of KICC drop-ins, young and old, all glowing and eager to share tales and food. I'd be happy if any one of these events became "annual" but all were firsts. The traditional party came last, the annual outrageous, riproaring music, food, and dance-filled extravaganza at the Feders', which seems to expand effortlessly to embrace all comers. Armed with creative noisemakers of wooden spoons and pot lids, revelers welcomed the New Year with gusto, though I do admit that being a single at midnight makes for a little

awkwardness, even among good friends. I was happy to spend the moment outside under the night sky, celebrating, with Orion.

New Year's Day at the Steinbocks' made for a warm, community-deepening start to the New Year. Many thanks, Steve and Carol.

-Gloria Avner

New Years Day. The maiden voyage of my first kayak. Yardena not only teaches Hebrew, she is an able instructor in kayaking. We had a dedication (Channukat Kayak), and named it Shannah, for the New Year. -Joyce Peckman



Our nonagenarian matriarch, Pauline Roller, along with KJCC Ritual Chairman Alan Beth at Alan and Candy's house party New Year's Day.

The Annual Islamorada New Year Blessing of the Fleet

Our theme for this year was Aloha Islamorada. It is a wonderful way to start the New Year. We have participated for ten years and loved every moment. What a great place to live and what fun we have. -Gene Silverman



There were about forty boats and three or four local clergy and myself, representing KJCC



and the local Jewish community. My blessings, delivered in both Hebrew and then English (translation courtesy of Michal and Yardena Kamely) included:

May it be thy will, our Father in heaven, that You guard this ship and crew from storm and tempest and grief. And may You bring forth from your storehouses a propitious wind to

> carry this ship and may You sustain and preserve those who sail it.

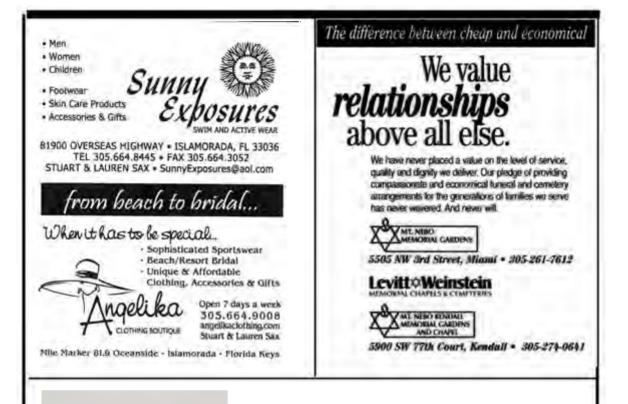
All the boats congregated one-half mile out from Whale Harbor Bridge. Each clergy and I delivered a

blessing over the VHF radio. Then the boats traveled in single file, following the Coast Guard boat, down to the bridge. As each boat passed, the clergy and I took turns delivering a blessing.

-George Swartz

Aboard Mort and Gene Silverman's AuSum II were Skip and Rene Rose, Bernie Ginsberg, Joel and Linda Pollack, and Elaine Schulberg.







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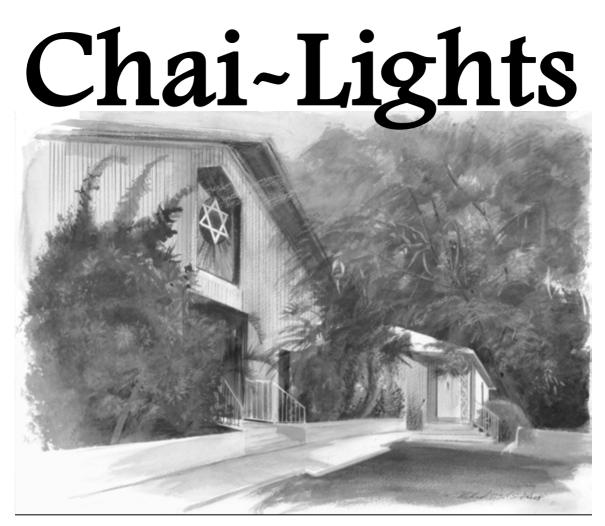
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March 2008

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Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com **March 2008**

24 Adar I - 24 Adar II

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th	Fri	S
Na	mes denote leade Italicized names a	ers of Friday servi are Oneg sponsors	ces. 5.			1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Gloria and Alan Bea & Marty Graham Toby & David Goldfinger Elinor & Herb Grossman	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Bernie Ginsberg Patricia & Henry Isenberg	1 5
16	17	18	19	20	21 5:30 Magillah Reading Joyce 7:30 Purim Play 8:00 Service by Jim Boruszak Suzanne & Michael Gilson Barbara Calev	2 2
23	24	25	26	27	28 6:30 Service Joyce Peckman	2 9
30	31				Gene & Mort Silverman Susan & Joseph Sachs	

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly newsletter of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070

Prosident's Message

Steve Steinbock

It has been a wonderful year for me. Last year I said I would try to fulfill the goals of the KJCC as stated in the bylaws – i.e. to improve, encourage & enrich the religious, educational and social lives of our local Jewish community. Thanks to our Board and the members of our congregation, we are achieving those goals.

Mark Wasser, our Executive VP, used his expertise to obtain lower insurance rates with better coverage. Vice President Alan Beth, our ritual chairman, computer guru, web master and e-mail maven, continues to work long and hard to make our services better. We can all thank Alan for bringing KJCC to the worldwide web. In addition, his work allows me to communicate by e-mail to every one of you.

Vice President Susan Gordon, together with Gloria Avner and Yardena Kamely, has increased enrollment in our Sunday School, and our children enliven all holiday celebrations. Treasurer Linda Pollack, with the capable assistance of financial secretary Rene Rose, continues to work tirelessly.

Thanks to house co-chairs Jim Boruszak and Marty Graham, our building now has new carpet in the sanctuary, roof repairs, a new butterfly garden and a repaired eternal light in the sanctuary. Yardena's Holocaust Committee created a haunting walkthrough display in our lobby last spring, seen not only by



members but also by many from the community at large.

Sisterhood, led by Joan Stark and Joyce Peckman, is the backbone of the KJCC, providing Shabbat dinners, fundraising events, Women's Seder and the second-night seder for the congregation. There would be no KJCC without Sisterhood.

Last November we had to say farewell to Joel Cohen, one of our founding members. I was saddened by his passing but moved by the love displayed by his family and friends.

As a result of fundraising efforts and generous donations of our board and general membership, we have new *bemah* covers, a new Torah crown, many new library books, a Powerpoint projector and last, but not least, funds added to our coffers. Financially, we are in good shape, but we must remain diligent to be sure we have the resources to meet our future needs.

On January 25th, we had a membership Shabbat dinner. Over 90 people attended the dinner and service. I am thrilled to say we had over a dozen nonmembers in attendance.

For a wonderful year of accomplishments, I wish to thank the Board of Directors, fellow officers, committee chairs, past presidents and our members, without whom none of the above would have happened.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to serve you for another year.

Steve Steinbock

Nosh

Second Seder Reservations

Planning has begun for the second Passover seder. The date is Sunday, April 20th, and the place is again the Islamorada Fishing Club. The cost is \$40 for all adults. Children 12 and under are free.

Reservations are limited to the first 100. We will accept reservations for members and their families only until April 10th. Then we will open reservations to visitors. It is never too early to make that reservation as we always fill up quickly. Please make your reservation by mailing your check to the KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

For further information, please call Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0833.

We Need Baskets

The Sunshine Committee—you know, those thoughtful few among us (all women, of course, as if that should surprise anyone) who deliver baskets of fruit and other goodies to other KJCC members who are ill or grieving—has asked us to tell you that they're running out of baskets. Without which they'll increasingly be hardpressed to, um, deliver baskets. So anyone who has baskets to donate, preferably mama-bear sized, please bring them any time KJCC is open, on Thursday or Friday night or Sunday morning. If that's not convenient, please call the KJCC at 852-5235 or e-mail

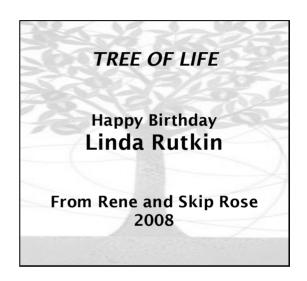
president@keysjewishcenter.com--and someone will arrange to pick them up.

Mend Quickly, Cammie

Many of you know Cammie Jayne (a.k.a. B'Hira HaBracha), Zoe Berk's little blonde imp. Cammie managed to break her wrist last month, and is on the mend. She would love to hear from KJCC members, especially anyone she knows from Sunday school. Your get- well wishes can be sent to : cammiejayne@aol.com.

New Members

The KJCC is pleased to welcome our newest members, Steve and Jane Friedman (with son Harry) of Key Largo, Bernard and Elaine Solas of Tavernier, and Jim and Rita Williams of Key Largo. We look forward to your active participation as members of our *mishpocha*.



Have You Shopped

At Sisterhood's gift display recently? Joan Boruszak has a good selection of quality items available there. It's located in the lobby of KJCC.

ROCK ON THE TREE OF LIFE

"Papajojo" Joel S. Cohen

Our "Rock" of wisdom, joy, faith, strength, courage

A blessing to his family and friends

A High Recommendation

Our son recently became engaged to his girlfriend of nearly three years. On Saturday, February 9 Jeremy and Kristen drove down from West Palm Beach to look at wedding rings and to have dinner with us before driving back to WBP. Just before dinner Jeremy noticed that one of his tires was nearly flat. Upon closer inspection we found a large sheet metal screw wedged into his rear tire. We refilled the tire and went out for dinner only to return to a deflated tire. What to do? It is Saturday night, all the service stations are closed and none will be open on Sunday.

We called Advance Auto Supply in Key Largo for information. They gave us the name of a couple of local mobile auto services that "might" come out on Sunday. One would be happy to do the job for well over \$100 CASH ONLY. The other said he would be there on Sunday morning at 9:30 and do the job for \$20!!! We took a chance on the \$20 offer and he showed up on time, did the job quickly and efficiently, paid him his quoted price along with a healthy tip, and the kids were on their way home in under thirty minutes.

Why do we share this with you? Because our new found friend, James Meek offered to assist us and any of our friends at any time. He drives a well stocked mobile service van and is based in Islamorada. If you are ever in need of tire repair or other minor automobile service, we strongly recommend James Meek. He can be reached at 305-393-3200. Good people are good to know.

-Stuart Sax

Ongoing Committees and Activities

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665.

KJCC *Tree of Life Leaves* and *Rocks*, *Sanctuary Seat Plates*, *Yartzeit Memorial Plaques*, *Bookplates* for siddurim. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF *Trees in Israel* - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Chai-Lights Mitzvah - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertising in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds: e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund.

Annual Fund Raiser

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the KJCC Annual Fund Raiser, which will be held at Elaine and Jerry Hirsch's home on Sunday, March 9, 2008. Brunch begins at 12:30 p.m. Food will be plentiful -- omelet stations, pancakes, lox and bagels and all the spreads, tomatoes, onions and capers to go with it. There will be fruit salad and desserts to top it off. Beverages include champagne, mimosas, Bloody Marys and screwdrivers.

We are selling raffle tickets for—our top prize—a Sharp 37" Aquos HD flat-screen television. Other raffle prizes include a Mariners Wellness Center mini-membership with one-hour massage, a "stem-cell facial" donated by Dr. Jamie Goodman, a gift certificate from the Banyan Tree, a pair of gold earrings donated by Joyce Peckman, a boat trip donated by Steve and Carol Steinbock, and breakfast at Mangrove Mike's Café.

Music will be provided by a trio of local talent—Kathy Buchanan, Cindy Hollingsworth and Yana Pate. Kathy and Cindy, accompanied by Yana on keyboard, will sing some oldies and some show tunes.

And last, but not least, a select group of local artists have donated hand-painted mezuzahs. The artists include John David Hawver, Stacie Krupa, Morna Strenghold, our own Gloria Avner and others. We will hold a silent auction during the brunch to auction these. These mezuzahs are one of a kind and certainly will become a valued addition to your home.

Tickets to the Brunch are \$50 per person. Raffle tickets are \$18 each or \$50 for four. Raffle tickets can be purchased even if you are not planning to attend the Brunch. Please contact Joan Stark at 305-394-2417 or Nancy Kluger at 305-393-2129 for additional information.

To Contact Chai-Lights

Use the new e-mail our webmaster Alan has added to the KJCC web site. It's chailights@keysjewishcenter.com. Please send all ideas, comments, and questions there, as well as all submissions. \Diamond

YARTZEIT PLAQUE

JOEL S. COHEN (YOEL SHIMON)

Thursday October 4th 2007 22 TISHREI, 5768

His acts of loving kindness are Blessings to all who shared his life.

BOOKPLATE

TO HONOR LINDA RUTKIN ON HER BIRTHDAY

by Joan and Jim Boruszak.

Mitzvah Mention

A swift recovery to Barbara Knowles from Lauren and Stuart Sax.

March Anniversaries

	Years
4 th Gloria & Robert Jay Auston	
24th Sylvia & Robert Berman	52
18th Carol & Alvan Field	20
25th Susan W & Joseph Goldberg	
14th Patricia & Henry Isenberg	
Ist Sheila & Jerry Ólsen	
7th Susan & Joseph Sachs	
24th Sherrie & Morris Willner	

Reservations will be taken for members only until April 1 at which time it will be opened for others. Send your check early to confirm your place. Call Joan Boruszak at 852-0833 for information and reservations.



Sunday, April 20, 2008 6:30 pm Islamorada Fishing Club



Adults \$40 Children 12 and under are our guests.

March Memoriam

By Marilyn Greenbaum In Blessed Memory of ARLENE R. BRENNER Eternal Rest

By Ron & Dorothy Horn In Blessed Memory of RUBIN BRESSICK Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

> By Maryann C. Azzato In Blessed Memory of E. PAUL CHARLAP Eternal Peace

By Gene & Gail Saks In Blessed Memory of ALBERT COHEN Forever In Our Hearts

By Larry & Judith Weber In Blessed Memory of DEBORAH EICHLER In Our Heart And Memory

By Alvan & Carol Field In Blessed Memory of MAURICE FIELD Always In My Memory

By Marty & Bea Graham In Blessed Memory of SELMA GREENSPAN Rest In Peace

By the Blumberg Family In Blessed Memory of HERB HELSTEIN Rest In Eternal Peace By Robert & Eileen Hermann In Blessed Memory of LOUISE HERMANN Always In Our Memory

By Gerald & Elaine Hirsch In Blessed Memory of DOROTHY HIRSCH In Our Memory Always

By Ron & Dorothy Horn In Blessed Memory of ANNA HORN Long ,Blessed Sleep

By Linda Rutkin In Blessed Memory of FRANK IDESTONE We Remember Always

By Mollie Gross In Blessed Memory of HANNA GROS KLEIN With Loving Remembrance

By Michael Klimpl In Blessed Memory of MARIAN ROSE KLIMPL Sleep In Peace

By James & Joan Boruszak In Blessed Memory of ROBERT KOHLENBRENER Remembered With Love

By Arnold & Gale Lang In Blessed Memory of HERSCHEL LANG Forever Remembered With Love By Skip & Rene Rose In Blessed Memory of CISSIE ROSE LANG Always Remembered

By Michal Kamely In Blessed Memory of RACHAMIM LEVY Always Remembered With Love

> By Lillian Lippman In Blessed Memory of JENNIE LIPPMAN Rest in Blessed Peace

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies In Blessed Memory of OSCAR MARGULIES Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich In Blessed Memory of FLORENCE PATTERSON Always Loved and Missed

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg In Blessed Memory of HARRY PHILLIPS Eternal Rest

By George & Muriel Swartz In Blessed Memory of ABE M. REIDER Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Robert & Sylvia Berman In Blessed Memory of HARVEY ROAZEN Eternal Peace By Milton & Claire Geller In Blessed Memory of MORRIS SHORE In Our Memory Always

By Alan Beth & Candy Stanlake In Blessed Memory of DOROTHY STANLAKE Long, Blessed Sleep

By Stephen & Carol Steinbock In Blessed Memory of THERESA STEINBOCK We Remember Always

By Mel & Blanche Taks In Blessed Memory of IRVING TAKS With Loving Remembrance

By Robert & Susan Temkin In Blessed Memory of ANNE TEMKIN Sleep In Peace

By Larry & Judith Weber In Blessed Memory of ALICE WEBER Remembered With Love

By Dick & Rita Bromwich In Blessed Memory of LOUIS ABRAHAM WEINSTEIN Forever Remembered With Love

By Eric & Ruth Schraeder-Grace In Blessed Memory of LOUIS WEINSTEIN Always Remembered By Jerry & Sheila Olsen In Blessed Memory of LOUIS WEINSTEIN Always Remembered With Love

By Sheldon & Carole Weiss In Blessed Memory of IDA WEISS Rest in Blessed Peace

By William & Barbara Weprin In Blessed Memory of EDITH WEPRIN Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich In Blessed Memory of TILLIE ZALMANOVICH Always Loved and Missed

March Birthdays

Gloria Auston	24
Sylvia Berman	25
Denise Blumenthal	
Allan Boruszak	15
Barbara A. Calev	
Michelle E. Denker	27
Lynn Dils	23
Śasha Dutton	
Hannah Feig	
Eva Faust	
Stephanie Gilderman	3
Toby Goldfinger	
Sari Eliz. Goldstein	
Bill Gordon	6
Alvin J. Gottlieb	
Eric Grace	18
Bea Graham	6
Doug Graham	
Marty Graham	
Laurence Green	
Heath Greenbaum	
Anthony A. Gutierrez	30
-	

Eileen Hermann	13
Allen Holbrook	8
Kate Horowitz	
Seth Horowitz	14
Pearl Jacobs	
Melvin L. Jacobson	1
Barbara Kantor	
Erwin Kantor	21
Adam Karron	26
Lois S. Kaufman	21
Benjamin K. Kwalick	
Jenna Lane	
James Nobil, Jr	
Steven Nobil	
Janet Palacino	20
Joseph Palacino	21
Michelle Palacino	19
Joel Pollack	29
Carl Roy	
Susan Sachs	20
Bryan Schur	11
Lee Schur	
Benjamin Schwaid	17
Nicole Sherman	2
Stephen Steinbock	3
Roger Vorcheimer	28
Johanna Willner	
Marcia Wolf	

Mishebeyrach List

For those of you not regularly at services, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. If you can't be at services, and would like someone you care about to be included in the *mishebeyrach* prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 852-5235. The web site, which accepts email, is keysjewishcenter.com.

Keys Jewish Community Center





Sunday, March 30, 2008 + 2:00 pm Actors Playhouse + Coral Gables Donation \$36 Call Bea Graham for tickets and information 852-0214

Nominated for 4 Tony Awards and has the potential to become the next Grease with its high energy, exuberant entertainment, bursting to life with music, romance, and dance. One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory, the FOOTLOOSE sound track was #1 on the billboard charts. Stage adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie and based on the original screenplay by Dean Pitchford, music by Tom Snow, lyrics by Dean Pitchford and additional music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins, and Jim Steinman.

8. Chai-Lights March 2008

YEDA - Knowledge Yardena Kamely



Jewish Women and Jewish Values

Studying from the Torah and Talmud, we learn about Jewish values. Reading the stories of Jewish heroes, from the Bible and modern Jewish history, teaches us Jewish values another way, through the lives of men and women whose actions and choices make them Jewish role models. On *Purim* we are reading the *Meguilat Esther*, Book of Esther, the story of a woman who by revealing herself as a Jew risks her life on behalf of the Jewish people. Her actions reflect the *mitzvah of K'lal Israel*, Jewish solidarity.

Esther is one of many extraordinary Jewish women. In modern times, the role of Jewish women in building the State of Israel has been substantial, and a story of contributions of influential women in a wide variety of fields. From the heroism of Hannah Senesh in the Holocaust, to the creativity of Leah Goldberg, the leadership of Golda Meir, the founding of health care by Henrietta Szold and the contribution of women to the Israeli Defence Force, come thousands of stories, each unique and fascinating.

I raised my children far from Israel, so teaching them Hebrew became a very important task for me. Hebrew was essential to their communication with my family, their connection to Israel and their Jewish identity. Reading stories in Hebrew seemed to me a good way to teach and educate. I chose to read with them children's books by one of my favorite writers, Leah Goldberg (1911– 1970). Her story is one of those stories of extraordinary women.

When Leah Goldberg was a teenager in

Lithuania, she began studving Hebrew. As a voung adult, she studied German and Semitic languages, and earned a Ph.D. In the early 1930s, facing increasing anti-Semitism in Lithuania, she decided to emigrate to Israel. Like many other *olim*—immigrants—Leah Goldberg found it difficult to adjust to her new homeland. She began to write poetry that expressed her feelings, and soon became one of Israel's most popular poets. She had an excellent ear for the language of the heart, and her poetry for children expressed their needs and desires. She worked as a school teacher, and today her poetry is part of the national school curriculum. Her "adult" poems have provided lyrics for a number of hit songs in modern Israel.

"On the Blossoming," Goldberg's fourth volume of poetry and one of her best-known works, was published in 1948. The poems reflect the tremendous hardship and trauma faced by the Jewish people. She described the new State of Israel as a place of suffering and great happiness at the same time. Her poetry sometimes interweaves lines from the Bible, especially from the Psalms, Judges and Kings, evoking timeless emotions such as commitment, love and connection.

Goldberg was on the staff of several magazines. She eventually became editor of a literary magazine and served on the staff of a popular children's magazine, where she later became a children's book editor. She became a professor of comparative literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1952 and taught there until her death in 1970. \Diamond

Keys Jewish Community Center 5th Annual Women's Seclet

MONDAY APRIL 14, 2008 6PM @ KJCC Homemade Seder Dinner w/Wine

Limited seating - Contact Meredith at 451-3664 or maccline2@aol.com Donation \$15

Join us in celebration as we continue our efforts of Tikkun Olam - repair the world. Tzedakah donations are encouraged.



World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Tom Lantos, R.I.P

Rep. Tom Lantos, the Democratic chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs died on Feb.11 at the age of 80. Lantos served 14 terms in the House. Born in Budapest, he twice escaped from a forced labor camp, the second time finding safety in an apartment rented by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. His experience as the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress shaped his strong support for human rights. In 2006, he and several other members of Congress were arrested, willingly, for protesting outside the Sudanese Embassy in Washington to denounce the government's role in the killings in Darfur. Lantos once said, "It is only in the United States that a penniless survivor of the Holocaust and a fighter in the anti-Nazi underground could have received an education, raised a family and had the privilege of serving the last three decades of his life as a member of Congress. I will never be able to express fully my profoundly felt gratitude to this great country." (washingtonpost.com, 2-12-08)

NASCAR Driver Wrapped in Tefillin

Race car driver Jon Denning, 20, from Springfield, NJ, admits he's never been a very spiritual person. That seems to have changed after putting on tefillin and standing before the Western Wall while on a tenday Birthright Israel tour. "After spending time with soldiers and talking with people on the street...they have inspired me to stay strong to my Jewish roots," said Denning. Denning, who attended a Conservative synagogue while growing up, competes in the lower-echelon Whelen All-American Series. (*The Forward, 1-16-08*)

Ms. Magazine Rejects AJC Ad

A decision by Ms. magazine to reject a full -page advertisement featuring three prominent Israeli women has lewish leaders condemning the action and urging people to write, call or e-mail the feminist publication to register complaints. The ad, submitted by the American Jewish Congress, features photographs of three women who hold leadership positions in Israel: Dorit Beinisch, the president of the Israeli Supreme Court, Tzipi Livni, Israel's foreign minister, and Dalia Itzik, speaker of the Knesset. Underneath the photos, the ad reads, "This is Israel." AJC president Richard Gordon said, "For a magazine that... has stood for empowerment and supporting women in high positions of society, it was just stunning. Clearly, there is an anti-Israel sentiment here...because there is no other possible rationale for making a decision like this." Kathy Spillar, executive editor of Ms. said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) that the ad was rejected "because 2 of the women were from the same political party... we understood it as political endorsement. Ms does not get involved in the domestic politics of other countries." Gordon called the argument "specious," saying that in any parliamentary democracy, the foreign minister and parliament leader are going to be from the same party. (The New York Sun, 1-11-08)

Library Desks Cause Community Uproar

More than a dozen congregants at the nearby Orthodox synagogue have complained about the setup of the study desks in the new \$10 million West Hempstead New York Public Library. The desks are in a configuration that resembles a swastika, though the arms of the desks face counterclockwise. actually forming the shape of an ancient symbol that has many meanings, including good fortune. The library board of trustees, three of whom are Orthodox Jews, discussed the "pinwheel" design in advance noting that it makes the best use of space and provides privacy. The original ancient symbol has been used for over 3,000 years. It represented good luck and prosperity in some ancient cultures and has been found among many races, religions and cultures, from Buddhists to Aztecs, Before WW II. Hitler adopted the symbol but demanded that the arms point clockwise and it came to be the symbol of his Nazi party. Buddhists have said that inverting the arms signifies a turning away from G-d, and since then it has become synonymous with anti-Semitism. (newsday.com, 2-2-08)

Tourism To Israel Soars

According to Israel's tourism commissioner, the number of foreign tourists visiting Israel jumped 25 percent in 2007 (529,000 visitors) from the year before. The previous record year was 1999. About 25percent of all tourists to Israel come from the U.S. While some Americans go to connect with their Jewish heritage, as many as a third are Christian, with itineraries that include sites connected to the New Testament. (*Miami Herald, 2-1-08*)

A Market For World Class Wines

Near Israel's border with Lebanon and Svria, the Golan Heights Winerv, established in 1983, is credited with remaking the Israeli wine industry. It has slowly transformed Israel's reputation as a maker of unexciting. syrupy kosher brands to a producer of world -class, award-winning wines that appeal to sophisticated international consumers. Best known as the contentious area Israel captured from Syria during the Six-Day war in 1967, the Golan Heights is territory that is still claimed by Syria today. Located in the village of Katzrin, the state-of-the-art winery generated sales of \$30 million in 2007. Winemaking in Israel dates back to biblical times, however it all but ceased following

the rise of Islam in the 7th century when Muslim leaders banned alcohol. Serious winemaking resumed in 1882, when French philanthropist Baron Edmond de Rothschild began underwriting agricultural settlements in the region. The turning point came in 1972 when wine expert Cornelius Ough visited and surveved Israel and concluded that the Golan Heights would produce high quality wine. In 1987. the winerv's Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon Blanc received the Winarsky Trophy for Best Cabernet Sauvignon Worldwide at the London International Wine & Spirit Competition, making it the 1st major prize for an Israeli wine and earned the winery global recognition. (Business Week, 1-16-08)

Jewish Films Chase Oscar

Two films with lewish themes were in the running for Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film category. For the first time in 24 years, Israel was represented at the 2008 Academy Awards ceremony on February 24th. Israel's entry Beaufort and Austria's The Counterfeiters were among the 5 films nominated. Beaufort, a war movie, tells of a how a small Israeli unit evacuated the medieval Beaufort fortress in the first Lebanon War. In The Counterfeiters, the Nazis use dozens of skilled lewish craftsmen to create perfect counterfeits of British & U.S. currency in a last-ditch effort to destroy the economies of the two allies. The Year My Parents Went on Vacation, another Jewish-themed foreign film from Brazil, was among the nine semifinalists in the category but did not make the final cut. The last time an Israeli director was acknowledged by the Academy for a best foreign language film was in 1984, when *Beyond* the Walls was nominated. (*jta.org*, 1-22-08)

Miles Lerman

Miles Lerman, an instrumental figure in the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, died in January at the age of 88. He was chairman of the campaign that raised \$190 million needed to build, equip and endow the museum. Born in Poland, Lerman was arrested and forced to work in a labor camp in 1941 from which he later escaped. For almost two years Lerman was a leader in organized armed resistance against the Nazis in the forests surrounding Lvov. He and his wife immigrated to the US in 1947.

Lerman faced opposition from the museum's director yet pushed for the museum, whose original design did not include artifacts, to be a repository of artifacts and archives. Once the artifacts began to arrive – the railroad car of the type used to transport Jews to Treblinka, the shoes from Majdanek, canisters that stored Zyklon B, barracks from Birkenau and many more – the magnitude of the artifacts soon won over Lerman's former detractors. (*The Forward, 1-23-08*)

Scientific Distinction

Three Israeli researchers from Tel Aviv University were recognized on a list of the world's 50 most influential scientists for 2007. Professor Eshel Ben-Jacob and his assistant, Dr. Itay Baruchi, were chosen for their research into the brain's cognitive functions, while Professor Beka Solomon was recognized for her work on a nasal spray that could potentially cure Alzheimer's disease. The distinctions were compiled in the year-end issue of *Scientific American*, considered one of the world's leading science magazines.

(Dateline: World Jewry, February, 2008)

Pieces of History For Sale

lewish law states that when a Torah scroll is so faded or damaged that it can no longer be used, it must be buried. But Sam & Deborah Gliksman hope to bring new life to the scrolls by putting them on display and offering them up for sale. Spiritual Artifacts, their California-based company, takes fragments of ancient Torah scrolls and frames them in handmade museum cases using acid -free, museum-guality archival material. The concept developed when their son and his friends were at the age of bar mitzvah in 2006. "We were constantly searching for gifts that...were unique, that would be consistent with the spiritual meaning of the occasion. Wouldn't it be nice to present them

with the identical Torah portion on an antique Torah scroll?" The Gliksmans were very careful to adhere to *halacha*. The rabbis they consulted saw no problem with framing pieces of the Torah, as long as they are preserved and show *kavod* (respect) for the Torah. The Gliksmans have collected scrolls that are 200-500 years old and cost anywhere from \$375 to \$1,250. Popular portions include the 10 Commandments, The 10 Plagues, the Exodus from Egypt and Creation. (*The Forward, 1-30-08*)

Auschwitz Jewelry

In January, 13 pieces of an unusual jewelry collection were unveiled at the Armenian Library & Museum of America in Watertown. Mass. The jewels earned their place in the museum not because of their value, but rather for the journey they've been through. At age 27. Mever Hack was deported to Auschwitz in 1941. His assignment was to work in the area where the clothing of inmates was taken before the inmates were led to the gas chambers. Periodically, during his four years in the camp. Hack would find jewelry, manage to hide it, and, after surviving the camps, he hid the collection in his attic. He kept the iewels and their story to himself until two years ago. Now 92, Hack has decided to show the iewelry to the world. After the initial display in Watertown, the jewels will move to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel. (The Forward, 1-23-08)

Nano-Bible

Scientists at Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology recently inscribed the entire Hebrew text of the Bible onto a silicon surface smaller than a crystal of sugar. The exercise, part of a science called nanotechnology, is meant to raise public interest in the physics and electronics behind storing data in the smallest amount of space. A nanometer is equal to one millionth of a millimeter, and can only be observed through a special electron microscope. (Dateline: World Jewry, February 2008) \diamond

Eye On The Arts Gloria Avner



6 hope everyone had the opportunity to sample some of the great art fare offered to us last month by our increasingly cultureconscious community. I saw KICC people at the Lichtenstein exhibit and Chocolate Festival at Fairchild Gardens. at art shows. at SFCA's fabulously entertaining and inspiring Arvel Bird Concert, I.C.E's Paco Pena Flamenco Performance (a visual and auditory treat no one should have missed), and of course at SFCA's breathtaking production of "La Boheme." (Did everyone notice our own KJCC luminaries gracing the stage in the bistro scene? Bravo. If you've ever seen or heard "Spamalot," you know you gotta have Jews.) And then there were the brilliant I.C.E. Shakespeare productions. I saw "Taming of the Shrew" and can attest, along with the Shurs, the Swartzes, Joyce, Bubbe Linda, Zoe. Cammv. the Levvs. Klugers. Susie and Nyan Feder, Sam, Lisa and David Rutherford, and all those I did not see, that this was an unforgettable, top quality, highly entertaining production. Then there was SFCA's "Yesterday," the Beatles Tribute raising funds to bring artists into the schools. and I.C.E's areat musical performers Pierre Bensusan (auitar) and Michael Pickett (blues). Words fail. Let's support the people who support enrichment of our lives with these quality offerings. So many of the people doing the behind-the-scenes work are our own KICC members. Let's continue to buy tickets and donate extra support funds whenever we are able, to South Florida Center for the Arts (sfca-arts.ora) and Islamorada Community Entertainment (keysice.com). Here are the art and performance offerings for March:

Saturday, March 1:

"Chairs for Charity." Painted and decorated chairs by the gallery's artists. Artist reception 5 - 7:30 p.m. The Artists Gallery at DeClue's Fine Art Printing and Framing, Tavernier Towne Shopping Center, MM 91.3, Tavernier. 852-4840.

March 1-11:

Dave & Nyan play the Zihuatenejo International Guitar festival in Mexico.

Monday, March 3:

Middle Keys Concert Association presents Camerata Bariloche String Orchestra. \$20. Under 19 yrs Free. 7:30 p.m. San Pablo Church, 122nd St., Marathon. 743-4687.

Thursdays - Saturdays, March 6 - April 5: ME AND MY GIRL by Noel Gay. \$24. 8 p.m. Marathon Community Theatre, MM 49.5 Overseas Hwy., Marathon. 743-0994. marathontheater.org

***Saturday, March 8:

South Florida Center for the Arts Concert Series presents Stanislaw Drzewiecki, pianist. 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. 304-9059. sfca-arts.org (G note: This man is a young Polish virtuoso who is on the cusp of a brilliant career. We will be glad to be able to say we saw him when he was still a teenager.) This is the last SFCA concert of the season. Come buy raffle tickets for great prizes including a sunset sail private champagne cruise for 40!! All drawings will be held tonight. Saturday, March 8 - Sunday, March 9: Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival. Lorelei Restaurant Field, MM 81 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada. 289-7656.

***Friday, March 14 - Saturday, March 15: South Florida Center for the Arts presents St. Patrick's Day Irish Festival. Parade, high tea, concert, traditional foods and more. Key Largo Civic Club, 209 Bay Drive (MM 99 Overseas Hwy.), Key Largo. 304-9059. sfcaarts.org (G note: a particularly fun-filled event for families with children; they'll enjoy arts projects, parade, et al. Brisket by any other name: corned beef and cabbage. A great celebration of Spring.)

Friday and Saturday, March 14-15:

Green Turtle 8-11 p.m. **Dave Feder per**forms. (A group of us caught his show after shul one night and after Shakespeare the next. Needless to say it was great enough to warrant repeat attendance. Talent, verve, versatility, and entertainer/educator panache well beyond expectation.)

Sunday, March 16th:

Cheeca Lodge Brunch, 11:30-2:30; Dave Feder performs

Sunday, March 16th:

First Ever Jewish Heritage Festival is being held at the News Journal Center in Daytona Beach from 11:00a.m.-5:00p.m. The festival is being organized by a consortium of nine Jewish organizations in the area. This festival will have two stages of entertainment featuring performers such as Shalom Y'All! The Jewish Docs of Dixieland and Cantor Zev and Cantor Becky. Kosher and Kosher-style food, Israeli and Judaica artists and vendors, and exhibits including a Holocaust Memorial and Jewish Hall of Fame. Children's entertainment available throughout the day. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call 386-316-3626 or e-mail Cyndi Brown at cbrown@garyyeomansford.com

Tuesday-Saturdays, March 18 - April 12: SYLVIA by A.R. Gurney. Directed by Joy Hawkins. 8 p.m. Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval St., Key West. 296-9911. redbarntheatre.org.

Friday and Saturday, March 21 -22: Green Turtle 8-11 p.m.; Dave Feder performs

Sunday, March 23rd:

CheecaLodge Brunch. Dave Feder performs from 11:30- to 2:30

Sundays & Mondays, March 23 -31: VAGINA MONOLOGUES by Eve Ensler. Directed by Carole MacCartee. 8 p.m. Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval St., Key West. 296-9911. redbarntheatre.org.

***Saturday, March 22:

I.C.E. presents "Dancing with Our Island Stars." 7 p.m. TIB Amphitheater, Founder's Park, MM 87 Bayside, Plantation Key. 853-5988. (G note: This is an event not to be missed. I saw it last year and it was a fun-filled hoot. Hilarious, warm, inspiring, local entertainment. Support your favorites and prepare to be excited. This event is effectively and gracefully spearheaded by KJCC's own Nancy Kluger.)

Saturday, March 22 - Sunday, March 23: Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival. Robbie's Marina, MM 77.5 Overseas Hwy., Lower Matecumbe. 664-3571.

Friday and Saturday, March 28-29: Green Turtle 8-11 p.m. Dave Feder performs.

Saturday, March 29:

Keys Community Concert Band outdoor concert. "Florida Heritage Concert." Bring blankets, lawn chairs. Free. 4 p.m. Islamorada Founders Park, MM 87, Bayside, Plantation Key. 853-7294. keyscommunityconcertband.org.

Sunday, March 30th:

CheecaLodge Brunch. Dave Feder Performs 11:30-2:30 ◊

Sisterhood of the **Keys Jewish Community Center** cordially invites you to attend their annual fund raiser...

5. 1.20 0 1

"Champagne **Bubbles** and Nova Dreams

Sunday, March 9, 2008, 12:30 pm

Brunch at the home of

Elaine and Jerry Hirsch 88663 Old Highway

Tavernier, Florida

Please respond by February 28, 2008

Dress Keys Casual

Selle Do

S

Sisterhood Joan Stark



S halom! What a wonderful and eventful year we are having! January brought us a special Shabbat dinner that was also an open house to welcome any Jewish families in the community who wanted to see what we were all about. This event was sponsored by the Rakovs. We had a huge turn out and there was also a Shabbat service that showcased the talents of our own Alan and Gloria! So far we have two new member families.

Bea's theater outing of "Altar Boyz" in Miami was enjoyed by all and the next show, "Footloose" is scheduled for March 30th.

Another year has come full cycle at the KJCC and Steve Steinbock, president, lead our general meeting. Installation of officers was officiated by Carol and we thank you for that! A lovely lunch followed.

The big event of the year is March 9, 2008. Hopefully, you have purchased your tickets and raffle tickets for "Champagne Bubbles and Nova Dreams." This is our major fundraiser and we need your support to accomplish all the things we do. A brunch will be held at the home of Gerry and Elaine Hirsch and we expect it to be a very special day.

Still coming up to finish off the season is a Shabbat Purim dinner on March 21st, the Women's seder on April 14th and the Annual Second Night Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club on April 20th. Please contact Joan Boruszak for Second Seder tickets as they go quickly! Joan also runs our small but important gift shop and is happy to fulfill your Judaica shopping needs.

It's never too late to get involved with the Sisterhood. We have so much to do and talk about and all are welcome! See you at the next meeting on Sunday, March 2nd, 2008.

Fashion Show Report

This year the Sisterhood fashion show was marked by innovation and change in quite a few ways. The new location, at Outback, pleased those of us who live near lower mile markers. The luncheon served there – Caesar salad, then salmon, chicken or vegetable plate, followed by cheesecake, made the rest of us happy with the change.

Our brave and glamorous models this year included our illustrious President and VP – no, not Bush-Cheney, but Steinbock-Wasser, who showed us the latest in casual menswear. Sofy Wasser, Mary Lee Singer, Rene Rose, Roberta McNew and Zoe Berk strutted their stuff in beachwear, casual wear and gorgeous dresses. Vanna White – eat your heart out! Some of the memorable accessories included a jazzy cowboy hat, evening bag carved in the shape of an old-style phone, and sandals with switchable tops.

Lauren and Stuart Sax worked the dressing room and the microphone, not to mention setting up and developing the whole show. Stop by and see them, and more amazing fashion, at Angelika's new location, combining with Sunny Exposures on the bay side at 81900 O/S Hwy. Thanks for a wonderful show. *–Joyce Peckman*

This year's KJCC Sisterhood Luncheon and Fashion Show was the best ever, from our perspective. The location was new, the meal delicious and, despite the seating in booths, everyone was able to see the fashions close up. The fashions presented ranged from resort casual to beach bridal.

It was our sincere pleasure to participate again in this wonderful fund-raising event for the Sisterhood. --Stuart & Lauren Sax

COLLEGE DIARY

<u>Suzie</u>

Since last I wrote, I have been enjoying MIT's Independent Activity Period, which is basically an optional trimester for the month of January. I was actually taking two classes that ran over from fall semester, so I was quite

busy, but not too much so. With a lighter weight than a regular semester I had time to try some new things. Most of our dining halls were closed for IAP, so my friends and I started a dinner rotation. I tried, and often failed miserably, to cook things that I had seen my mom make at home. It never turned out quite right, but it was definitely edible.

Our weekends were pretty much our own, so naturally we turned to the snow. We drove up

one weekend to Maine to go skiing in Sunday River. That was an adventure. We happened to choose the coldest single day of the season, the top of the mountain reading around -2 degrees F. But the mountain was empty and we had a great time. On the way home though. we hit a ditch and bent a wheel, which caused a flat. So--picture this--the four of us, college students from Boston, sitting on the side of the road, four degrees outside, trying to change a tire. It turned out that AAA couldn't help us and we had to drive home on a donut. The three-hour drive turned out to take four and a half hours. At the time, it was a bit scary, being in the middle of nowhere with no one to really turn to and having to problemsolve practically by ourselves for the first time. But none of us picked up the phone to call our parents until after we were underway. We were so proud of ourselves.

So besides enjoying myself, I have also been working hard. The two classes I finished during IAP ended up being pretty challenging:



Calculus II and Newtonian Physics. But, with the finals out of the way, I passed all of my classes with mostly B's, one A and one C. This past Tuesday our new semester started. I cannot even begin to express my excitement. I'm taking Biology with a concentration in dis-

> eases and immunities, Organic Chemistry, Differential Equation, and Intro to Psychology. My first day in Bio pretty much convinced me that I had made a good choice changing majors and I was enthralled by everything that came out of the professor's mouth.

I've also managed to get a UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunity) in the Operations Research Center. I am participating in a project that is trying to create a mathematical model for what is the best treatment for each

different type of cancer. We will basically be researching what methods have already been used, with the resulting blood toxicity levels and mortality rates and mathematically plotting which had the best results. I'm superexcited. Our findings will be posted on the Internet, open to the public. We're hoping it will aid them in getting the best care possible without having to spend extra money on treatments that haven't actually been proven to work.

So that's basically my life right now. I'm throwing myself into second semester headfirst. It's going to be a great couple of months.

<u>Andrea</u>

Ever since pledging a sorority, I have felt that my free time is practically nonexistent.

We have chapter meetings once a week, new member meetings once a week, rush meetings once a week, some sort of social event once a week, some sort of philan-



thropy event once a week (if not more) and throughout all of this there is still school.

My sorority had our first party last weekend and the theme was "You are what you eat." People dressed in all sorts of interesting outfits, including

bananas, cupcakes, grapes, and even Ronald McDonald. Three of my friends and I decided to interpret the theme as "You are what you drink" and dressed as the "Fanta" girls from the commercials.

Last weekend a big group from my sorority went on a road trip down to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. We shopped, went to see the Mississippi River, and even enjoyed some Cajun and Creole food. One of the girls has friends who go to Tulane, so were able to meet up with them so they could show us the city, which was very packed and crazy. By the time Sunday rolled around we were more than ready to head back to Nashville.

This week I have two quizzes, a midterm, and a paper due. Fun, right? We also have Dance Marathon on Friday, which is an ongoing event to raise money for the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Dance Marathon is the grand finale of fund-raising and support for the hospital, which have been going on all semester. We are there from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. (yes, all night), which will be a great finish to my busy week. However, Friday also marks exactly two weeks before I fly back home to enjoy spring break with three of my Vanderbilt friends, my family, and of course the warm weather :)

<u>Joe</u>

I am now currently taking Business 101. English 2, Marine Biology and College Algebra. Unlike last half, this semester started off on a really good note. For one, I am exploring how a business is run (in case I want to run my own business). On a side note, a man by the name of Ray Fernandez came into our business class and gave a mini-lecture on the current economic situation of the United States. Mr. Fernandez also spoke to us about how to approach and start up your own business. He started one, and now has a staff of twenty brokers who work for him. He explained everything from choosing the right clients to how to establish a good partnership with other well-established companies. The lecture was a nice change of pace and I greatly appreciated the advice and guidelines I received from it

I am also enjoying both my English class and my Marine Biology class very much. Marine Biology has been a strong interest of mine for many years and I am pretty certain now that is the field I want to major in.

My English class is totally different from the English 1 class I took last semester. For one thing, the professor is relaxed this time. For instance, we were writing and analyzing poems and, I have to say, for someone that wasn't very good at writing poems I nailed it.



So far this semester has been a blast! I have no complaints whatsoever, and, on top of all this, on the week of Valentine's Day, our Marine Biology class went out to Everglades National Park and did some volunteer work, helping relocate some invasive plants species out of Anhinga Trail. It was hard and sweaty labor but it was all worth it. I am hoping to help the park out again at the end of February with surveys down at Flamingo.

I'll see you next month. For now, take care and get out there! \Diamond

Food Allergies Why your diet might not be working.

By Erica Garrett, D.C.

It's the new year and we all begin with good intentions. We resolve to lose weight, eat healthier, exercise more, and take better care of ourselves. We know what we are supposed to eat, and why it is important to exercise. So why is it that year after year so many of us still do not feel any better?

Too many of you have switched to whole grains, eat low fat, reduced your red meat,

and eat more fruit and vegetables, yet still you suffer various health maladies.

Most people understand the health hazards of eating foods that are high in fat, sugar, and white flour, but there is still a missing link. Only recently have scientists discovered

what this is. What is the hidden cause of weight gain and deteriorating health? Food allergies and sensitivities!

People who are allergic and sensitive to foods, environmental toxins, additives and molds are familiar with the reactions of *immediate-onset* allergies, symptoms ranging from sneezing to hives to severe anaphylactic shock. I have had allergies all my life, and have always been very careful about what I eat and what I expose myself to. Even so, over the past couple of years, with stress and hormonal changes, I had been feeling more fatigued, and been gaining weight, especially around my mid-section.

Finally I found the answer, through a simple blood test! Scientists have now discovered new ways to test for the more insidious, and more chronically damaging, *delayed*-

onset food sensitivities, those that do not present themselves in the system until 48 hours after ingestion. These foods and additives cause an immune system response, which leads to cellular inflammation, and to the chronic degenerative diseases of our time, including arthritis, bowel problems such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), migraine headaches, skin problems, and behavioral issues. Modification of our food chain

> over the years and genetic adaptation has created a more sensitive and less tolerant human digestive system.

Following a diet that suits you specifically, based on your body's own sensitivities and genetics, is the key to

preventing both short-term and long-term health problems.

Simply modifying the foods that I was eating allowed me to get rid of my weekly migraine headaches, relieve the inflammation in my colon and lower back, and lose 35 pounds. I have never felt better in my life. It is not easy. It is a choice. But it is worth it. I have learned to be more creative with my foods, and experiment with foods that I have never eaten before.

Now is the time to take charge of your health by finding out scientifically what is right for your own body. After all, no two bodies are the same, and that is why standardized diets don't work. \Diamond

Erica Garrett is a chiropractor in Tavernier whose focus increasingly is wellness.

chain has created a more sensitive and less tolerant human digestive system.

Modification of our food

Photo Gallery

Sisterhood's Annual Fashion Show took place at Outback Steak House on January 30th. Fashions were provided by Anglelika and Sunny Exposures.

Stuart Sax, as usual, was master of ceremonies for the show. Lauren did the hard work backstage. Since there were male models for

the first time, it was only appropriate to recruit the president (a natural) and executive V.P. (seen doing his best Jack Nicholson impersonation.) The traditional models included Rene Rose, Mary Lee Singer, Roberta McNew, Zoe Berk and Sofy Wasser.

Photo Gallery

Members of KJCC were onstage as extras during South Florida Center for the Arts' February 12th production of *La Boheme*. At right, David Cohn, Bernie Ginsberg, Steve

and Carol Steinbock, Lauren and Stuart Sax, and Jeff Schocket wait backstage for their cue. Stuart and Lauren, center, and Steve and Carol, below right, pose as



patrons during the Act II café scene. The prospective stars receive their instructions from the director just before showtime, below left.



Photo Gallery





Arvel Bird and One Nation, shown with the board of South Florida Center for the Arts (who include KJCC's Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon), performed on January 29th their unique combination of Native American, Celtic, country and folk music. Bird's violin became by turns a pony, a buffalo, a badger and a meditation on nature.





Steve Steinbock's garden—his passion and pride and joy—was honored by being included in this year's Garden Walk, above. Below left, during a visit to Fairchild Tropical Gardens, sit Gloria Avner with friend Chaim Schaffer, Meredith Cline and Joyce Peckman.

(HE NEWEST DISNEP PRINCESS



Cammie, Sunny and I visited Walt Disney World at the best time to go-just before winter break for the entire nation. Cam went to the new Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique (a Princess



makeover salon) and got the Full Castle package, which included hairstyling, makeup, clothes, magic slippers, wand, crown and





pictures. Wow, you should have seen her, holding her head so high. It really is quite magical watching all of the other children (and even some moms) getting their hair and makeup done by a Fairy Godmother. You might find the pictures to be a bit schmaltzy, but I have to tell you that I blubbered like a baby when I got the chance to hug Eeyore, Tigger and Pooh. I went on and on about how they were a big part of



my childhood, and how theylooked great for their age, being first written about in 1924. -Zoe Berk

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The Native Tourist

Slides Sideways Through South Dade

The next entry in our special series highlighting activities or attractions in South Florida that you may not have heard about. They are off the beaten path, off the tourist radar, or just off the wall. Keep them in mind if ever you are looking for a different diversion when family comes to visit, or even just for something to do on the weekend.

> This Month's stop: Schnebly Winery 30205 SW 217 Avenue Homestead, FL (305)242-1224 www.SchneblyWinery.com

If you've seen the movie *Sideways*, then you're familiar with the wine country culture. But unless you've traveled to the wine regions of France, or to the California Napa Valley, you may never have actually experienced it. Surprisingly, you have an opportunity to do just that, right here in extreme South Florida. With a tropical twist, of course.

Schnebly Winery is a real working winery located in the Redlands, but they make their wines with tropical fruits, such as mango and lychee, instead of plain ol' grapes. Denisse and Peter Schnebly, owners and operators of the winery, were running just a tropical fruit orchard on their land, and despaired at the large percentage of the crop that cannot be sold due to blemishes etc. In 2005 they started using what would be cast-off fruit to produce some very good wines. They started winning awards with their grape-less vino, and now produce and sell

enough that they even buy fruit from other local growers. Wow, drinking wine is good for the environment, recycling and local growers!

The winery is an unexpected find as you drive through the fields of the Redlands. As you pass nurseries and irrigation equipment you happen by a sign proclaiming...winery **•**. When you park and go in, you go from dusty agriculture to rich wine culture. On my visit, I went through the tasting room, nicely appointed and welcoming, and into the retail shop, specializing in the Schnebly wines and wine-centric gifts.

Everyone was very friendly and eager to share the story of the winery and talk about the different wines There was some obvious work being done, and packing going on, and it turns out they have just completed a new facility that will serve as a visitor center as well as tasting room, with an eye to also renting it out for special functions. They have already done some landscaping to add waterfalls and coral bridges to the property. They have started moving into the new building and hope to have it open by the end of

A selection of the Schnebly wines

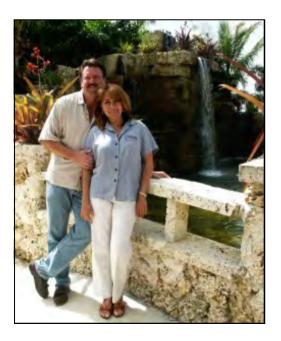


the month. I look forward to going back and seeing the new tasting room, as well as taking the tour.

I wasn't able to take the tour on my visit, since tours are only offered on the weekends, but I did go ahead and purchase my wine-tasting glass that entitles me to free wine tastings for the life of the glass. At five dollars. I thought it a bargain. It was difficult to choose only one variety of wine from the large selection that includes passion fruit, guava and carambola (star fruit), but I finally settled on Category 3 Hurricane. one of their newest, which is a blend. Next time, I may go for the Boo-Boo Wine. It sounds intriguing, and there is guite a story behind it. Be sure to ask about it when you go.

Although tours are only offered on the weekends, tastings are held every day. They also schedule

Peter and Denisse Schnebly, owners, shown by one of the coral rock waterfalls on property.





Schnebly Winery's new tasting room, soon to be open for business.

special events throughout the year. For instance, the Saturday after my visit, they were holding The Carambola Stomp. They were inviting guests to help them stomp the starfruit for this year. Each hour they would hold a contest between stomping visitors, and the first guest to fill a gallon container would win a bottle of wine. So be sure to call them or check the website for details of any special events. Then, designate a driver, grab your tasting glass and discerning palate, and slide *Sideways* to the Redlands. ◊

IF YOU GO: The tasting room and retail shop are open seven days a week, Monday-Friday 10a.m.-5p.m., Saturday 10a.m.-6p.m. and Sunday 12p.m.-5p.m. If you are interested in a tour, they are held on Weekends Only; the last tour departs about one hour before closing. Tastings are five dollars per person, tours are seven dollars per person. The whole Megillah--The real Megillah--The KJCC Megillah--

Friday, March 21, 2008

5:30 Megillah Reading

6:30 Shabbat Dinner with a middle-eastern flavor; bring your favorite dish to join in the fun. Also, in the spirit of Purim, BYOB.
7:30 Purim Play

8:00 Services

Megillah reading will be moderated by Joyce Peckman with participation by our students and congregation. Purim play will feature our students. Tzedakah will be collected to be used for Passover meals for those in need.

Contact Joyce Peckman, 451-0665, or Sofy Wasser, 453-1324, to let us know you are coming.

Purim

An Evolution of Practice and Tradition

he traditions surrounding the celebration of Purim have evolved, taking many different forms throughout lewish communities across time and around the globe. From the reading of the Megillah and the accompanying cacophony, to the observance of *mishloah* manot, our forebearers have honored the traditions in a wide variety of ways. Since Purim falls this month, we're taking a look at how observances have changed, and also how they have remained the same. in different times and for specific lewish communities. The ways that lews observe Purim and its customs have had to evolve to fit modern times. perhaps none more so than the practice of mishloah manot. The Book of Esther mentions "the sending of portions one man to another and gifts to the poor." (9:22) These gifts to friends are called *mishloah manot*. literally. "sending of portions." Specifically the Halacha states that anyone over the bar or bat mitzvah age must participate by sending at least two gifts or *shalach manot* to at least one other Jew. This gift is to be comprised of two readymade foods, often including pastries and wine. One of the most important points of *mishloah manot* was the personal interaction between those in the Jewish community. Traditionally a family would gather to prepare the foods and basket, making it not only a communal experience, but a family one as well. The package was to be delivered by messenger so as to also impart the best wishes of the family for a happy Purim.

Of course, in more recent times, communities as well as families have found themselves far-flung across the globe. The Jewish family is no exception, which makes the preparation and delivery of these *mishloah manot* a bit problematic. But the exact same forces of technology and modernization that have contributed to this degrading of personal connection have also been harnessed by the Jewish community to help maintain the ties and traditions of Purim. Hence the establishment of companies such as purimbasket.com. iudaicaenterprises.com and Dash Cham, who specialize in putting the *mish*loach manot together and delivering them, worldwide, for you. The globalization of the world may have caused us to scatter, but it has also brought communication, via the internet, and global business, making it possible for you to get your Purim basket to just about anyone, anywhere. The preparation and delivery method may have changed, but the tradition, though adapted, stays strong.

In the past, the sending of *mishloah manot* was limited to one gift of two foods to one person. But in more recent times, many treat this as a major gift-giving event. It is not unusual for families to deliver dozens of Purim baskets, hand-made or store-bought, to friends, neighbors, relatives and teachers on Purim.

Gloria Avner has done a lot of research, and provided us with the glimpses of Purim and Megillah celebrations in other times and cultures. Some highlights:

France - Children would write Haman's name on smooth stones, and strike them together during the *Megillah* reading whenever Haman's name was mentioned, in order to erase it in compliance with the verse: "I shall surely wipe out the memory of Amalek."

Bukhara - Since the ground would usually be covered with snow at Purim time, a large

"snow-Haman," with funny-shaped torso and long, thick legs, eyes of charcoal and carrot nose, was built next to the synagogue. After the meal, the whole community would gather around it and make a fire. They would stand and watch Haman melt in the heat and disappear, singing until he was completely gone.

Afghanistan – The children would draw pictures of Haman on planks, and during the *Megillah* reading, the planks were thrown to the ground and trampled on. Wooden gloves, a kind of wooden sandal, would be held in the hands and clapped together, making a loud noise.

Persia - One of the wealthy men of the community would host a huge Purim feast in his home for the whole congregation. In the courtyard a large and ridiculous Haman effigy would be hung on a pole. During the meal, all would march out and watch the effigy being burned, while shouting, "May the memory of Amalek be erased!" As the fire went out, the children took turns jumping over the coals, just as they did during celebrations in Talmudic times.

Cairo - Revelers would take to the streets in costume, young and old alike. Most went about on donkeys who were dyed in stripes and patterns, or who also wore costumes. In the synagogue, every person was given a candle to light and hold during the reading of the *Megilla*. Beggars would take advantage of the community being all in one place, and would seldom be refused.

Minsk (White Russia) - Congregants would show their creativity during the *Megilla* reading and would growl like bears, roar like lions, bark like dogs and bleat like goats to block out the name of Haman the Evil.

Salonika - "Haman-shaped" cakes were baked on the eve of "Shabbat Zachor," and placed on the window ledges. During the Purim meal, cakes were sliced so diners could comply with the verse that reads "and they shall devour Haman with open mouth." \diamond

Purim is different from any other holiday in our calendar. Like Halloween, there are costumed children and adults going raucously from door to door (in religious neighborhoods). But instead of begging for treats, they are distributing them. Shalach manot, giving gift bags containing at least two kinds of foods, is one of the essential mitzvot of Purim. Partying--and yes, drinking--is another. Providing charity, especially in the form of food, is a third essential *mitzvah* of this holiday. The fourth and most important is the retelling and listening to the tale of power, lust, vengeance, courage, blood and wisdom that make up *Megillat* Esther.

We have the opportunity to do all of the above on *Purim* at the KJCC. Friday, March 21st is *Purim*, and we will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the David Kamely classroom to read the *megillah* in English, roundrobin style. There will be a charity box going around; please come prepared to donate. Last year we sent money to the Matzah Mitzvah Fund of South Florida.

If you want to come in costume – go for it...! The children will be providing our *shalach manot*, and Sisterhood will provide the food for our 6:30 p.m. dinner that follows the reading. (Services begin at 8:00.) Anyone who brings two types of food or drink to share will be fulfilling the *mitzvah*. Although I don't recommend "getting so drunk that you can't distinguish Mordechai from Haman," BYOB if you please. For more information, or to let me know what you are bringing, call me at 451-0665.

-Joyce Peckman

Celebrating Linda Rutkin



Saturday, February 2nd, was a very special day for KJCC and all its members. Can anyone remember the entire congregation being invited out to dinner and an *open bar*? Well, courtesy of Linda Rutkin, it happened that night. Everyone was invited to Encore to celebrate Linda's birthday. Over 40 of us were there to toast Linda and show her the unique place she occupies in the collective heart of KJCC. For those of you who couldn't be there, here's a visual memory.

Linda with her girlhood friend from Baltimore, Phyllis Heiffer.



Here's a sample of those who came to help celebrate Linda's (29th?) birthday:

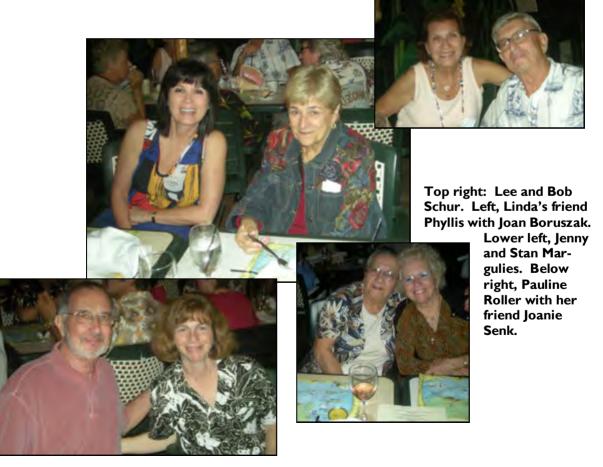
Top, Linda Pollack with Lyle and Louise Sendlein. Below, Seating was random Ellen Bloom and along four long tables. Yardena. Below, Lauren Sax and Mark Wasser.

Linda with Fanny Kluger and Pauline Roller, above, who know something about celebrating birthdays. Did Steve and Carol know that Michal had snuck into their picture? Center, Cory and Sofy offer the answer to a famous riddle: how can two individuals share the same face? Left, Big Jim with Yardena. I hope to be answering all of your real good questions as to why I celebrated my birthday the way in which I did, and why I did so in an "off " year.

Just a kind reminder that you do NOT! need to have a special number in order to celebrate, and more importantly "appreciate" achieving that milestone. Many times this only gets to happen when someone is put through severe adversities.

Both coming to the Keys, and attending the KJCC since 2001, I've fortunately found "that mispoche" you all so often refer to. We've taken lessons together (and I've always loved to learn!). You have taken me to great "Florida" places—and the Keys have lots of them—and you've shown me wonderful "cultural" experiences. Above all this, all of you have *forever* given me rides **EVERYWHERE** for all these years.

My instinct told me that it was time to give something back, in order for me to say "thanks!" and let you know how very much I appreciate all of you, along with all that you've done for me. Having discussed and come to the agreement to do this "thank-you" party FOR you, with the approval and best wishes from my very nice and great advisor, this exceptional birthday "happened" FOR ME and YOU! -Linda Rutkin



Rene Rose, left, was clearly among those having a wonderful time. Center, Big Jim



and Pauline with dueling tropical shirts. Below right, Gigi and Bob Auston.



Thank you <u>EVERYONE!</u> For making my recent birthday celebration such a wonderful memory for me to have, and reflect back on.

This "Keys-y" birthday has truly been a most terrific one! I now have it to "nicely" recall, and will often do so thanks to ALL of you. I'm most appreciative, and grateful. Thanxs! For coming!

-Linda





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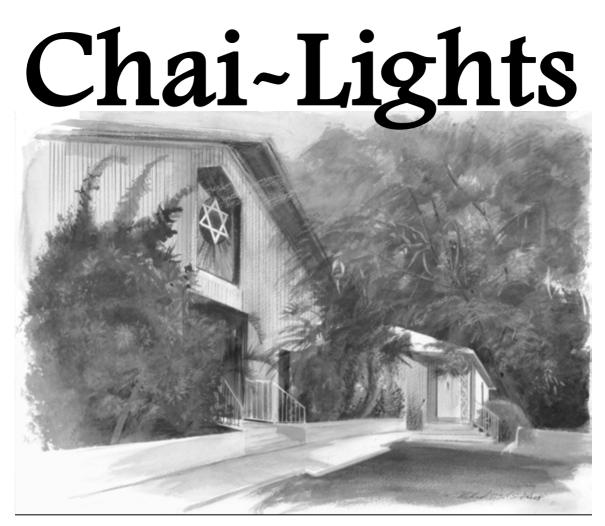
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Las Olas Centre II Suite 960 350 East Las Olas Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 Phone: 954.767.8200 FAX: 954.764.1866

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NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION **PERMIT NO. 39** TAVERNIER, FL



April 2008

25 Adar II - 25 Nisan

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Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com April 2008

25 Adar II–25 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Names den Italicize	ote leaders of Fri d names are Oneg	1 day services. sponsors.	2	3	4 George Swartz Ulpan Students	5
6	7	8	9 Men's Club Outing	10	11 Jim & Gloria Fran & Barry Alter Nancy & Kurt Kluger	12
13	14 KJCC Women's Seder	15	16 Men's Club Outing Casino Boat	17	18 Ken Atlas Carole & Sheldon Weiss	19 Erev Pesach First Seder
20 Passover KJCC Second Passover Seder	21	22	23	24	25 Stuart & Lauren Sax Gene & Mort Silverman Toby & David Goldfinger	26
27	28	29	30			

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the

monthly newsletter of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070

Prosidont⁹s Mossage

Steve Steinbock

It's spring again! Attendance at services has been wonderful, with lots of our regulars and snowbirds in attendance and vacationers passing through our humble doors.

We have decided that, beginning April, all Friday night services will be at 8 p.m. - no more early services until further notice.

Sisterhood did a wonderful job with the Champagne Bubbles Fundraiser on March 9th. I wish to thank Joan Stark, Nancy Kluger, Joyce Peckman and all others who worked so hard to make it a great event. The mezuzahs designed, painted or otherwise made by local artists were auctioned off and raised needed funds for Sisterhood. The Grand Prize raffle was won by brand-new members who joined that afternoon at the event. Barry and Natalie Dorf! Wow. it pays to belong to the KICC. sometimes quickly. And, of course, many thanks to lerry and Elaine Hirsch for hosting our event at their beautiful home.

April brings Passover. The Women's Seder will be on Monday, April 14th. Carol went last year and raved about it. Beth Kaminstein has opened her studio to our women and helps them make their own seder plates, dishes, soup bowls and wine cups. Carol won't tell me what she is making. I guess I'll have to wait and see.

Sunday, April 20th is the KJCC Second Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club. As usual, Joel Pollack and Jim Boruszak will lead. Make your reservations early, and I hope to see you all there.

On April 15, 2008, Fanny Kluger will be celebrating her 100th Birthday! I know I speak for everyone in wishing her a most Happy Birthday. She is amazing.

The Men's Club is planning a number of events: On April 16th there will be a casino boat cruise, and on Father's Day, June 15th, a picnic at Bahia Honda State Park.

On Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 7 p.m., Dr. Steve Smith will be our main speaker at KICC as we honor Holocaust Remembrance Day: his topic will be the liberation of Dachau. I hope you can attend. The following day, Friday, Yom Ha'Shoah itself, our Holocaust exhibit will officially open in the KICC lobby. Last. but not least, I would like to thank Jim Boruszak for reaching out to our community and getting a record number of new members. In addition, he is ever diligent in maintaining our shul, inside and out. Thank you, lim! ◊





Nosh

Second Seder Reservations

Planning is near completion for the second Passover seder. The date is Sunday, April 20th, and the place is again the Islamorada Fishing Club. The cost is \$40 for all adults. Children 12 and under are free.

Reservations are limited to the first 100. We will accept reservations for members and their families only until April 10th. Then we will open reservations to visitors. Please make your reservation by mailing your check to the KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

For further information, please call Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0833.

New Members

The KJCC is happy to announce our new members., Barry and Natalie Dorf of Islamorada (who were also the Grand Prize Raffle winners at the annual fundraiser on March 9th), and Lyle Agins and Heather Palmer of Islamorada. A warm KJCC welcome to you all.

Men's Club Outings

Your (co-ed) Men's Club is hard at work planning outings for our members!

Our first adventure is a visit to the SunCruz gambling boat out of Key Largo. The date is Wednesday, April 16th. We will all meet at the Holiday Inn at 6:30 p.m. for the water taxi that takes us to the boat.

Everyone will receive a Fun Book which include the following:

Round trip transportation to the boat and boarding; Two cocktails-beer/wine while not gambling; One a la carte menu item--burgers, sandwiches, etc.; \$10 in Casino cash; One free spin on a \$1 slot machine; A lucky ace as the first card in blackjack; 20% discount on retail merchandise; SunCruz Casino souvenir; Complimentary appetizer buffet, complimentary wine/well drinks/beer while gaming; And, of course - an evening of sociability with your KJCC friends! The cost for all of this is \$25 each to the KJCC. Please make your reservation by sending a check to Joan Boruszak, PO Box 854, Tavernier, 33070. For information call Joan, 305-852-0833.

On Wednesday, April 9, the Men's Club is planning an excursion to the Jewish Museum in Miami Beach. They have a wonderful exhibit called ZAP POW BAM — The Golden Age of Comics 1938 to 1950. For those of us who grew up in the 40s, this should be memorable! We will leave KJCC at 1 p.m. after setting up carpools. From there we can go to supper together in Miami Beach. If you would like to join us, call Joan Boruszak, 305-852-0833, just so we have an idea how many are coming.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Ann Kapulskey, sister of Muriel Swartz.

By Linda and Joel Pollack

Dear Members of the KJCC:

Thank you so very much for your prayers, cards, letters and fruit basket during my hip replacement recovery.

All your prayers have been answered. My recovery is better than expected! I hope to be up and dancing in no time. Thanks. —Barbara Knowles

April Anniversaries

		Tears
llth	Marlene & Paul Berger	4
3rd	Marcia & Michael Goldberg	
18th	Roberta & Rick McNew	27
3rd	Nettie & Jules Seder	42
	Gene & Morton Silverman	
10th	Geri & Stuart Smith	43
7th	Mary & Salomon Terner	
6th	Sherry & Edward Turney	32
l 5th	Carole & Sheldon Weiss	57

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Arthur Plutzer, a New Yorker who has spent portions of many years living out of his RV. The original article was run in the newsletter of his organization, Yehudim al Galgalim (Jews on Wheels).

We have been camping in an RV since 1996 and have spent our winters in southern Florida since the winter of 1996-1997. For about eleven years we were based in Key Largo. During that period I discovered the Keys Jewish Community Center and attended their Friday evening services at least once or twice a season. My mother's *yartzeit* is the 19th of *Shevat*, the week of *Tu B'Shevat* (Arbor Day, the New Year of the Trees) and generally in late January or early February.

Their Friday evening services are congregation-led. Volunteers conduct the services, sometimes a couple. At each service the announcements include the statement that the KJCC is the only synagogue between Homestead and Key West, a distance of over 130 miles, and that you are a stranger there but once. They are an unaffiliated congregation, but have tried to gear their services so all will feel comfortable irrespective of Judaic background and experience. They were using a Conservative *siddur* when I was there last, one that had been used by my home synagogue in New York, an unaffiliated Conservative congregation.

I always found a warm welcome there, people genuinely glad to see me return each vear. I still correspond with some of the members, and early in my sojourn at KICC was fortunate to be "adopted" by one of the founding matriarchs. Pauline Roller, and her husband Al. Pauline. now in her 90s. is a peppy woman [ed. note: among other things] who still volunteers at the local hospital. Al passed a few years ago and the memorial service, which I attended, included not only almost the entire congregation but also representatives of the various communities that Al had been involved in - the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Naval Auxiliary, and the fishing and guide industry of the Keys. Al had been one of the guides and friends of the great Ted Williams, who fished regularly in the Keys and lived there for a time.

Ongoing Committees and Activities

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665. KJCC **Tree of Life Leaves** and **Rocks**, **Sanctuary Seat Plates**, **Yartzeit Memorial Plaques**, **Bookplates** for siddurim. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF *Trees in Israel* - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214. *Chai-Lights Mitzvah* - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertising in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds: e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund.

Breast cancer, Jews and DNA tests

In the United States each year, 200,000 women develop breast cancer and 23,000 develop ovarian cancer. It is believed that 5-10 percent of these cancers may be linked to heredity. Scientists have developed a test to screen the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, the ones linked to breast and ovarian cancer. To test or not to test has been a subject of debate among medical professionals and their patients, mainly because if the test is positive you then have the question of what to do about it. Dr. Dana Zakalik, a medical oncologist at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospitals in the Detroit area, is intimately involved with the debate. She is an Ashkenazi Jew, among whom the gene mutation is some twenty times more common than it is in the general population (one in 40 vs. one in 800). This means that Jewish women of European descent need to be particularly aware of the issue. Dr. Zakalik's grandmother died in the Holocaust, so her knowledge of part of her family medical history is limited. "I don't think you need to be tested just because you're an Ashkenazi lew," she said. But in a family where there is even one known case of breast or ovarian cancer, genetic testing could offer you the chance of early detection or even prevention. (A Chai-Lights thanks to Lauren Sax for sending this item in.)



One of Our Own

is in the limelight this month. Tiffany McNew, a senior at Coral Shores, daughter of Roberta and Rick McNew, has been accepted at The University of Central Florida's Department of Music. Tiffany plays both flute and piccolo with the C.S. Spirit Band and has been drum

major for the last three years. In addition to all her musical accomplishments, Tiffany serves as Treasurer of her Senior Class and is a member of the National Honor Society. We congratulate her and her parents.

TREE OF LIFE

TO HONOR FANNY KLUGER ON HER100TH BIRTHDAY APRIL 15, 2008 By Linda and Joel Pollack

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE MARRIAGE OF GERRI WEISBERG AND FRANK EMKEY March 16, 2008 from Linda and Joel Pollack

> IN CELEBRATION OF KYLE DAVID SCHULBERG 2-22-86

IN CELEBRATION OF BETHANY PAIGE SCHULBERG 11-23-94

IN CELEBRATION OF NAOMI HANNAH SCHULBERG 12-17-00

IN CELEBRATION OF ALIZA GRACE SCHULBERG 8-27-07

Scholarship Deadline Looms

The deadline for the 2008 KJCC Scholarships is April 15th. Applications can be requested from Kurt Kluger at 305-852-4353 or by email at klugerkeys@bellsouth.net.

With Love to Muriel

KJCC extends its sincere condolences to Muriel Swartz on the passing of her sister, Ann Kapulskey.

Department of Corrections

Last year, the KJCC Religious students performed a play titled "Here's Looking at You, Esther." The author was listed as Larry Klein. But the author's real name is Larry Smith. We're happy to set the record straight, Mr. Smith. And all of us here loved your play. \Diamond

April Memoriam

By Michael Klimpl In Blessed Memory of MARILYN JANET BARR Eternal Rest

By Laurence & Renee Green In Blessed Memory of DAVID BERNSTEIN Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Mario & Linda LaGrotte In Blessed Memory of MINNIE BIRNBAUM Eternal Peace

By Steven & Barbara Smith In Blessed Memory of CANTOR ALEX CHAPIN Forever In Our Hearts

> By Meredith A. Cline In Blessed Memory of JOSEPH T. CLINE In Our Heart And Memory

By Donald & Nancy Zinner In Blessed Memory of IRWIN CUTLER Always In My Memory

By James & Joan Boruszak In Blessed Memory of BARUCH EPSTEIN Rest In Peace

By Marc & Ellen Bloom In Blessed Memory of NAT FELDBLUM Rest In Eternal Peace By Jeffrey & Patricia Schocket In Blessed Memory of DOLORES FELDMAN Always In Our Memory

By Paul & Susan Roberts In Blessed Memory of MILTON GREENWALD In Our Memory Always

> By Joan Waldman In Blessed Memory of MARTHA GROSS Long, Blessed Sleep

By Margaret Gross In Blessed Memory of LAWRENCE GROSS We Remember Always

By Steven Hartz In Blessed Memory of STELLA HARTZ With Loving Remembrance

By Richard Karron In Blessed Memory of CHARLES KARRON Sleep In Peace

By Harvey & Judith Klein In Blessed Memory of NATHAN KLEIN Remembered With Love

By Michael Klimpl In Blessed Memory of FRED KLIMPL Forever Remembered With Love By Sandy & Nancy Yankow In Blessed Memory of CHARLES KRAM Always Remembered

By the Blumberg Family In Blessed Memory of HAROLD MARKOWITZ Always Remembered With Love

By Sandy & Nancy Yankow In Blessed Memory of HILDA MAZUR Rest in Blessed Peace

By Joel & Linda Pollack In Blessed Memory of ERWIN MOSS Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Jim & Lynn Nobil In Blessed Memory of GEORGE NOBIL Always Loved and Missed

By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich In Blessed Memory of DONALD RICH Eternal Rest

By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich In Blessed Memory of SAMUEL ZALMANOVICH Remembered With Love

> By Marjorie Present In Blessed Memory of BENJAMIN A. SAVAGE Eternal Peace

By Stuart & Lauren Sax In Blessed Memory of SAM SAX Forever In Our Hearts

By David & Shifra Kossman In Blessed Memory of DANIEL SEROTT In Our Heart And Memory

By Miltra Sheinker In Blessed Memory of WARREN J. SHEINKER Always In My Memory

By Steven & Barbara Smith In Blessed Memory of LOUIS S. SMITH Rest In Peace

By Stuart & Geri Smith In Blessed Memory of CLAIRE SMITH Rest In Eternal Peace

By Stuart & Geri Smith In Blessed Memory of MORRIS SMITH Always In Our Memory

By Salomon & Mary Terner In Blessed Memory of BENJAMIN TERNER In Our Memory Always

By Salomon & Mary Terner In Blessed Memory of LUIS TERNER Long, Blessed Sleep By Joan Waldman In Blessed Memory of CHAIM WALDMAN We Remember Always

By Donald & Nancy Zinner In Blessed Memory of DAVID WERNICOFF With Loving Remembrance

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson In Blessed Memory of FRANCES WOLFE Sleep In Peace

By Myron & Myrna Rubin In Blessed Memory of HERMAN RUBIN Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

April Birthdays

Lauren Abrams	3
Franne Alter	17
Rachel Barrett	30
David M. Cohn	6
Claire Cooper	3
Robin S. Denker	22
David Feder	9
Ethel Foster	7
Jennifer Garrett	18
Jared Scott Gershowitz	25
Max Logan Gershowitz	11
Ella Gilderman	16
Larry Gilderman	20
David Goldfinger	29
Susan Gordon	24
Faychesca Graham	6
Randolph Green	24
Katie Greenman	17
Samantha Grossinger	13
Elinor Grossman	
Fanny Kluger	15

Moira KnowlesI	3
Richard KnowlesI	2
Murray Kossman	
Nicole Kossman	
Linda LaGrotte	
Lauren Lane	.4
Tiffany McNew2	
Jordan Neidenberg2	
Jonathan Nobil	20
Lynn Nobil	
Jessica Pollack2	25
Linda Pollack2	9
Beverly Robins	27
Lauren SaxI	
Aaron Schmidt	27
Harvey Schwaid	.7
Jason Sherman3	
Gene Silverman	9
Susan Temkin	21
Edward Turney	4
Dave VanArtsdalen	6
Ilese Vorcheimer	0
Larry Weber	

- Goddesses -Save The Date

To those KICC women who have supported the women's wellness fun(d) raising event known as "Goddesses in the Garden Party": we are letting it lie fallow in this seventh year. Instead we will host a "Day for Dannagaye," one of our most lighful healers. She is in medical crisis: 100% of the monies earned will help pay her treatment expenses. Mark April 13th on your calendar. It will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Coconut Cove, MM 95. Tickets are \$28 and include lunch. live music (Micah will open for Dave Feder) and much more. For info and tickets, call Gloria Avner at 619-0216.

MEDA - Knowledge Yardena Kamely



The Mitzvah of Freedom: Cherut

From the time of Moses to the present day, *Cherut*, or the *mitzvah* of seeking freedom, has been a driving force in Jewish life. Think of the best-known story celebrating freedom in Judaism, the *Passover Haggadah*. In Hebrew, Passover is also called *Chag Ha'cherut*, the festival of freedom.

The story of Anatoly (Natan) Sharansky is about the fight for freedom, both political and religious, in the Soviet Union during the years 1977 – 1986. When Sharansky was a young man in Russia in the early 1970s, Jews could not freely practice Judaism; neither could they leave the Soviet Union for freedom in Israel or the West. Yet ever since Golda Meir's visit to Moscow, and more than ever after Israel's dramatic victory in the Six Day War of 1967, tens of thousands of Soviet Jews reawakened to their religion and to a desire to emigrate.

Anatoly Sharansky was one of these Jews. He became active in the movement to gain freedom, a *refusnik*. He was arrested by the KGB in March. 1977 and held in various prisons for nine years. For 16 months he was interrogated on the charge of treason, during which time the KGB compiled more than 50 volumes of "evidence" that he was an American spy. At the end of his trial, Sharansky spoke in stirring words of the lewish longing for freedom. In his autobiography, "Fear No Evil," Sharansky recalls a seder he attended with Natalia (Avital), his wife. shortly before he was arrested. He writes: "The special relevance of the Passover story to a group of *refusniks* in Moscow was so obvious that nobody had to point it out. We sat there enthralled as we discussed the

story of our ancestors, enslaved and oppressed in Egypt, a powerful land where they were unable to practice their religion or learn about their heritage. That night I came across a moving line in the Passover liturgy that would stay with me forever: *In every generation, a person should feel as though he, personally, went out of Egypt.*"

The verse cited above may be the most emotionally moving in the entire *Haggadah*. Judaism insists that we never forget our origins. To cherish freedom, we must remember - spiritually and physically - that once we were slaves. The *Torah* itself repeatedly goes back to that experience with the refrain "For you were slaves in the land of Egypt."

"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof." These words from Leviticus (25:10) are inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. (It is not a coincidence that the famous words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor— "... give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." — were penned by a Jewish poet, Emma Lazarus.)

For more than a decade Avital Sharansky devoted her life to winning her husband's freedom. She enlisted the support of the Jewish world and reached out to the leaders of the free world, including Presidents Carter and Reagan. When Anatoly Sharansky was finally released, the world applauded as this small man strode across the border to freedom, taking only his prison clothes and a small Book of Psalms in Hebrew (given to him by his wife).

Today Natan Sharansky lives in Jerusalem with his wife and their daughter. \Diamond



World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Entebbe Raid Commander Dies

Dan Shomron, 70, former Israel Defense Forces (IDF) chief of staff from 1987-1991, died February in Tel Aviv. In 1976, Shomron headed the daring Entebbe rescue operation, when his commandos flew into the Ugandan capital's airport under cover of darkness and rescued more than 100 (mostly Jewish) hostages held by Palestinian and German hijackers on an Air France jet. The successful raid became the subject of several Hollywood movies, including *"Raid on Entebbe,"* in which Shomron was played by Charles Bronson. (*www.haaretz.com, 2-26-08*)

Pesach without Tam-Tams?

Manischewitz will not be producing Tam-Tams and other kosher-for-Passover products this year because of engineering and construction delays at its new facility in Newark, New Jersey. The company closed its Jersey City plant after Passover 2007 and built a \$15 million facility in Newark with state-of-the-art, computer-controlled production ovens. The Manischewitz Company started in Cincinnati in 1888 and moved to Jersey City in 1932. Tam-Tams were introduced in 1940. (*New Jersey Jewish News, 2-28-08*)

The Next Red Auerbach?

At the end of February, the University of Tennessee men's basketball team, the Volunteers, led by Jewish coach Bruce Pearl, received its first number one national ranking after defeating the previously top-ranked and undefeated University of Memphis. In November, Pearl had addressed the opening plenary at the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, introducing himself as Mordechai Shmuel and saying, "I am Jewish and I am proud." He described how he often found it difficult growing up as a Jewish athlete, especially when his teams would pray before games. "I wanted to be a part of that prayer, so when half my friends would cross themselves ...I made the Star of David." Pearl will be inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in June. (www.jta.org, 2-26-08)

Holocaust Memoir a Fraud

A best-selling book, "Misha: A Memoir of the Holocaust Years," has been revealed as a work of fiction. Written by 71 year-old Belgian Misha Defonseca and translated into 18 languages, the book was also adapted for the French feature film, "Surviving with Wolves." Defonseca claimed that after her parents were abducted by the Nazis. she lived with a pack of wolves. She also claimed to have murdered a German soldier. In a statement to the Associated Press, Defonseca said, "The story is mine. It is not actually reality, but my reality, my way of surviving. I ask forgiveness to all who felt betrayed. I beg you to put yourself in my place, a four-year-old girl who was very lost." Defonseca now says her parents were killed by Nazis for Belgian resistance activities when she was four but was cared for by her grandfather and uncle. (World Jewish Congress, 3-3-08)

World's Most Secure Airline

El Al, Israel's national airline, has been voted "Best Airline Security" by *Global Traveler* Magazine and was presented with one of the most sought-after and respected awards in the business and luxury travel industry. In its annual survey, *Global Traveler* readers selected El Al as the number one airline for security, providing a safe and comfortable travel experience. Offer Gat, El Al CEO, recently accepted the honor at an official awards luncheon in New York City, attended by over 300 travel industry professionals. (*The Jewish Press, 2-6-08*)

Anne Frank's Crush

A British newspaper has published what it calls the first known photograph of Peter Schiff, the boy 11-year-old Anne Frank fell in love with and wrote about in her famous diary. She met him at school in 1940, his family also having fled from Germany to Amsterdam, Ernst Michaelis, 81, of London, found the photo of Schiff in a family collection after realizing that Frank was writing about a boy he (Michaelis) had known as a fellow student in Berlin. Michaelis, who moved from Germany to Britain many years ago, said he has had the photo authenticated and that it will be displayed on the Anne Frank House web site. Schiff is also believed to have died in a Nazi prison camp. (www.haaretz.com, 2-24-08)

Operation Magic Carpet

The Yemenite lewish Federation of America has honored Warren Metzger. 87. a former Alaska Airlines pilot who took part in Operation Magic Carpet, the secret mission that successfully rescued almost 50.000 Yemenite (and other) Jews from June 1949 to September 1950, spiriting them from the hostile Arabian peninsula to a new and still fragile Israel. Metzger flew ten roundtrip missions between Israel and Yemen during a three-month period. The U.S. government had contracted with Alaska Airlines in the operation, using 28 pilots who flew a total of 380 flights. The airlift began immediately after hostilities abated in the War of Independence. No word of the mission leaked to the world until all the besieged and refugee Jews were safely in Israel. (Dateline World Jewry, Dec.2007 / Jan.2008)

Preserving History

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, together with several groups in

Israel, is working on a project to find surviving passengers and crew members of what has been called the "Exodus 1947." The voyage had 4,500 passengers and crew crammed onto a dilapidated boat originally named the SS President Warfield. Although there was never an official passenger manifest, the museum has the names of about 2,300 people who were on the ship and has already contacted 270 passengers and four crew members. Most of the known survivors live in the U.S. and Israel. The failed mission was an attempt to carry European Holocaust survivors, who had nowhere else to go, to Palestine, then under the authority of the British Mandate. The mission (with a slightly altered outcome) has been portraved in novels and movies, most notably the 1960 epic book "Exodus," by Leon Uris and movie by Otto Preminger. Eventually the passengers were sent to displaced-person camps near Hamburg, Germany and it wasn't until 1948 that the refugees were allowed to enter Israel. (Washington Times, 1-27-08)

The Greenest Synagogue in America

The lewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, IL, outside of Chicago, received the highest rating from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design program. The rating was awarded as a result of a \$10 million proiect which featured the use of recycled concrete, sensor-controlled lighting and a parking space reserved for a hybrid car. The synagogue's energy costs are expected to be about 45 percent less than a typical synagogue of the same size. In a related story, two New York City congregations have connected their nerot tamidot (eternal lights that hang over the ark) to solar power. The firstknown solar ner tamid was installed at Temple Emanuel in Lowell, Mass., in 1978. (www.jta.org, 2-10-08)

Spielberg Opts Out

Steven Spielberg won't be serving as an artistic consultant to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He recently withdrew because of China's role in the genocide taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. China arms and funds Sudan's Arab-dominated government, which supports and actively abets the ongoing atrocities against black non-Arabs in Darfur. Other celebrities are considering dropping out as well. (*The Week, 2-29-08*)

The Righteous Birch Tree

The hollow tree trunk that provided shelter for lakob Silberstein during the Holocaust was recently brought to the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem. While on a death march in 1945. Silberstein, along with three others, managed to escape. They found refuge in the attic of Jana Sudova's house. Sudova made sure the four escapees had everything they needed. Silberstein discovered a birch tree with a hollow trunk in Sudova's backvard and he widened the entrance to the tree in order to use it as an emergency hiding place. Whenever the Germans came to search the farm. Silberstein would hide inside the tree. Sudova, who died in 1993, was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 2006. (www.yadvashem.org, 2-2-08)

Sinatra Smuggled Guns to Israel

At a recent Washington fund-raising dinner for the Rabin Center, Brian Greenspun related how Frank Sinatra reportedly played a role in smuggling guns to Israel in 1948. Greenspun's father Hank, the Las Vegas media and real estate magnate, helped lead the gun smuggling effort. Teddy Kollek, the late Jerusalem mayor, confirmed the story. Kollek in 1948 was Israel's point man in the arms-smuggling effort in New York. He got to know Sinatra while staying in a hotel above the famed Copacabana nightclub where Sinatra often appeared. Kollek needed to pay the captain of a ship a cash bribe to smuggle weapons out of New York harbor, but he knew he was being watched by the FBI. Kollek left the hotel carrying an empty satchel and was followed by the agents. At the same time. Sinatra left through another entrance carrying the money in a paper bag and he paid the captain. Sinatra and Kollek remained friends long after, with the singer

contributing to a number of Jerusalem building projects. (*www.jta.org, 2-14-08*)

Citizenship Reinstated for Polish Jews

Poland's government has announced that lews who were stripped of their Polish citizenship 40 years ago, after the start of massive expulsions by the Communist regime, are to be reinstated as citizens. Some 15.000 Polish lews were deprived of their citizenship following an anti-Semitic campaign of Soviet anti-Israel policies. Jews who fled Poland between 1968 and 1970 "can go to a Polish consulate in their new home country and 'reconfirm their citizenship' as if they had never lost it." said Piotr Kadicik, president of the Union of Religious lewish Communities in Poland. The decision follows recently increased pressure from Kadicik and other Jewish advocacy groups in Poland. (World Jewish Congress, 3-5-08)

Uniting World Jewry

A handful of Israeli entrepreneurs are working on a giant digital family tree that they hope will eventually link every lew, their non-lewish relatives and, quite possibly, all of humanity. The Famillion Company is the brainchild of Danny Rolls. The idea was born in 2000, "when my wife, a researcher at the Weizmann Institute [of Science in Rechovot] dragged me to get genetic tests," Rolls said. "I had to create my family tree for the geneticist. and I suddenly had a vision that my tree was sitting in the geneticist's drawer with all these other trees, and if they linked up, they would eventually connect the whole world." It took five years for the vision of networked family trees to become something usable, resulting in a web site in both English and Hebrew versions--(iworld.famillion.com). There already are plenty of family tree programs, but what's new about Famillion is a technology that can recognize similarities in trees and merge corresponding sections of completely independent trees. The program currently has some 45,000 family trees, mostly in Israel, and already has started integrating existing databases. (Jerusalem Post, 2-23-08) ◊

Keys Jewish Community Center 5th Annual Women's Sector

MONDAY APRIL 14, 2008 6PM @ KJCC Homemade Seder Dinner w/Wine

Limited seating - Contact Meredith at 451-3664 or maccline2@aol.com Donation \$18

Join us in celebration as we continue our efforts of Tikkun Olam - repair the world. Tzedakah donations are encouraged.



Shalom! The season is flying by with Passover soon approaching and many wonderful events behind us. The annual fundraiser "Champagne Bubbles and Nova Dreams" was a great success and a great time for all. Jerry and Elaine Hirsch generously offered their oceanfront property, the weather improved from a cold, blustery morning to a warm, sunny day and lots of mingling ensued. Mangrove Mikes set up an omlette and pancake station, Lots of Lox sent some super "nova" trays with all the works, there was an open bar and then the unforgettable

tunes sung by Kathy Buchanan with Yanna on the keyboards. Did you hear about the raffle? We were all hoping to win the grand prize of a 37" flat screen TV and who should win it but our very newest mem-



bers (just announced that day), Barry and Natalie Dorf! I think the most special part was the silent auction for the mezzuzahs. We had 13 beautiful pieces, crafted by local artists which were certainly one of a kind. (Can I tell you that our own Gloria Avner had the highest amount bid on her beautiful "tree" mezzuzah)! The purim shabbat dinner

Sisterhood Joan Stark



on March 21 will have been a treat for all, with Joyce Peckman conducting the Megillah reading, and the Gilsens' sponsoring the dinner... This month we have the upcoming womens seder on April 14 at the KJCC. Our theme is always "Tikkun Olam", repair the world, and a homemade seder meal is served and a handcrafted service conducted.

The Annual Second Seder will be on April 20 at the Islamorada Fishing Club. This event

Barry and Natalie Dorf, the grand prize winners of the HD TV.

is alwavs sold out. with a super service conducted bv our members. and food enough to feed an armv ! Contact loan Boruszak about tickets. loan also keeps a wonderful stock of Iudaica

items at the Gift Shop,

so let her know whatever your Passover or other needs may be. Stay tuned for the Sisterhood end of season luncheon on Sunday , May 4 (instead of the meeting). A special welcome to all the new members this year! Please come and join us at any of the meetings and events. All are welcome! See you in May! \diamond

COLLEGE DIARY

<u>Andrea</u>

Hi all. Well, everything is going great here in Nashville! I recently became assistant recruitment chair for my sorority, and classes are going well. I am particularly enjoying my political science classes and am pretty positive I will pick it up as a second major.



I thought long and hard about what I want to do this summer and decided that I want to be a counselor at the camp I used to attend, for two months. I am SO excited. I will be working on the waterfront teaching kids how to water ski and wakeboard. Over spring break I brought three friends down to the Keys,

which was a lot of fun. It was a nice opportunity to unwind while still being in a beautiful spring break area. We took a trip down to Key West, and visited some fellow Vandy students who were staying at the University of Miami. When we were in Key West we actually bumped into a girl who goes to Vanderbilt and is a sophomore in our sorority. Small World!

Although we have had some warmer days recently, Nashville seems to be awfully cold for the middle of March. I want my Keys weather back!! It is funny to think that this school year is practically over and that I am almost 1/4th of the way done with college. In realizing that, I have been thinking a lot about the things I want to accomplish before I graduate.

There are a few truly amazing clubs at Vanderbilt that I want to join next year. including one called Manna that raises money for children in Kenya. I also want to play either club soccer or tennis next year and still graduate with a double major. Wish there were more hours in the day! I am also trying to plan it out so that I have time to study abroad. I don't think I want to go abroad during the school year because that would be sacrificing holding an officer position in my sorority, but I am fairly positive that I want to study abroad next summer, probably somewhere in South/Central America or in Cape Town. There are sooo many options. I just have to find time in my life to work it all in.

On a more positive note my parents are coming to visit next weekend for parents weekend and I could not be more excited!!! They will get to meet everyone in my sorority as well as their parents and even get to come to a Vandy baseball game with me! But it's

time for me to go now....oh wait, I almost forgot: GO VANDERBILT BASKET-BALL!!!!!



<u>Joe</u>

Hello everyone.

This month was full of surprises. First off, only a week ago, I received a notice from the PHI THETA KAPPA inviting me to join their National Honors Society on Thursday. I was astounded by how well renowned their program really was. Over \$35 million in transfer scholarships were offered to Phi Theta Kappa members by more than 600 fouryear colleges and universities. You will receive letters of recommendation as well as inclusion in The National Dean's List of outstanding college scholars along with financial and many career opportunities. Phi Theta Kappa also reaches out to the

community and helps with fundraisers, athletic events and partners with children's activities as well.

Besides that, all my classes are going great. I'm currently involved again with helping the National Park Service remove exotic invasive plants from the Anhinga Trail.

Well, until next time, keep reaching for the stars.

<u>Suzie</u>

So, since last I wrote, spring semester has gotten into full swing. Two rounds of midterms have come and gone and today is the first day of a long-overdue spring break. My past few weeks have been so busy. In accordance with MIT time habits. I rarely make it home before 2 a.m. most weeknights, having spent time in other dorms PSetting and working. My days are nonstop. I have a full schedule taking all of my classes, which I absolutely love. Intro to Psych is probably to the most amazing class I have ever taken. We've done case studies on split-brain patients and amnesiacs, learned about sleep and the evolution of it and so many other things. Out of all of my classes, it is by far my favorite.

Besides classes, I have recently stumbled upon the most amazing opportunity. In my last Diary, I was participating in a cancer research UROP which consisted of going over medical trials and entering the information into a database. It was particularly exciting. But through a theater friend I just recently got a new UROP. I now work in a Picower Lab in the Brain and Cognitive Science Department (get ready for it......) training monkeys. That's right, I get to work with monkeys. :) The friend who hooked me up is working on a project but she has just graduated and is off to grad school, so I am being trained to take over her job....and her mon-

> key. His name is Sparky and he is a macague. A gorgeous creature. We are training them to complete tasks on pretty much a monkey computer game and then, once he is trained, we will lower electrodes into his brain and listen as he completes the tasks. mapping which part of the brain completes which functions. It is absolutely amazing. My UROP instructor is so nice and is even teaching me how to write the computer program which the monkeys

play. I will have the opportunity to watch monkey surgeries and listen as researchers measure what goes on in the brain. I am super excited. :)

Besides that wonderful news, I am still doing theater with the Musical Theater Guild. Our spring show is The Full Monty. I have really become so grateful to be a part of that organization and meet so many amazing people. It has opened up a whole new circle of friends whom I probably would not have met otherwise. Each show brings new members, new friends, and new experiences. Last night, I went with an MTG friend to go watch another member perform in a stage version of Pride of Prejudice (absolutely amazing, by the way). We had so much fun.

So basically, I have been filling my life with new experiences and new people. School is really enjoyable, even if it is extremely challenging. Every morning brings new things, and I am so grateful to be blessed so thoroughly. I hope everyone had a happy Purim. I'm looking forward to spring break. ◊



The Native Tourist

The Native Tourist *is Chai-Lights' series* of articles featuring off-beat activities or attractions in South Florida.

This Month's stop: Everglades Alligator Farm 40351 SW 192 Avenue Homestead, FL (305) 247-2628 www.everglades.com

Most visitors to Florida look forward to seeing an alligator while they are here; it's one of the most exotic and exciting native species and one of the things Florida is famous for. They aren't too hard to find. If you're local, you can usually spot them on your commute up and down the stretch or Card Sound Road. If you cross the state, you'll probably see a few from your car along the banks of the canals that run along I-75 (Alligator Alley). If you take one of the Everglades tours, you'll probably spot at least the top of an alligator's head as you go by. But

none of these options are very closeup. If you want a really good look at the prehistoric beasties, upclose, personal and **Re** even in **me** their



Regulating heat through the mouth, or laughing at the tourists?



Another newcomer to the Everglades Alligator Farm.

natural surroundings, head up to Homestead and the Everglades Alligator Farm.

The farm is a privately owned, real, working gator farm. It all started in 1982, originally as an airboat attraction. Then in 1985 the state started issuing permits for alligator farming, to ease some of the stress poaching for hides had put on the already endangered reptiles. The owner of the Everglades Alligator Farm got a permit and started commercially farming the animals. The alligator had been hunted almost to extinction, and was on the Endangered Species List. Commercial farming was also seen as a way to guarantee the survival of the species. Since then, the alligator has become one of the true success stories of the Endangered Species Act. There are now more than one million alligators in the wild in Florida alone. It is still a protected species, but is no longer considered endangered.

The farm has about 2,000 gators at any one time, ranging from hatchlings to the enormous, awe-inspiring breeders. You can see the babies in their grow-out pens and the adults are in a natural environment breeding pond. None of the alligators are shy at all, and will be right up on the bank by the fences, offering you a great up-close view. Along with the gators, and some native North American crocodiles (which are much more difficult to see in the wild), the farm also has a display of native and exotic snakes and a wildlife exhibit, which includes a pair of Florida Panthers.

The park has an outdoor amphitheater where they offer alligator, snake and wildlife shows several times a day. The shows



Our view from the airboat, skimming over the Everglades. Quite a horizon, isn't it?

are entertaining and informative, and after each show the public is invited to stick around to get some "hands-on" experience with the stars of the show. Yes, it's a true photo-op. Visitors are allowed to hold baby gators and snakes, and photos are always encouraged. But probably the biggest thrill (and my favorite part) of any visit to the farm is the airboat ride through the Everglades. The farm has several airboats, and they schedule trips throughout the day. The rides last about half an hour, and you get a full range of experiences. You start with a slow motor through the mangrove canal, where vou'll see all kinds of birds, turtles and wild gators. Then, once you've cleared the canal. you'll be flying through the River of Grass. You're guaranteed to see a lot of wildlife and



The large capacity airboats, waiting at the dock.

lessen the thrill when they open the engine and take flight. You will see wildlife, you will

get a great view, and, oh yeah, you WILL get wet. The seats in the front of the boat are obviously the wettest, but even the back row has the poten-



A group of the baby gators in

their grow-out pond.

tial for spray, especially during a 360° speed turn. So just make sure to dress accordingly, including shoes that will dry quickly. It is absolutely worth it. \diamond

IF YOU GO: The Everglades Alligator Farm is open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., except for Christmas Day. Shows and tours run several times throughout the day. Admission is \$19.for adults, \$12 for kids 4-11, and kids under 4 are free. Prices include all shows and the airboat ride. Group rates are available. And the website has a printable coupon. Beverages and snacks (including alligator meat) are available at the snack bar.

bird species in their natural habitat on the trip, and you'll get a spectacular unobstructed view of the Everglades. You'd think the noise of the airboat would scare away all the creatures. but they must be used to it, because they seem unfazed by it all. and stick around for you to see. The airboats run on preestablished trails, so you aren't doing any damage to the environment. and staving on a trail doesn't

Photo Gallery

Jerry and Elaine Hirsch, major supporters of arts programs in the Upper Keys, pose with Dixieland jazz performers at the February 26th concert at Coral Shores sponsored by South Florida Center for the Arts, right. Below, Marcus and Joan pose with some of the other KJCC members who attended.





Jeff and Patty Schocket pose with the lads touring in a tribute to The Beatles, at SFCA's fundraiser, right. As you can see, the dress code was flower-child formal. A moment at the Sunday, March 16th seaside wedding of KJCC member Gerri Weisberg to Frank Emkey, below left. The

Pollacks and Swartzes join in the *simcha*. The entire congregation wishes the newlyweds health and happiness and a ringing Mazel Tov.



Photo Gallery



This page and next, images from the KJCC Annual Fundraiser held Sunday, March 9, 2008. At right, our gracious hosts, Jerry and Elaine Hirsch, who lent their beautiful oceanside home for the event.







More from the Fundraiser. Above, Nancy Kluger and Joan Stark, the main organizers.







Photo Gallery







The 5th Annual Women's Seder will be Monday, April 14. Beth Kaminstein opened her pottery workshop for all to make their own plates



and goblets. Above left, Beth works with Candy Stanlake. Linda Perloff and Pauline Roller get wet clay on their hands, above. Last year's finished products await the seder, center. (Our thanks to Meredith Cline and Gloria Avner for the photos.)

Above, KJCC's Sunday school class comes together (quietly, a blessing unto itself) to practice all the Shabbat blessings, candlelighting to Kiddish to *hamotzih* to the blessing over all else. Right, for those who missed it, the tree in front of KJCC after its recent confrontation with lightning.



Pesach

Some Things You've Always Wanted to Know But Were Afraid (or didn't know) to Ask.

By Gloria Avner

L's almost time to take out our Haggadahs and tell that same old story. It's a wonderful story, the most important story we have to tell, the story of our freedom and survival against the greatest of odds, which by the way included our own intransigence. The acceptance of the commandments at Mt. Sinai is the Jews' most important defining event. It is also the event by which God selfdefines. God does not say "I am the God who created everything that is." God says "I am the Lord that brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God."

Still, though we all know the basic story, we love new learning. You might want to share some of the following little-known facts, side stories, and metaphysical insights about Passover at your own seder table.

"And the daughters you shall let live" (*Exodus 1:16*)

When the Egyptians decided to kill the Jewish male babies, women played a huge role in God's plan for Jewish redemption, setting the stage by saving Moses, by keeping our names, our customs, and our family strengths and beliefs intact. It should not be surprising that the most popular haggadah in the United States in the first quarter of the 20th century was arranged, edited and translated by a woman. Before feminism, before Maxwell House, there was Lillie Goldsmith Cowen.

Mrs. Philip Cowen, as she preferred to be called, was the wife of the first publisher of the Jewish weekly newspaper "American Hebrew." She worked side by side with him, editing and typesetting until his retirement in 1906. In 1904, she published the Cowen Haggadah, the first mass-produced adaptation of the haggadah in modern American vernacular. Hundreds of thousands of copies were sold all over the world and were distributed to American Jewish servicemen in both World Wars.

The grape debate

"I will free you from the hard labor of the Egyptians, rescue you from their bondage, I will redeem you with an outstretched arm ... I will gather you in to be my people." (*Exodus* 6:6-7) Wine at the Passover seder is associated with freedom. Slaves, after all, were not permitted to drink wine. In fact, the four cups of wine are associated with four expressions of freedom and redemption.

Ironically, when the 18th Amendment went into effect in January, 1920, Prohibition threatened to eliminate this important symbol of religious freedom from Jewish ritual life. Jews found themselves embroiled in a battle both with the U.S. government and with each other.

While wine would be permitted for Jews during Passover, the new law required obtaining special government permits to make and, in some cases, import wine. These permits became a major target for organized crime. Congregations that existed only on paper applied for permits; once this came to light it generated a lot of negative press and became a source of concern for the entire Jewish community.

Reform and Conservative rabbis volunteered to give up their wine-making permits, saying that grape juice could be substituted without violating Jewish law. This made Orthodox rabbis irate. With the end of the experiment of Prohibition and the rise of Nazism in the 1930s, the rift was healed and American Jews once again banded together to face a common enemy.

Passover in the (New Mexican) desert

"Therefore it is our duty to thank, praise. pay tribute, glorify, exalt, honor, extol, bless and acclaim the one who has performed all these miracles for our ancestors and for us." In February, 1918, 25-year-old lacob "lack" Yellen found himself far from his New York City home, in the high desert of southern New Mexico. Born in Poland and brought to America as a boy, Yellen's aspirations as a vaudeville producer and lyricist were cut short by World War I. He became a field representative of the lewish Welfare Board for Work and was part of a group of dedicated voung men and women around the country providing for the religious and personal needs of tens of thousands of American Jewish men being trained to fight the Kaiser's armv.

When possible, Yellen held Friday evening services, produced and sang in camp shows, and generally acted as chaplain, counselor and older brother. (He was, remember, 25 at the time.) His devotion and enthusiasm earned him the respect of the camp's non-Jewish officer corps.

When Passover arrived on March 28, Yellen organized and led a seder for the camp's Jewish soldiers. About 60 enlisted men were present, along with many distinguished guests. Yellen managed to procure candlesticks, matzah, bitter herbs and paschal lamb, all served in the mess hall decorated in blue and white. Grape juice was substituted for wine.

Officers called upon to speak not only praised the contribution of the Jews to America, but wished the Jewish people well as they worked toward creating a Jewish state. The seder ended with Yellen singing "Hatikvah" and the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Yellen, in collaboration with longtime partner Morton Ager, went on to write such American classics as "Ain't She Sweet" and "Happy Days Are Here Again." His Jewish classic "Yiddishe Mama" sold more than one million copies in 1925.

"Those Jews, they take care of their own"

"It is because of what the Lord did for me when I went out of Egypt' (*Exodus 13:8*). For me but not for him — had he been there, he would not have been redeemed."

When in the haggadah the wicked son asks "What is the purpose of this work to *you*?" it is clear that he excludes himself from the community.

Involvement in the needs of the community is one of the most powerful defining ideas of what it means to be a Jew, and it's one of the lessons taught annually at *Pesach*. A century ago, the non-Jewish world was in awe of Jewish philanthropic organizations as well as wealthy families and individuals dedicated to improving the lives of impoverished and uneducated Jews. This spirit of giving was best exemplified by the Baron and Baroness de Hirsch.

In 1888, the German Jewish industrialist gave a gift of \$10 million to aid in the education of poor Russian Jews. The world was amazed. Headlines all over America reported the Baron's gift, which was deposited for safekeeping in a London bank. It was called "the second-largest private act of charity in the history of the world."

After Baron Hirsch died, his wife Clara continued his legacy. In 1896, she came to another place of dire poverty and gave an equally generous gift of \$10 million to help another group of desperate Jews. That place was New York's Lower East Side.

It's the Real Thing [TM]

The Wise Son, what does he say? According to the famous French medieval scholar, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki (Rashi), "the wise son is wise because he is one who knows how to ask wisely." In the spirit of the wise son, Rabbi Tobias Geffen of Atlanta was a man who knew how to ask wisely.

The formula for Coca-Cola ranks up there among such great American secrets as Area

51 and the Manhattan Project. Geffen, an Orthodox rabbi who served Atlanta Jewry from 1910 until his death in 1970 at the age of 99, is responsible for Coke being kosher.

Born in Kovno, Lithuania, in 1870 he immigrated to America and in 1903 became rabbi of a congregation in Canton, Ohio. Seven years later he became rabbi of congregation Shearith Israel in Atlanta.

Being a respected rabbi in Atlanta, headquarters of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co., he was asked by rabbis from around the country whether or not Coca-Cola was kosher. In the 1930s, it seems, tastes among Jewish youth were changing. The seltzer that pleased the parents no longer satisfied the children. So the rabbi contacted the company to ask for a list of Coke's ingredients.

The year was 1935. At that time, Geffen did not know that Coca-Cola's formula was such a closely guarded secret. Only a few highly placed individuals in the company knew the list of ingredients. After learning more about Geffen, Coca-Cola made a corporate decision to allow him access to the list. He was required to give them his word to never reveal the secret to anyone else. The rabbi agreed.

After investigating a list of ingredients, Geffen determined that one, glycerin, made from animal tallow, was not kosher. Eventually, the company found a vegetable-based substitute.

The formula, however, still included traces of grain alcohol. Since anything derived from grains is potentially *chametz*, Coca-Cola could not be certified kosher for Passover even after the formula was changed to include vegetable glycerin. Eventually, Coke's chemists experimented and found that, during the Passover season, they could substitute sweeteners produced from beet and cane sugar without compromising Coke's taste. They agreed to start manufacturing Coke with the new sugars several weeks before Passover each year. This comes to us as Coke in bottles with vellow caps, which are often treated as collectors' items. (And some consider to be the only true remnant of the original Coke taste.) ◊

The New Year of Freedom

In the mystical realm, there are also a few things our rabbis never told us, things that all Jews may have taken for granted hundreds of years ago, but which may well have been diluted in the Americanization and Reformation of 20th Century Judaism.

Our calendar is unique, the only one to combine both lunar and solar elements as well as incorporating a "leap" factor. Our calendar is a spiral, calculated so that each year the same energies are manifested at the same time. *Pesach*, it is written, has to be in spring, the time in which the energy of growth, change, and freedom is manifest. If we can tune into that energy of freedom, it is available to us today just as it was in the time of the Exodus.

Pesach, another of the (four) lewish New Years, this time for reinforcing access to the energy of freedom, has been described in a midrash from the Talmud Pesachim as "a night of watching for all the children of Israel." Watching, Paving attention, Imagine that you are in a forest in the middle of the night. It is so dark you cannot see your hand in front of your face. You have no way of finding your way out of the forest. And vet, if you are paying attention the whole first night of *Pesach*, there may be one moment in which the whole sky will be illuminated in a flash of lightning and you can see just enough landmarks to find your way home.

How can we see clearly enough to free ourselves from that which stands in the way of true freedom? Here comes another symbolic aspect of *Pesach*. Metaphysically speaking, *chametz*—leavening—is analagous to ego. Like leaven it is puffy, it inflates, an artificial thing. We don't want to destroy our egos. They help us to function. Still, while cleaning leaven out of our houses, let's think of putting our egos on the shelf for eight days so we can look within.

-Gloria

The Greening of Kelley Greenman

The hard and politically charged work on worldwide climate change has enlisted one of KJCC's own.

hen I tell people about attending the UN Conference on Climate Change this past December, the first thing I mention is sitting in the front row, star-struck and inspired, as Al Gore addressed the assembly in one of his most motivating speeches. I walked away on cloud nine, wanting to take on the world. But the conference was more than just watching proceedings: it was participating and influencing them, whether through our policy proposals that we handed out, or by the enormous youth presence at the conference.

As a member of a twenty-twoperson youth delegation, I began preparing for the 14-day conference last June, researching and writing policy proposals and familiarizing myself

with the issues. The delegation that I was a part of was entirely youth-run. It was with an organization called SustainUS, to which I had been accepted after a national application process. The youth delegation had the status of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the negotiations; we were not connected to the U.S. government. This gave us freedom to express our personal beliefs and work for our own goals. Once we were in Bali, our U.S. delegation connected with other international youth to form an International Youth Caucus totaling over 130 of my peers from around the world. As a caucus, we met privately to



It was quite an honor to be chosen to attend the U.N.'s Bali Conference. Kelley poses before the media backdrop on day one.

plan our policy and communication strategies for the public negotiations, in an effort to have a more powerful, united position in front of the official delegates.

During the proceedings, I followed the issue of adaptation, which deals with the impacts of climate change that are already, or soon to be, occurring. Essentially, the challenge is how to provide the funding and technology for developing countries so they're able to face impending threats like intensifying weather events, rising sea levels, and shifting agricultural patterns. I was shocked to learn that there are already small Pacific islands that are relocating entire populations due to rising sea levels. A woman I spoke with lived in Kiribati, a small island that is already being inundated. She spoke tearfully of the strength she drew from the youth movement, just to know that there were people dedicated to this issue. Despite all the evidence, some still deny the existence of the On the U.S. delegation alone, there were young consultants, activists, undergraduates, aspiring lawyers, a city councilman, and graduate students. Everyone was sharing what they know and listening to what you could tell them. One member of my delegation took me under his wing and showed me how to navigate the adaptation meetings. During the first few days, I would lean over and whisper questions to him every few minutes; without his guidance I would never have become as acquainted with the issue as I did. I remember watching him cry when they an-

changes, but the problem is very real to the millions of people around the world already being affected. For this reason. the UN Conference in Bali was a chance for me to put faces



nounced the decision that an organization-one that had received several complaints from developing countries about its bureaucracv and inaccessibility-would be responsible for handing

to the names and nationalities of affected populations, and a chance to re-inspire myself for a career in climate change policy.

The obligatory photo with the entire U.S. Youth Delegation at Bali, December 2007. To spare you the search, Kelley's on the far left.

It wasn't just the proceedings, and meeting the international delegates from the countries that would be impacted by climate change, that inspired me. It was being surrounded by 129 other youth who are as passionate about the environment, and saving our planet for the future, as I am. And, each delegate had a different area of expertise within this overarching passion. out money to developing countries for adaptation. He had been working on this issue for years, and had been against the decision that was made.

Watching his passion about the decision, while disheartening on some levels, inspired me. There is so much room in this process, and with this gigantic issue of climate change, for youth involvement, and everywhere we are standing to fill in that space.

On the final day of the conference, the youth caucus had an opportunity to address the general assembly in the large conference hall. We prepared a speech as an international delegation, and gave it to three youth to deliver: one from the U.S., one from Australia, and one from Indonesia. The rest of us



Hey, Kelley. Turn around and smile! This photo was taken in downtown Denpasar at the International Day of Climate Action march.

had all painted our fingers green and agreed to stand up as a unit during the part of the speech where our speakers asked for the official delegates to "join us" in our quest for effective climate mitigation. When I stood up I knew what was supposed to happen, but was shocked to see nearly the entire conference hall crowded with green fingers and hopeful youth. I had been to every strategy meeting, but to see us all standing together in front of our leaders, at an international conference, imploring them to take action...if for no other reason than for our generation and our kids... was staggering. It made me gasp at the reality that we are making our own future. and not in any small way. It's just a matter, now, of someone listening.

The politics of this upcoming election are so important. Our next leader will play a crucial role in determining the U.S.'s involvement in international mitigation efforts. I believe it's time for the U.S. to take responsibility for the 25 percent of global emissions that we release every year. Regardless of the actions of the rest of the world, the next U.S. president needs to be prepared to clean up our own mess.

> After the conference was over, a few other delegates and I set off to explore the island. Under the influence of our Lonely Planet guidebook, we ended up hiking the tallest volcano on the island at midnight. to make it to the top for sunrise. This obstacle was the hardest one I've ever overcome. After three hours of hiking in the dark, I was cold, tired and already sore. It was another three hours to the top, and by the time I made it. I wanted a helicopter to save me from the way down. Despite my incoherence, exhaustion and constant stumbles. I made it back to the bottom. in one piece, ten hours after we had

started. I had never felt more proud of myself for finishing something, all because it was so difficult. Somehow, despite the miserable nature of the hike, when I returned to the bottom, I decided to see those ten hours as a learning experience, almost an accomplishment, although I would NEVER do it again.

The next step for me is another United Nations Conference. In May I will be a delegation leader for a new delegation of youth to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in New York. I am being guided in this process by five co-leaders who were with me in Bali, some of whom have been to CSDs in the past. I've found a niche in international environmental policy meetings. They feed my own hunger to know more about the process, and prepare me for a career in environmental policy, but they also satiate my desire to have more youth involved in the process. It's our world to inherit, so it's important that we speak up to defend it. ◊

Kelley Greenman, a KJCC religious school alumna and bat mitzvah, is an environmental studies major at Washington University. She's to graduate in 2009. She wrote this article especially for Chai-Lights.

A Righteous Gentile: The Irena Sendler Story.

Our thanks to Jim Boruszak for introducing us to this story.

which is the project on the project

In 1999 Norm Conard handed a short news clipping to four of his students who were looking for a subject for their National History Day project. Mr. Conard wanted his students to focus on the concept that one person can make a difference in the world. The clipping told of Irena Sendler, a Roman Catholic woman who smuggled 2,500 Jewish children out of the Warsaw ghetto in the months before it was liquidated. Mr. Conard cautioned his students to double check the facts, since 2,500 seemed like a large number for someone he had never even heard of. The students were able to find only one mention of Irena on one website, but continued to

A young Irena.



research. They started aoina through burial records to see if they could find where she was buried. and discovered instead that she was still alive and living in Warsaw. They were able to put together her incredible story, and through their project help bring international recognition to Irena.

Irena Sendler was born in 1910 in a small town near Warsaw. Her father was the only doctor who would treat the poor, mostly Jewish victims of the 1917 typhus epidemic. He contracted and died of the disease, but not before instilling in his daughter the belief that you must do all you can to help people in need, even if you put yourself at risk.

> Irena knew that she was unlikely to save any adults, but she did have a chance with the children.

Irena was a social worker in Warsaw in 1939 when the Nazis invaded Poland. She started helping the Jews by forging documents and registering lews under Christian names so they could receive services and financial assistance. She listed them all as typhus or tuberculosis victims so that there would be no investigation. In 1942 she was recruited by ZEGOTA, a cryptonym of the Council for Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland, a group with amazingly broad contacts and secret helpers throughout Warsaw and among the highest strata of wartime Polish society. As a social worker, Irena was able to obtain a pass from the Epidemic Department to enter the Warsaw ghetto. Working with a team of 20 to 30 others, mostly women, they would enter the ghetto and try to convince the Jewish parents to give up their children to them, so they could be smuggled out and

placed with foster families. Irena knew that she was unlikely to save any adults, but she did have a chance with the children.

Irena kept meticulous records of the names and families of the children, in the hope that after the war, the children could be reunited with their families or at least their Jewish identities. All the information was recorded on thin tissue paper and buried in jars in a friend's back yard.

Children would be smuggled out in burlap sacks, boxes and coffins; sometimes the younger ones would be sedated to keep them quiet. Older children were snuck out through sewers or secret openings in walls. churches or the courthouse. Irena's group was able to smuggle 2,500 of the children out of the ghetto and into safe foster homes before she was discovered and arrested in 1943. She was questioned and tortured before being sentenced to death by firing squad. She never gave up her lists. Before the sentence could be carried out. ZEGOTA was able to bribe a guard to free her and falsify her execution report. Irena went into hiding and never spoke of her involvement in order to protect her own children from reprisals. When the war ended she dug up her jars and began trying to find the children and any living relatives. Unfortunately, of the 2,500 she rescued, almost all of their families had perished at Treblinka. But because of Irena and her meticulous record keeping, the children survived and retained their Jewish identities.

> All the information was recorded on thin tissue paper and buried in a friend's back yard.

Irena was not known, because she remained quiet, and because the communist Polish government that followed suppressed any record of anti-Nazi nationalists, as many were also anti-communist. Irena remained largely unknown, even in her own country.

Until the Kansas students went to their National History Day competition with a play about Irena called *Life In A Jar.* It sparked



Irena, at her home in Warsaw, on her 97th birthday.

interest, which has spread world-wide. When the students started their research, a web search turned up only one site that mentioned Irena Sendler. A search now will bring up about 80.000. The students have since visited Irena in Poland, and she is said to have been stunned and surprised by the efforts of the students and the attention she has received. Irena has also since been recognized by the Polish government, which now considers her a national hero. Additionally, in 2007 she was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. There is now a biography, Irena Sendler: The Mother of the Holocaust Children. by Anna Mieszkowska. And as of 2007. there was a screenplay in the works. Irena, now 98 years old, is the only survivor of the group of rescuers. When contacted on last year's birthday, she said, "I have to share all credit with the 30-odd people who worked with me. Alone, I couldn't have done it." ◊

Purim 2008

KJCC celebrates The Feast of Lots, and once again Queen Esther saves her people.

urim at the KICC was once again a gleeful highlight of our year. Over 40 people came to help read the Megillah-the story of Purim. We read round-robin in English, supplemented with wonderful Hebrew reading by our students Max and loshua.



accompanied by Harry in the garb of King Achashverus. (One particular word, though, an arch-villain's name, was loudly and enthusiastically drowned out by the sound of spinning groggers with each mention.) After the reading, the children passed out bags of *Mishloach manot*, and then collected for Pu-



Joyce begins the Megillah reading, above. Herb Grossman and Michal Kamely follow along (in different languages), above right. Yardena with Harry, Joshua and Max, left. Alan Beth and Paul Bernstein await their turns to read, right.

rim *Tzadakah*. Our intrepid Megillah readers donated \$86, which will be sent to Matzah Mitzvah Fund of South Florida, helping those in need to buy food for Passover.

While we were reading, Sisterhood members were bringing platters laden

with food. Led by Sofy and Roberta, Zoe and Linda, they set up a marvelous buffet dinner in the newly tiled social hall. Shabbat candles were lit,

Jim Boruszak and the children led



us in Kiddush and *Hamotze*, and we feasted! I am always amazed at the way our KJCC family comes together to make wonderful things happen! The children of the religious school decorated bags for the *mishloach*

manot, which I filled with juice, pretzels, chocolate chip granola bars and tangerines, helped by Linda Rutkin, Gloria, and Carol





special *thank you* to Bill and Freda Ferns, owners of La Cuccina and Gyros King.



Steinbock's mom Marianne. Wonderful food was prepared and brought in abundance, along





with several bottles of wine (consumed, in no small measure, by yours truly) and Slivovitz! The salads, frittatas, egg dishes, Jell-o molds, kugels and so much more...all were delicious. Congratulations and thanks to the cooks! A

Above: they tried to kill us; we survived; let's eat! Yardena with Moira and Jeri, middle right. Cory and Gloria surely earned their supper tonight. Harry Friedman says the Kiddush prayer, below left. At right, the bags of *Mishloach Manot*, decorated by the students, await. Although they were unable to attend, they donated platters of delicious hummous, tabouli, fresh-made pita bread and the honeyed baklava (to the great joy of Yardena, who was spied carrying several of them home after the event.) All tables were filled with people eating, drinking and enjoying this year's Purim celebration!

After dinner we were treated to an original musical event written by Gloria and performed by our religious school; services were led by Jim, and then we returned to the social hall for an Oneg of coffee, cake, ice cream and fruit. It was truly a happy Purim!

-Joyce Peckman





are the richer for it.

Tutor Cory Wasser was, as usual, an upbeat Narrator for this year's telling of the story: "Purim, the Musical." A good part of the fun was the combination of silly songs composed just for this event, and the traditional songs that both tell the story and celebrate our survival as a people. Purim is, after all, a very serious holiday (though apparently little known by the outside world; every non-Jewish adult I mentioned it to this week returned only the blankest of stares), even

As you can see from the pictures, the KJCC Religious School's Purim play (an original by, um, me) was a happy, silly, and exuberant success. A good time was had by all, even if the high-kicking chorus of evil Hamans did flub a few lines and improvise their choreography. Could there be a better night to be foolish?

We owe Sofy Wasser,



though it is a time in which we have total license. almost a mandate. to act foolishlv. leri made a lovely Esther, Zach excelled as the jumpup Haman. loshua was



Roberta McNew and Zoe huge bouquets of gratitude for appearing in front of their peers in beards and masks, willing to be both booed and laughed at. Every time our adults join our children in creative activity, we all a wishful, gun-toting Mordechai, Harry stunned as the well-dressed King Ahasueros, Max presented a delectable Hamantaschen, and Nyan, Lili, Moira and Cammie rounded out the cast as energetic cheer (boo) leaders. The mix of music, dance, and laughter, followed by our first all-musical service, preceded by the wonderful Megillah reading and dinner, made this Purim a night to remember.

Apart from all the laughter, though, the last chant by the "Boo-leaders" still echoes in my mind:

Three, five, seven, nine, Who will save us all next time? Who will be OUR Mordechai? All our kids. And you. And I.

-Gloria

Zoe Berk, Roberta McNew and Sofy Wasser, below, portray the villain Haman in his various tenses. Inset, Zach awaits his cue.

FUTUR



The ensemble, top right, reminds the audi-

ence, through flash cards, exactly what's going on. Center left, a break in the action before Act II. Joyce, below, mandatory drinking accomplished, wonders where she left her car.

On behalf of all of KJCC, we offer a special thanks to Joyce Peckman for the magnificent job she did organizing and leading our Megillah reading. This is Joyce's project, one of her many gifts to KJCC. In addition, as Vice-President of Sisterhood, Joyce is always here, giving of her time and energy and being one of the most important reasons why KJCC works. You're a wonder, Joyce.

We'd also like to thank the irreplaceable Gloria Avner, our multi-talented teacher and choir master and playwright and director, for the loving gift of our Purim play. And Michael and Suzanne Gilson for sponsoring the Purim dinner.

-Steve and Carol







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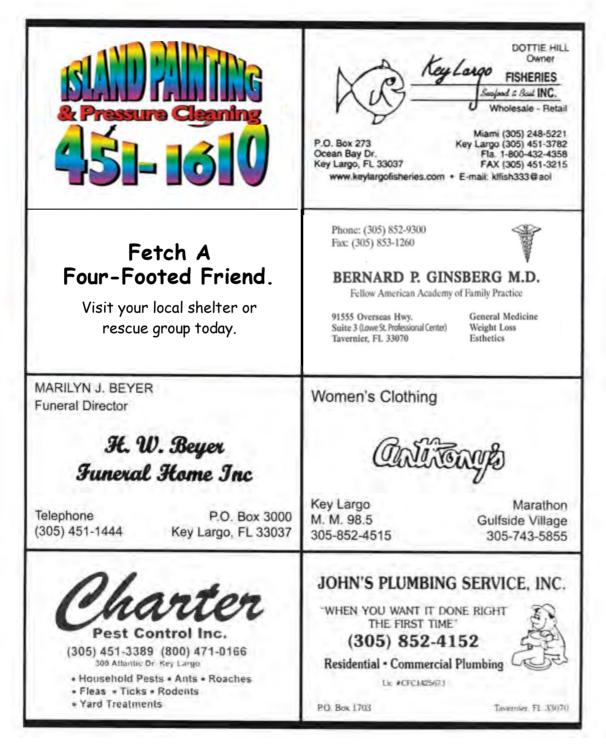






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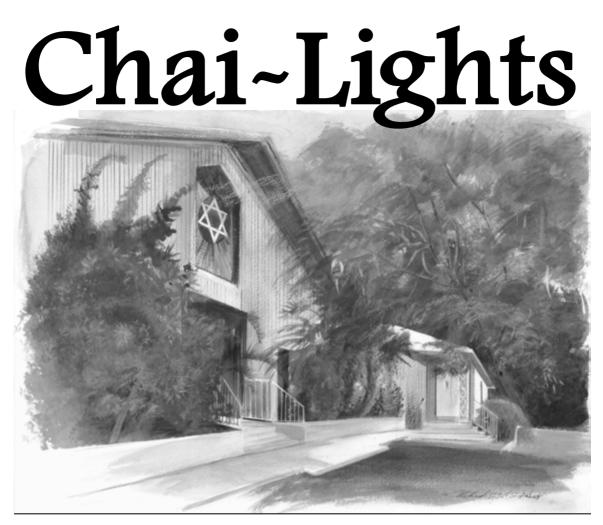
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May 2008

26 Nisan - 26 Iyar

Why I Love Being Jewish - page 19 Holocaust Remembrance - page 20 Israel At 60 - page 25

Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com May 2008

26 Nisan—26 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	ote leaders of Frid d names are Oneg			1 KJCC Holocaust Display Official Opening 7 p.m.	2 Yom Ha'Shoah Steve & Yardena <i>Medina Roy</i>	3
4	5	6	7	8 Israel Independence Day Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	9 George & Yardena <i>Medina &</i> <i>Bernie</i> 6:30 Dinner Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	10 Nyan Feder Bar Mitzvah 4:00 p.m. Nosh 5:00 p.m. Service
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16 Joel & Linda Pollack <i>Linda Rutkin</i>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Jim Boruszak & Gloria Avner	24
25	26 Memorial Day Observed	27	28	29	30 Joyce & Yardena 6:30 p.m. Service Joyce Peckman	31

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly newsletter of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

Prosident^os Message

Steve Steinbock

Our Purim celebration was a great success, thanks to Joyce Peckman's hard work. She led the Megillah reading and organized a delicious dinner. Sunday School's Purim play, performed by our children (plus Cory and a few brave parents) was terrific. Thanks to Gloria (playwright, musical director, stage manager and dialogue coach), Susan, and Yardena.

We all love the beautiful new tile floor installed in the social hall in time for the Purim party. Thanks to Mark Wasser for making it happen.

Forty-eight women attended the 5th Annual Women's Seder on April 14th with Elaine Hirsch as this year's honoree. Thanks to Meredith for all your hard work and Muriel for orchestrating the delicious food. which I got to sample (Carol brought some home for me) and to Gloria for leading the service. Special thanks to Beth Kaminstein, our own artist/potter. who helped everyone fashion their own clay Seder plates, wine cups and dishes for the event. as she has since its inception.

The KJCC Second Night Seder was sold out as usual, with over 100 people, and better than ever. Led by Jim and Joel, we shared more good Passover food and a shorter service! And once again these two old pros suc-



cessfully got us out of Egypt.

Mazel Tov to Gerri Weisberg and her new husband Frank Emkey on their recent wedding, led by our own Cantor Mark in a beautiful ceremony on the bay in Key Largo.

Yardena's Holocaust display opens on May 1 st in our lobby. That night, at 7 p.m., Steve Smith will lecture on the liberation of Dachau, from a personal perspective: his father was there. The Holocaust display will be in place through May and again open to the public on Friday evening and Sunday mornings as well as by appointment. Don't miss this moving and informative display.

Sisterhood will sponsor a celebration for Israel's 60th birthday at KJCC on Friday, May 9th. There will be a 6:30 buffet of Israeli food, plus music and dancing. We can all then plotz in the sanctuary for the 8:00 service.

My sister Rosemary, Carol and I are looking forward to our first trip to Israel in mid-May. I am sure we will have much to share on our return.

Speaking for the entire KJCC family, Carol and I deeply grieve the sudden passing of Marty Graham. Our hearts are with you, Bea.

> Steve Chai-Lights May 2008 • I

Nosh

Havdalah, Will Travel

Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman would like to offer a new service to our KICC mishpochah. a kind of sweet dessert to Shabbat. Over the past year we have been meeting, very occasionally, at Tarpon Basin Dock, watching the sunset, schmoozing, waiting for three medium-sized stars to appear, and having our very own "Havdalah" service. We would like to share this experience with more of you. We know many of us have docks or wonderful places from which to view the setting sun. If anyone would like to host, we would be happy to provide all accoutrements. Have candle, spice box, and books; will travel. So far, we have three takers and we'll be celebrating in May at Susan's, Alan's, and Linda and Joel's. We may call a hiatus in June until snowbirds return in the fall. If you want to be on the e-mail list for notification of time and place, please write Gloria at geetavner@gmail.com. You are also welcome to call Gloria (619-0216) or loyce (240-1000) for more information. Sharing "Havdalah by the Sea" is a lovely way to bid goodbye to Shabbat and hello to a brand new week.

Shabbatones In Need Of Tones

If someone has a portable electronic piano keyboard they would like to donate, (looking for a simple one with 66 keys, preferably with speakers built in) for the use of our KJCC Religious School and the Shabbatones (our KJCC Choir), we would be very grateful. Call or e-mail.

A Mitzvah From Medina

Medina Roy will be sponsoring two Onegs this month, for two special reasons. On May 2nd she will be honoring the 88th birthdays of her parents Leon and Bianka Kirschenbaum. And on May 9th, she will be cosponsoring with Bernie Ginsberg in honor of both their birthdays, which shares a day with the original Israeli Independence Day. Whew, busy day. Mazel Tov to you all.

Date

Years

4th	Susan & Alan Cooper22
	Chely & Alan Markowitz
	Shelley & Harold Schenker
	Judith & Larry Weber46

Men's Club Picnic Rescheduled

The Men's Club Picnic, which had to be postponed due to weather, has been rescheduled for June. A barbeque is being planned for Father's Day, June 15th, at Bahia Honda Beach. We'll have more details in next month's issue.

To Contact Chai-Lights

Use the new e-mail our webmaster Alan has added to the KJCC web site. It's chailights@keysjewishcenter.com. Please send all ideas, comments, and questions there, as well as all submissions. \Diamond

BOOK PLATES

In Honor Of Fanny Kluger FOR 100 GOOD YEARS By Pauline Roller

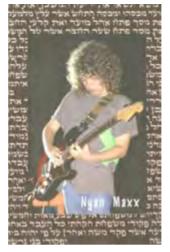
To Honor Fanny Kluger ON HER 100[™] BIRTHDAY By Joan and Jim Boruszak

In Fond Memory of Sam Sax The Sax Family

Nosh

From the KJCC Historian

The KICC Bimah was designed by David DeHaas-Grosseck of DeHaas Consulting & Design, who was KICC Vice President under Mike Rubin. The Bimah is multifunctional. If you look closely, you will see hinges on the stairs which open up and provide storage space beneath. The side rooms allow entrance for the Rabbi or Leader as an alternative to walking through the congregation. The side rooms also function as theatre wings where entrances and exits and costume changes may be made by the Purim Players and, of course, as storage rooms. The ark which holds the Torah was designed to be mobile and it was moved from what is now The Ruth Richardson Social Hall. The back wall of the ark was removed and the stone on which the Torahs lean gives the impression of the Wailing Wall. -Meredith



Andy Tobin Nuptials

KJCC heartily congratulates Andy Tobin on his recent marriage. We'd love to also congratulate his new bride, but we aren't sure of her first name. We think it's Deborah, though no one can tell us the correct spelling. So, Mrs. Tobin, we all wish you and Andy many years of health and happiness.

Ongoing Committees and Activities

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665. KJCC **Tree of Life Leaves** and **Rocks**, **Sanctuary Seat Plates**, **Yartzeit Memorial Plaques**, **Bookplates** for siddurim. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF *Trees in Israel* - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214. *Chai-Lights Mitzvah* - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertising in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds: e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund.

Nyan Feder's Bar Mitzvah

Date: May 10 at KJCC

Time: 4 p.m. Nosh for any KJCC members

5 p.m. short Mincha service, open to all

Nosh

A Letter of Thanks

This letter is to thank my "sisters" who produced our remarkable Women's Seder last night.

I am so grateful to have had that experience with my daughters the last few years. And I particularly enjoyed how our service has blended our Jewish traditions with a modern celebration of our womanhood.

How often have our elders been appreciated for just being the amazing women that they are?

Thank you to those of you who copied Haggadahs, prepared the service, set up, cleaned up, and those who spent hours so lovingly making homemade gefilte fish, matzah balls, charoset, desserts and matzah! (My daughters would never have known that we could make homemade matzah if not for our KJCC Woman's Seder!!)

I am intentionally not starting with names cuz you all know who you are and I would inevitably leave someone out. But none the less...thank you to our head table and all the passionate, capable women who created such a memorable event last night. With much love and gratitude... - Judy Greenman

For The Gittel Glory

The KJCC's own Gittel (Gloria Avner) has brought "nachas" to our community, winning First Prize in the Adult International Poetry Competition, held as part of the week-long, I4th annual, Key West "Robert Frost Poetry Festival." The prize was announced April I3th. Of the two contests, with twelve prizes offered, Gloria was the only winner from the state of Florida. Two were from the Midwest, one from Australia, and one from New Zealand. And the winner is:

Help

I took a bit of branch from someone else's frangipani tree and pushed its bottom into my own garden. I watered it for weeks.

TREE OF LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS TO FANNY KLUGER ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY From the KJCC

TO HONOR FANNY KLUGER ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY FROM RENE AND SKIP ROSE

IN HONOR OF JOAN AND JIM BORUSZAK'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY.

May we all be blessed to have such a beautiful relationship. Love, Beth, Fred, Nicci And Alex

IN HONOR OF FANNY KLUGER ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY FROM MICHAL KAMELY

Have you ever noticed how erotic frangipani branch tips look, once the roots take hold and baby leaves approach full length?

I am forced to touch to see if that new and vibrant green is wet. But it is not. That slick look comes from fresh stretched chlorophyll-drenched tissue, shiny verdancy of unused, unexposed, unoxidized youth.

Still, it makes my mouth go dry in wonder, as if the branch tip were a pulsing member of some brand new wild as yet undiscovered species, just unsheathed for the very first time.

If I am so undone by this revealed young stem and leaves, where will I go for help when and if tight fragrant buds, then dazzling flowers, appear?

May Memoriam

By Estelle Incociati In Blessed Memory of DOROTHY BIDERMAN Eternal Rest

By Estelle Incociati In Blessed Memory of LOUIS M. BIDERMAN Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

> By Shirley Boxer In Blessed Memory of STANLEY BOXER Eternal Peace

By Shirley Burnett In Blessed Memory of HAL BURNETT Forever In Our Hearts

By Stephen & Carol Steinbock In Blessed Memory of SUSAN CIMKOWSKI In Our Heart And Memory

By David M. & Nancy L. Cohn In Blessed Memory of CHARLES S. COHN Always In My Memory

By Donald & Nancy Zinner In Blessed Memory of NORMA CUTLER Rest In Peace

By Edward & Sherry Turney In Blessed Memory of HERMAN FOSTER Rest In Eternal Peace By the Blumberg Family In Blessed Memory of ANNA GAPPELBERG Always In Our Memory

By Milton & Claire Geller In Blessed Memory of JENNIE GELLER In Our Memory Always

By Janice Gorson In Blessed Memory of JULIE GORSON-MARROW With Loving Remembrance

> By Joan Waldman In Blessed Memory of BEN GROSS Sleep In Peace

By Margaret Gross In Blessed Memory of ANNA HABER Forever Remembered With Love

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs In Blessed Memory of ESTHER JACOBS Always Remembered

By Erwin & Barbara Kantor In Blessed Memory of JACK KANTOR Always Remembered With Love

By Marilyn Greenbaum In Blessed Memory of BELLE KIRSCHENBAUM Rest in Blessed Peace By Erica Garrett In Blessed Memory of BILLIE KORNBLOOM Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Lillian Lippman In Blessed Memory of MILTON LIPPMAN Always Loved and Missed

By the Cohen Family In Blessed Memory of MILTON LIPPMAN Eternal Rest

By Salomon & Mary Terner In Blessed Memory of ITKA RAIJ Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Robert & Sylvia Berman In Blessed Memory of ROSE ROAZEN Eternal Peace

By Marjorie Present In Blessed Memory of FLORENCE SAVAGE Forever In Our Hearts

By Stuart & Lauren Sax In Blessed Memory of LILYAN SAX In Our Heart And Memory

By Mary Lee Singer In Blessed Memory of ROBERT W. SINGER Always In My Memory By Robert & Susan Temkin In Blessed Memory of PHILLIP TEMKIN Rest In Peace

By Salomon & Mary Terner In Blessed Memory of ETIA TERNER Rest In Eternal Peace

By Stuart Grossman In Blessed Memory of MORRIS MOSHE GROSSMAN Remembered With Love

By Joseph & Susan W. Goldberg In Blessed Memory of HYMAN GOLDBERG We Remember Always

By Larry & Stephanie Gilderman In Blessed Memory of ALBERT GILDERMAN Long Blessed Sleep

> By the Cohen Family In Blessed Memory of ROSE WAINER Always In Our Memory

> By the Cohen Family In Blessed Memory of SAM WAINER In Our Memory Always

By Larry & Judith Weber In Blessed Memory of BENJAMIN WEBER Long Blessed Sleep By Gerri Weisberg In Blessed Memory of GERTRUDE WEISBERG We Remember Always

By Sheldon & Carole Weiss In Blessed Memory of STUART WEISS With Loving Remembrance

May Birthdays

Alan Beth	27
Matthew Birnbaum	25
Jaime Boruszak	
Joan Boruszak	
Sidney Boruszak	8
Julie Burnett	30
Mark Burnett	14
Nyan Feder	12
Robin Forman	29
Bernie Ginsberg	
Rose Marie Gordon	13
Tracey Greemberg	21
Robert Greenbaum	
Kelley Greenman	
Jonathon Hodgson	
Nicole Karron	
Carolyn Kaufman	25
Bianka Kirschenbaum	
Leon Kirschenbaum	
David Lang	
Jenny Margulies	
Pamela G. Marmar	4
Liati Mayk	
Stanley Nason	
Richard Palacino	
Jeffrey Pollack	
Madelyn Ruby Pollack	12
Sharon Repua	22
Randy Robins	26
Sheila Rodin-Novak	
Medina Roy	
Jonathan Schenker	
Paul R. Schur	
Reid Schur	
Susan Schwaid	25

Jules Seder Nettie Seder	
Robert Sherman	31
Andrea P. Silverman	18
Mark E. Silverman	31
Michael Solomon	3
Sheila R. Steinberg	
Shelby Strean	
John Temkin	14
Rita Williams	20
Nancy Zinner	29

The KJCC has lost one of its greatest contributors and staunchest supporters. Marty Graham, "Mr. Synagogue," has passed and has left behind many devoted friends and fellow congregants who will remember him as the person who took care of so many tasks for us. Whether it was the building, the electric system, the air conditioning, the signs, the many plaques and trees and rocks, Marty was The Man. His background in computers enabled him to maintain our important data base. In his own quiet way he facilitated much of the mechanics of the Center, serving on the Board of Directors for many years and on many committees, and for twenty years he was the editor of our excellent publication, Chai-Lights. Marty always had a smile and a word of encouragement for all. Words alone cannot express what Marty has meant to the KJCC and he will be remembered by all of us with great affection.

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Computers in Israel

According to the World Economic Forum's yearly report released in early April, Israel is ranked number one in the world in regards to computers per capita, with seven computers for every 100 people. Canada is ranked 2^{nd.} The U.K. and the U.S. are ranked 7th and 8th, respectively. (www.haaretz.com, 4-10-08)

Shalom TV

Comcast, along with Time Warner of New York and New Jersey, and Blue Ridge Communications is now broadcasting Shalom TV, the Jewish-themed network, to all of its service areas. The network, which debuted in 2006, features Jewish films – most are in Hebrew with English subtitles – children's programs, lectures and breaking news out of Israel. Jewish authors, poets, artists and celebrities and Israeli TV series are also featured. For Comcast subscribers, go to channel 1 (on demand), then to "TV Entertainment," then to Shalom TV. (www.jta.org, 1-29-08)

NASDAQ & the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

70 Israeli companies are listed on the tech-heavy NASDAQ Stock Market. That's more than any other country outside the U.S., followed by China with 60 and Canada with 51. In late 2007, NASDAQ and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange signed an agreement to formalize communications and facilitate trading of company shares admitted on both markets. (San Jose Mercury News, 3-15-08)

Insurers Deny Travelers to Israel

Insurers across America have been denying life insurance to people traveling to Israel. Industry sources say the policy is practiced by companies in nearly every state. They receive monthly lists of countries cited by the State Department as "dangerous or unstable." The controversial practice has outraged at least one member of Congress, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL). She was denied life insurance by AIG just because she checked a box on an application stating that she "'might' visit Israel someday." She got legislation passed in the House last fall, but it failed to pass in the Senate. People who already have insurance could face a denial of payment in the event of a death claim, depending on the insurer's fine print. A spokesman for Schultz said that the restrictions on non-war zone areas are based on "intentional death rates" from bombings or murders in the trouble spots. According to industry data. Israel's intentional death rate is 11 per 1,000 people, while the US rate is 54% higher, at 17 per 1,000. "On that basis, Israel is safer than America," the spokesman said. New York Post, 4-1-08)

Actress Heckled at Fund Raising Dinner

In Glasgow, Scotland, actress Goldie Hawn was heckled by about 150 pro-Palestinian demonstrators outside a fund-raising dinner attended by some 500 guests and hosted by the JNF (Jewish National Fund). The protest was organized by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, which objects to the JNF policy of renting Israeli land that it owns only to Jews. The JNF was founded in 1901 and has branches throughout the world. (World Jewish Congress, 3-12-08)

World Matzah Ball Eating Contest

Back in March, Kenny & Ziggy's New York

Deli, located in Houston, hosted the Inaugural World Matzah Ball Eating Contest. The event was publicized nationally and sanctioned by the International Federation of Competitive Eaters. The contest, "Matzah Balls for Marvin," honored the late broadcast journalist Marvin Zindler, with proceeds from the event going to pancreatic cancer research. More than 1.000 matzah balls were prepared, each weighing exactly 3 ½ ounces. Two world eating champions, Joey Chestnut & Patrick Bertoletti, wanted to add matzah balls to their resumes. (In world competition, these guvs are known as two of the "four horseman of the esophagus"). Chestnut won, having eaten 78 balls while Bertoletti ate 76. No one else came even close. (Iewish-Herald Voice, 3-21-08)

HBO's "In Treatment" Born in Israel

Used to be that Israel's most famous exports were laffa oranges and Uzis but now. that title belongs to HBO's "In Treatment," a show about a psychotherapist and his assortment of troubled patients. "Betipul" was a low -budget, high-guality show widely regarded as one of the best programs ever created in Israel. The show's creator. Hagai Levi. 45. devised an original format: for four days each week, the therapist would meet with a different patient, with the same one appearing every week on the same evening. On the fifth day, he would pour his heart out to his own therapist. To play the therapist, the producers chose Assi Davan, son of the late Moshe Dayan, the famous Israeli general. Levi grew up in a religious home where he studied the Talmud and he believes "Betipul" did indeed have Jewish undertones. "There is certainly something Talmudic about the back-andforth, guestion-and-answer format of the show," he said. Generally remaining faithful to its parent, "In Treatment" premiered in 2005 and according to HBO, each episode averages 2 million viewers. (Press of Atlantic Citv. 3-19-08)

Do Not Pass Jerusalem; Do Not Collect \$200

Jerusalem will be included in the new global version of the Monopoly board game. The Hasbro Company organized an internet vote and Jerusalem ranked #5 in the final list of 20 cities selected. The Israeli consulate in New York had launched a campaign for Jerusalem to be included in the new World Edition of the game. (Jerusalem Post, 3-18-08)

Israel's Population in the Year 2030

In the year 2030, according to data released by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, 24% of Israelis will be Arab Muslims or Arab Christians. Another 4.2% will be non-Arab gentiles. The remaining 71.8% will be Jews. Jews now comprise nearly 80% of Israel's population and many demographers have been warning that Israel's Jewish majority is at risk given the higher birthrates of the Arab minority. In addition, if Israel does not succeed in disengaging from the West Bank (as it did from Gaza), that number could go even higher. Israel's population in 2030 will be about 10.1 million, up from the current 7 million. (www.jta.org, 3-25-08)

Honoring Stuart Eizenstat

A professorship in Jewish Studies at the University of North Carolina will be named in honor of UNC alumnus Stuart Eizenstat. It will be endowed with \$1.5 million per year. Eizenstat served as the lead U.S. negotiator for Holocaust compensation and restitution agreements and was deputy secretary of the Treasury during the Clinton administration. Eizenstat negotiated more than \$8 billion in compensation from European companies for victims of the Holocaust. (World Jewish Congress, 3-21-08)

A Solar Powered Israel

In a nation of 7.1 million people, more than 1 million households in Israel have solar panels that produce hot water. This simple technology grew after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war when oil prices soared. As of the early 1990s, all new residential buildings were required by the government to install solar heating systems. Although Israel captured this early lead in solar heating, it has been slow to adopt more sophisticated solar technologies. Now, with oil prices hovering near \$100 a barrel, a local start up, Zenith Solar, is pioneering in a concentrated solar power method that is up to five times more efficient than standard technology. The opportunity is compelling. With this new technology, this could be a big boost for a country totally dependent on imported energy, supplying more than 16% of Israel's total energy demand. (Business Week, 3-26-08)

Congress Recognizes Displaced Jews

In a non-binding resolution adopted April 1st, the U.S. House of Representatives recognized the rights of lewish refugees from Arab lands - believed to be approximately 850.000 in number - in any final Middle East peace deal. In response to criticism from pro -Palestinian groups, who claim that the legislation undermines the claims of Palestinian refugees, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, the lead sponsor of the bipartisan resolution. said. "It is important to raise the question of Jewish refugees and the property left behind in Arab countries. It does not in any way say that the rights of Palestinian refugees should not be handled." Stanley Urman, the executive director of lustice for lews from Arab countries, the lewish group that pushed for the resolution, said the vote, "restored truth to the Middle Fast narrative." This resolution is the first time ever that the issue of lewish refugees has been addressed by the US Congress.

(World Jewish Congress, 4-2-08)

Elie Wiesel and the Dalai Lama

Elie Wiesel has recruited 25 of his fellow Nobel laureates to sign a letter condemning the Chinese government's "violent crackdown" on protesters in Tibet. Released March 20th, the letter urges the Chinese government to exercise restraint and resume talks with Tibet's exiled leader, the Dalai Lama, himself a Nobel Peace prize winner in 1989. "We protest the unwarranted campaign waged by the Chinese government against our fellow Nobel laureate, His Holiness the Dalai Lama," the letter reads. "Contrary to the repeated claims of Chinese authorities, the Dalai Lama does not seek separation from China, but religious and cultural autonomy. This autonomy is fundamental to the preservation of the ancient Tibetan heritage." In recent weeks, China's foreign policy and human rights record have come under increasing scrutiny, in particular its role in aiding in the mass murder in the Darfur region of Sudan. "One thing is clear," states Wiesel. "What I say to my fellow Nobel laureates, it is our duty to speak up on moral issues." (www.jta.org, 3-24-08)

"People of the Book" Project

To mark Israel's 60th anniversary, a series of 24 books is being released that includes the most important lewish and Hebrew books of all time. Over the course of a year, beginning in November 2008, the books will be distributed individually every two weeks in a single format. The editions include the Bible, the Mishna, the Babylonian Talmud, compilations by Maimonides, and the Zohar, along with works by Shalom Aleichem, Bialik, and S.Y. Agnon. Each edition is accompanied by an introduction that puts the work in historical. cultural. lewish and Israeli contexts. The books are being released in their original versions, except for those that were not originally written in Hebrew. The books are being released by the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot and Bank Hapoalim. (lerusalem Post. 1-23-08)

German Leader In Historic Address

Angela Merkel has become the first German chancellor to address the Israeli parliament, the Knesset. Israel rolled out the red carpet for Merkel, who was greeted with an honor guard and a crowd including many of the country's top religious and political leaders. Merkel spoke of the "historical responsibility" that her country bears toward Israel, saving that Germans feel great "shame" over the Nazi Holocaust, which killed some six million lews during World War II. Most Israelis welcomed her sentiments, but a few Knesset members said her decision to speak in German was inappropriate, because it evoked upsetting memories. About 250,000 Holocaust survivors live in Israel. (The Week, 3-28-08) ◊



Can it be another season coming to an end? Sunday, May 4 brings us to our Annual Sisterhood Brunch/lunch, open to all. We meet up at a chosen local restaurant (not yet determined at press time) where the only agenda is having fun together...Please contact me if you plan to come : ioanstark@bellsouth.net or 394-2417.

The Women's Seder was on April 14. We were proud to have Elaine Hirsch as this years' honoree. A special toast was also given in honor of Fanny Kluger celebrating her 100th birthday. The Sisterhood has established a "Tikkan Olum Fund" with our first donations coming from the Women's Seder. We truly aim to repair the world in whatever way we are able. Also, we're attempting to produce a cookbook from these seders...

Second Seder at the Islamorada Fishing club was again a sold out event. Thanks,

Sisterhood Joan Stark



Jim and Joel for a great job.

Joyce continues her diligence by heading up the Oneg Shabbats. We always need sponsors, especially over the quieter summer months, so please contact Joyce if you would like to contribute.

Don't forget Joan B. is always available if you need an item in the Gift Shop.

May is a special month. Holocaust Memorial Day is May 1 and Dr. Steve Smith will conduct a lecture. May 8 is the 60th anniversary of the birth of Israel and its' independence. We will have a special Shabbat Dinner on Friday, May 9 with Israeli dishes and events by the Hebrew School, as well as our usual Shabbat service.

Have a wonderful summer wherever you may be! \diamond

On Sponsoring an Oneg

There is no time of the week quite like Friday evening. Time seems to slow down as we look forward to unwinding and relaxing, doing our own thing. Our time belongs to us, not to our work. We seldom stop to ponder the value of this gift.

Here in the Keys, many of us--members of the KJCC--celebrate that gift by coming together for Shabbat services. We take part in the hour-long service, which varies somewhat, depending on who leads that particular week. Then we retire to the social hall, sing Kiddush (and then drink minis of wine), make "ha motzi," and sit around shmoozing with friends for another hour. It is said, "Jews don't keep the Sabbath – Sabbath keeps the Jews." This easy camaraderie is part of the glue that keeps us together. If you haven't made time in your life recently to join us on a Friday night, whether at the regular 8 p.m. time or at 6:30 p.m. on the last Friday of the month, why not come this week?

That said, we have to give a big "thank you" to our many sponsors, whose donations pay for the wine, challah, coffee, soda, cake and paper goods, not to mention the able assistance of Angela in setting up and cleaning up. If you would like to honor a loved one or share a celebration, a basic sponsorship is only \$50. I would be happy to arrange it. My e-mail is Joyce@adoctorsbag.com, my phone number is (305) 451-0665. You, too, can be a part of who we are and what we do. *-Joyce Peckman*

The Native Tourist

The Native Tourist is Chai-Lights' series of articles featuring off-beat activities or attractions in South Florida.

This Month's Excursion:

Big Cat Rescue 12802 Easy Street Tampa FL 33625 (813)920-4130 BigCatRescue.org

This edition of Native Tourist is going a bit further away than usual. But it's a destination and an experience that is well worth the trip.

In the middle of Tampa, just off a busy expressway, you can turn down a nearly hidden driveway and follow a gravel road to a wild and amazing world.

Big Cat Rescue (BCR) is located just off Veterans Expressway in Tampa. And it's something you would never expect to encounter there. It is a sanctuary for abused and abandoned big cats: lions, tigers, leopards, cougars. In fact, they have 16 of the 35 species of wild cats at their sanctuary.

I made the drive on a Saturday morning to be able to get to Big Cat Rescue for my "safari" that afternoon. I am a big cat fanatic. To me they are beautiful and awe-inspiring. But seeing them in zoos, (even the good ones) makes me sad, and I would of course never patronize a circus or roadside attraction. I did some research and satisfied myself that BCR was doing it right. I One of the knew that even though I was paying a leopards of fee for the special tour I was taking, BCR, enjoying the money would help the cats, not the a lush and owner of the park. Having an interest roomy "cat-ain the care of the big cats, I arranged tat."

to go on the Keeper Tour. I wanted to learn more about and participate in making enrichments for the cats, and their operant training.

It was well worth the drive and the fee. The enclosures (or Cat-a-tats, as they like to call them) at BCR are large and as natural as they can make them. They have grass underfoot, lots of vegetation and rocky cliffs or caves. Some even have ponds (like the tigers) or waterfalls (like the fishing cats), if they would normally use them in the wild. Sher Khan, one of the biggest and most beautiful tigers at BCR, has a LAKE. And he uses it! He loves to swim, and it's a rare treat to see a big, beautiful tiger swimming across a lake towards you.

Most of these cats came from cages of concrete and steel, just big enough for them to stand up, turn around and lie down in (disgustingly, that is all that is required by the laws of most states as an enclosure), and now they have grass and trees and room to run and pounce. And one of the highlights of my visit was getting to see a snow leopard do just that. Chloe, the snow leopard, has an 1.800-square-foot Cat-a-tat that, although it cannot mimic her natural home in the Himalavas, does have rock ledges to climb and a "cave" den that is fully air conditioned year round. Despite their being large, wild, hard to care for and extremely endangered, a man was able to purchase Chloe as a birthday gift for his wife. Obviously, they couldn't handle keeping an animal like Chloe, and she was one of the few who was lucky enough to come to BCR. And I was lucky enough to





have her stalk me! While visiting with three orphaned cougar cubs in a nearby enclosure, I noticed some movement in the habitat across the path. When I looked over, I could just make out two eyes watching me from the foliage. Chloe was on the prowl. It was thrilling to not only see Chloe actively stalking (while remaining safely out of her reach) but to even to see her at all. Snow Leopards are extremely shy, even in captivity.

It was amazing to see not only Chloe and the magnificent Sher Khan, but cougars, bobcats, ocelots, lynx, cervals...all of them out and active, hunting, displaying natural behaviors. It is such a big difference from seeing them in a zoo. There is wire fencing around the Cat-a-tats (of course) but it doesn't interfere with the viewing of these beautiful cats, and photos come out quite well. This type of

enclosure also allows a closer look at these animals than you would normally get in any other type of setting.

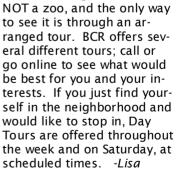
The 150+ big cats at Big Cat Rescue came from performing acts, roadside circuses, fur farms, and unscrupulous breeders trying to get the abnormal "white tigers" (which creates a surplus of homeless, normal tigers who are then abused, neglected or sold to "canned hunts"). But maybe, most surprisingly, they also come from

Our guide demonstrates how to get a tiger to stretch for an exam. Notice the size of those paws! The beautiful Chloe, having treed her prey (me), allows photographs.

the pet trade. Believe it or not, it is legal in most states, including Florida, to own, breed and sell big cats as pets. In fact, BCR was started in 1992 when its founder, Carole Baskin, was told that bobcats actually made good pets. She and her hus-

band Don went looking to buy some kittens. They inadvertently wound up at a fur farm, and bought all 56 kittens there to keep them from being slaughtered for coats. They soon did their own research and learned that NO wild cat ever makes a good pet, and that purchasing them just leads to more breeding and abuse. That is why no true sanctuary will ever buy an animal. Carole and her husband learned more and more about the abuse of big cats by the pet and circus trade, and spent more and more of their own money buying land and building the sanctuary. BCR now is a 40-acre 501K. and home to more than 200 animals. Yet even at this size, they have to turn away more than 100 big cats every year in need of rescue.

Big Cat Rescue is a very well done and well run rescue and sanctuary, and although I could obviously write an entire article about every one of the magnificent cats there, I'll spare you. I'll just urge you to go see them for yourself. Remember, though that BCR is



IF YOU GO:

Various tours are offered Mon.-Sat. Some tours and programs are by appointment only, so call ahead. Kids tours (10 and under) are on Saturdays only.





Photo Gallery

made by all the children with Morah Gloria's help. Assisted by Morah Yardena, Bernie Ginsberg ably reprised his role as "Zaydie," with his delightful explanations at the head of the

Parents Ruth and Eric pose with Max as he's awarded his black belt in Karate. (Yes, he had to break boards with his bare hands.)





table. Explaining to our kids that this storytelling is all for them, he made sincere, meaningful con-



tact, and the seder was enjoyed by all--children, teachers, parents, and board members alike. Thanks to all the parents who brought the great chicken soup, matzoh balls, kugel and ceremonial foods. The children continue to deepen their understanding and sense of being part of a community. Which is, after all, one of our most important jobs. \Diamond

Once again, the KJCC Religious School put on its own model seder one week before the holiday. The table was beautifully decorated by Linda Rutkin and crew, enhanced by Max, Zach and Harry's flower arrangements and the hand-decorated, colorful Elijah's cups



Top right and middle, scenes from the Children's seder. Lower left, one of the many full tables at the Fifth Annual KJCC Women's Seder on May 14th. Elaine Hirsch, below right, was this year's honoree.



Top left: Joan Boruszak, Pauline Roller and honoree Elaine Hirsch at the Women's Seder. At right, Katie and Judy Greenman.



Elaine Hirsch. Not only did she delight the group with the highlights of her life story, but she continues to inspire us in her practice of *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the

world.

We, the women who plan, create, and attend the women's seder, have just established a "Women's Seder Philanthropic Fund." Donations



Forty-eight women, Jewish and non-Jewish, sit around a beautifully set, sacred-feeling, circular arrangement of tables. They introduce themselves, each

women giving her first name and then the name of the mother and grandmothers from whom she came. It is a night of traditional and non-traditional questions and answers, of ancient but not-very-well-known stories of Miriam and the prophecies that led to protecting Moses and Jewish family life. It is a night of song and drumming and celebration of the freeing of the Jews from *Mitz*-

raim, acknowledging that the word refers both to Egypt and all "narrow places" that restrict our freedom.

This year the group's honoree was





It all began five years ago with a few rebels. But the Women's Seder is now a major event and a bond for all generations. Above center, guests Patty Murphy and her mom Marianne flank Carol Steinbock. At left are Roberta McNew and Sofy Wasser. Above, possibly after the four cups of wine, are Ruth Schrader-Grace, Marcia Goldberg and Teresa Kwalick. can be sent to this fund now and at any time of year.

The evening was moving and inspirational as well as funny, fun, and filling. Special kudos to Meredith Cline and Muriel Swartz for the fine organizational work on food and setup. I loved leading the seder this year and appreciated all the kind feedback. Once again, the tables were graced with striking seder plates, goblets, and other pieces of pottery from previous years, for all of which we owe thanks to Beth Kaminstein's generosity, both with materials and guidance. This creative play we do





together has become as much a part of what we look forward to as the seder itself. May all our seders be as *zeeseh*, warm, and meaningful as this one.

-Gloria

Two final scenes from the Women's Seder. (Erica, stop looking at the camera; we want to take the picture.) Always there to help, Linda Rutkin, above right, works the kitchen. Left and below are scenes from the party celebrating Fanny Kluger's 100th birthday. Any of you ever

> seen a cake saying happy 100th before? The photo below was taken by Steve Steinbock, passionate gardener and horticulturist. Notice that of the three lovely blossoms in the picture, the one in the center is the one in focus.



COLLEGE DIARY

<u>Suzie</u>

Life is still in full swing here at MIT. I am currently writing from the main floor of our

Student Center, selling tickets for a male beauty pageant. (All proceeds are going to benefit cardiac care; it's not all about watching boys walk around in bathing suits.) :D



On that same note, The Full Monty (the musical I'm in) is in

full swing with opening night next week. We have rehearsal every night, touching up dances, harmonies, and desperately trying to remember lines. I have never worked with such a pleasant and talented cast. This show is going to be absolutely amazing. Two of our leads (one of them an MIT graduate) are actual professional actors and I'm learning so much just being on stage with them. It's really so much fun.

Fortunately for me I'm coming home this weekend to celebrate Passover with my family!!!!!! I'm so excited. It will be a great, and already much-needed, break from school. Spring Break already seems so long ago. Since then we've had our second and are starting our third round of midterms. I just got out of a Psych exam with an Organic Chemistry exam tomorrow morning.

On a lighter note, last weekend was CPW, a weekend where we invite all accepted students to come check out campus. It was absolutely amazing, 900+ kids flooding campus, all as excited to be there as we were to have them. I hosted a student from Michigan, showing her around and providing a mattress to sleep on. The entire weekend was a huge carnival designed to convince them to come. All of the organizations hosted events to help students get a feel for campus. I spent all weekend going from one event to another, trying to convince students that it really is amazing here. Last CPW, I came to campus not sure at all that I wanted to come here in the fall. But my first night here, when the Logs, an *a capello* group, jumped on stage welcoming us all, I fell in love with the place.

So between CPW, exams, and theater, I've been keeping super busy. I hope you all had a very happy Passover.

<u>Joe</u>

Hello, everyone. I am currently in the middle of a bunch of final exams which have officially swamped me in homework and lastminute cramming. Although this week is full of finals and end-of-the-year-work that needs doing, I did take time to help out with the Relay for Life last Friday night, which went from 6 p.m. till noon the next day. Along with PTK (Phi Theta Kappa). I was in charge of making balloon animals, face painting and helping the kids out with the Wii system and Guitar Hero game console. All members were given the opportunity to participate in the walk, where I met some very interesting people who overcame cancer in its many forms. And even though I was near exhaustion from the walking and all the activities going on throughout the night. I must say that I was amazed at how everyone throughout the com-

munity came together and supported each other through the hard times.

I am looking forward to this summer's Alaskan cruise in June that I'm taking with my parents and other family. It should be a fun trip. ◊



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

REMERBRANCE DAY

On Thursday, May 1, 2008, we will officially open our KJCC Holocaust Remembrance display. All are welcome.

6:30 pm - Viewing 7:00 pm - Dr. Steve Smith will be our keynote speaker.

The Friday night 8 pm Service will be dedicated to the Yom Ha'shoah.



Why I LOVE being Jewish

A slightly longer version of this was sent to us by Fanny Kluger. We thought you might like to see what KJCC's resident centenarian is thinking. (And how impressive is it that she's still this intellectually active? Think you'll still be capable of abstract thought when you're 100 years old?) This means we now have had contributions from our Religious School students all the way up to our oldest active member. We think that's pretty....inclusive. Many thanks, Fanny.

We have never been better off!

Only 65 years ago Jews were still being systematically killed, in a warped and twisted attempt to destroy us as a people. We had no country, no army.

Only 60 years ago seven Arab countries declared war on the newly declared Jewish state of Israel, then only a few hours old. We were but 650,000 ragged Jews against the entire Arab world! We had no IDF, no mighty air force. Just tough and resolute people with nowhere else to go.

The nations of Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Iraq, and Lebanon all attacked at once, from every direction. Volunteer corps from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Libya joined in.

The country the U.N. "gave" us was 65 percent desert. We started a country from scratch.

Just over 41 years ago we fought the three strongest armies in the Middle East, once again determined to destroy us. We wiped them out in six days.

Almost 35 years ago we had to fight again, this time against different coalitions of Arab countries, with modern armies and masses of Soviet (remember them?) weapons. We were hurt badly this time, and almost lost, but we rallied and won.

Today we have a country, an army, a strong air force, a high-tech economy that exports ideas and innovations and millions of products both industrial and agricultural. Intel, Microsoft and IBM all develop their products here.

Our doctors win world prizes for medical developments.

We made the desert flourish, and now we sell oranges and vegetables to the world.

Israel has sent its own satellites into space, actually three all together. The few million Israelis are in a small club to have (successfully, at least) shot something into space, along with the Americans, with 275 million people; the Russians, with over 200 million people; the Chinese, with over one *billion* people; and the combined European Community, with over 350 million people.

We're by far the world's smallest nuclear power. (We don't admit it, but everybody knows.)

We're one of the most durable, longlasting tribes in history. We overcame Pharaoh. We overcame the Greeks. We overcame the Romans. We overcame the Spanish Inquisition. We overcame the pograms in Europe. We overcame the Holocaust. We overcame the combined military might of seven Arab countries.

So take it easy, folks. We'll overcome our current predicaments, too. We're still here. Has anyone heard from Pharaoh's army lately? Or the Greek empire post-Alexander? Or a Roman provincial governor since the Vandals first made a social call on Rome? The Third Reich was supposed to last a thousand years, but it seems as though they came up a little short.

But look at us, the bedraggled little nation from the Bible. From slavery in Egypt, we're still here. And, thanks to a few determined, visionary people, still speaking the same language!

Right here, right now.

So, sorry for not worrying. Or not bitching. Or not crying. Or not being scared. Things are okay here. Yes, they can surely be better.

But as long as we keep our identity, we are eternal. \Diamond

In Honor of Yom Ha'Shoah

Holocaust Remembrance Day this year is on May 8. This article, and the following one, tell two stories you may not have heard.

n two nights of horror, November 9-10, 1938, in an event now known as *Kristallnacht*, synagogues and Jewish businesses throughout Germany were destroyed. Thirty thousand people were deported to Dachau and Buchenwald. For the first time, statesponsored illegal violence against Jews was

The Holocaust in Hungary: A Personal Remembrance

By John H. Merey, M.D.

fully exposed to the German and international public.

The increase in the level of anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish violence was quickly noticed by Germany's neighbors. One of these neighbors, bordering the new and expanded Germany, was Hungary.

By the turn of the twentieth century, a high proportion of Hungary's doctors, lawyers, journalists, playwrights, factory owners and business entrepreneurs were Jewish. This rapid economic and social advance was accompanied by assimilation. Identifying themselves completely with the Hungarian nation and language, they adopted Hungarian names. So it was with my grandfather, a teacher. When he arrived in Budapest in 1905 he was told: "if you want to teach in the capital city of Hungary, you must have a Hungarian name." That's how Marmorstein became Merei or Merey.

Alas, all this was soon to change. In 1920, the Hungarian Parliament passed a "numerus clausus" law whose intent was to limit Jewish university students. This was the first anti-Semitic law passed in post-World-War-I Europe and was in complete violation of the Treaties of Versailles and Trianon. In rapid succession, starting in 1938, came three Jewish Laws: the first two restricted Jewish participation in the professional and financial sectors, and the third, modeled after the Nuremberg laws, defined Jews as a separate race and a Jew as someone who had two Jewish grandparents.

By March, 1944, the 750,000 Jews of Hungary were the last major lewish population in Europe. In my childhood photograph album is a picture of Hanukkah, 1943. Despite restrictions, we were still essentially leading normal lives - observing our holidays, having parties, taking photographs. You would never have known that the lews in the rest of Europe had by now perished; that the Warsaw ghetto uprising, only 400 miles away, had been crushed almost a year before: that the Allies had already landed in Italy and that the Russian Army was moving westward and was now within 300 miles of the Hungarian border. It looked like somehow we, the lews of Hungary, would have a different fate.

This attitude suddenly changed when, in the morning of March 19, 1944, our maid received a phone call from her husband that the German Army was streaming into Hungary. Within a day, Hungary had changed from a German-allied country to a Germanoccupied country. The following day, March 20th, Adolf Eichmann entered Hungary. He was now a very experienced man. He had overseen the destruction of European Jewry and it was now Hungary's turn. Only this time he had to work very fast, as the German military situation was deteriorating rapidly. The Germans might lose the war to the Allies, but the war against the Jews had to be won.

Eichmann divided Hungary into six depor-

tation zones, leaving Budapest, the capital, to the end. Within the course of six weeks, from May 15 to July 1, 1944, the entire Jewish population of provincial Hungary was deported to Auschwitz. The methods had all been perfected: marking Jews with the yellow star, ghettoization in a brick factory near a railroad station and finally deportation by cattle car to Auschwitz. There were only 200 SS in all of Hungary. The deportation was accomplished by Hungarian surrogates. The entire Hungarian internal security force willingly mobilized to accomplish one goal: the total deportation of Hungary's laws

portation of Hungary's Jews.

Were there any gentiles who resisted the German/Hungarian deportations? Yes, there were, but very few. One of these was the police chief of the small Hungarian town of Gyomron where the grandparents of my wife, Daisy, lived. One afternoon he appeared at their house and told the elderly couple: "I want you to leave your home and immediately take the train to Budapest. Don't ask me any questions. One day you will be grateful for this advice." They left for Budapest immediately and

survived the Holocaust. The next day the Jews of Gyomron were rounded up.

One group in Budapest took a more active and resistant posture towards the Germans, and these were the Hungarian Zionists. For several years they had been smuggling Slovak and Polish refugees into the relative safety of Hungary. They had supported Oskar Schindler and his workshop in Krakow. They had, at times with success, resorted to bribery to attain some modification in the deportation schedules in Slovakia. Our connection to the Zionists was through my uncle Dr. Nison Kahan, who had previously been president of the Zionist Federation.

Among the Zionists was a lawyer by the name of Dr. Rudolph Kasztner. Kasztner was a man of great self-confidence and chutzpah. In May, 1944, Eichmann approached the Zionists, particularly Dr. Kasztner, and made an incredible offer. He was prepared to sell the

Had we remained in Bergen-Belsen another few weeks we would have perished.

Jews one million of their own people. But he wanted goods in return, not money. He gave Dr. Kasztner and the Zionists two days to decide.

Kasztner seized upon this incredible offer and started to work. He would raise money from the Jews in Budapest and would get in touch with international Jewish organizations. Kasztner asked the Germans to prove their good faith by allowing a group of Jews to leave Hungary with an eventual destination of Palestine. This would show the world that the Nazis were serious and would keep their

> word. Should my family join this group? My uncle, Dr. Kahan, told the family: "if we stay in Hungary, we will perish 100 percent; if we go on this transport we will perish only 90 percent."

And so on June 30, 1944, a group of 1,684 Hungarian Jews, including fourteen members of my family, left in cattle cars, destination Palestine. How we would get there, no one knew. Eleven days later we arrived at a camp in northern Germany named Bergen Belsen, a name

that meant nothing to us. We were kept separate from the other Jewish inmates and treated a little better as we were to be used for "exchange."

Dr. Kasztner was continuing to negotiate with the Germans - not that he had too much to negotiate with. He had raised some money. but war materiel was totally out of the guestion. Still, his perseverance paid off. After six weeks in Bergen Belsen, a group of 320 was allowed to go to Switzerland. In this group was all of our family with the exception of my parents and me. My mother, normally a shy person, mustered up all her courage and approached the commandant of Bergen Belsen, asking that since our entire family was leaving, couldn't we just join them? The commandant was outraged at such a request and shouted at my mother "Sind Sie wahnsinnig!?" Are you insane to question the German authority? The rest of our family left; only the

three of us stayed behind. The summer of 1944 became winter. We wondered whether we would survive.

Then, at last, we heard the news. The remainder of the transport would be allowed to go to Switzerland. My parents packed their few belongings and started the long walk

We didn't know it, but our fate continued to hang in the balance.

from the camp to the railroad station at Bergen Belsen. The train stopped at the Swiss border and waited for hours and hours. We didn't know it, but our fate continued to hang in the balance. Unbeknownst to us, to the last minute, Dr. Kasztner was negotiating with the Germans, promising additional money that would be put up by the Joint Rescue Committee in a frozen bank account in Switzerland.

On Chanukah, 1944, we arrived in Switzerland. The winter of '44 -'45 was brutal. Had we remained in Bergen Belsen another few weeks, we would have perished from the elements, the dwindling food supplies and the epidemic of typhus. Dr. Kasztner, with nothing to offer the Germans except bluff, had skillfully negotiated our release.

Meanwhile, in Budapest, another story was unfolding. All of provincial Jewry had already been deported. What was left were the Jews of Budapest.

It was during this time that a young Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, went into action. He established apartment buildings that were nominally under Swedish protection. He printed "schutzpasse," passes that declared their holders to be under the protection of the Swedish Crown. This strategy was copied, to a lesser extent, by the Swiss and Spanish embassies. The Germans and their Hungarian accomplices were eager to achieve recognition from the neutral powers and, to some extent, recognized these protective passes and safe houses. As the Russian army entered Budapest, over 100,000 Jews were liberated from the ghetto, from the safe houses and the many hiding places. The work of Raoul Wallenberg is a prime example of the difference one highly motivated individual can make under absolutely impossible circumstances.

By March of 1945, all of Hungary had been liberated by the Russian Army. Hungarian Jewry had lost three-fourths of its population. Due to the efforts of Wallenberg and others, and the rapid entry of the Russian Red Army, half of Budapest Jewry survived. The efforts of Dr. Kasztner resulted in the rescue of 1,600 Hungarian Jews. My family of fourteen persons survived. Was mine the largest family in eastern Europe to survive intact? Perhaps.

Some of the teenage survivors of the Holocaust in Hungary would later make fabulous careers in North America and contributions to the world. These include, in business and

> Hungarian Jewry had lost three-quarters of its population.

philanthropy, Andrew Grove (founder and CEO of Intel), George Soros (head of the Quantum Group of Funds), my cousin Peter Munk (founder and Chairman of the Board of Barrick Gold Corp.) and in literature and human affairs, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel. We can only speculate on the catastrophic loss of talent that went up in smoke at Auschwitz. ◊

Dr. Merey first presented this story in a lecture to Temple Beth El in West Palm Beach. We are grateful to Stan Margulies for sending it to us.

The Leica Freedom Train

The Leica is the pioneer 35mm camera. It is a German product - precise, minimalist, and utterly efficient. Behind its worldwide acceptance as a creative tool was a familyowned, socially oriented firm that, during the Nazi era, acted with uncommon grace, generosity and modesty. E. Leitz Inc., designer and manufacturer of Germany's most famous photographic product, saved its Jews. And Ernst Leitz II, the steely-eyed Protestant patriarch who headed the closely held firm as the Holocaust loomed across Europe, acted in such a way as to earn the title, "the photography industry's Schindler."

As soon as Adolf Hitler was named chancellor of Germany in 1933, Ernst Leitz II began receiving frantic calls from Jewish associates, asking for his help in getting them and their families out of the country. As Christians, Leitz and his family were immune to Nazi Germany's Nuremberg laws.

To help his Jewish workers and colleagues, Leitz quietly established what has become known among historians of the Holocaust as "the Leica Freedom Train," a covert means of allowing Jews to leave Germany in the guise of Leitz employees being assigned overseas. Employees, retailers, family members, even friends of family members were "assigned" to Leitz sales offices in France, Britain, Hong Kong and the United States. Leitz's activities intensified after the *Kristallnacht* of November, 1938, during which synagogues and Jewish shops were vandalized and burned throughout Germany.

Before long, Leitz's German "employees" were disembarking from the ocean liner Bremen at a New York pier and making their way to the Manhattan office of Leitz Inc., where executives quickly found them jobs in the photographic industry. Each new arrival had around his or her neck the symbol of freedom - a new Leica. The refugees were paid a stipend until they could find work. Out of this migration came designers, repair technicians, salespeople, marketers and writers for the photographic press. The "Leica Freedom Train" was at its height in 1938 and early 1939, delivering groups of refugees to New York every few weeks. Then, with their invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, Germany closed its borders. By that time, hundreds of endangered Jews had escaped to America, thanks to the Leitz family's efforts.

How did Ernst Leitz II and his staff get away with it? Leitz Inc. was an internationally recognized brand that reflected credit on the resurgent Reich. The company produced range-finders and other optical systems for the German military. Also, the Nazi government desperately needed hard currency from abroad, and Leitz's single biggest market for optical goods was the United States. Even so, members of the Leitz family and firm suffered for their good works. A top executive, Alfred Turk, was jailed for working to help lews and freed only after the payment of a large bribe. Leitz's daughter, Elsie Kuhn-Leitz, was imprisoned by the Gestapo after she was caught at the border helping lewish women cross into Switzerland. She eventually was freed but endured rough treatment in the course of questioning. She also fell under suspicion when she attempted to improve the living conditions of 700 to 800 Ukrainian slave laborers, all of them women, who had been assigned to work in the Leitz plant during the 1940s. (After the war, Kuhn-Leitz received numerous honors for her humanitarian efforts, among them the Officier d'honneur des Palms Academic from France in 1965 and the Aristide Briand Medal from the European Academy in the 1970s.)

Why has no one told this story until now? According to the late Norman Lipton, a freelance writer and editor, the Leitz family wanted no publicity for its heroic efforts. Only after the last member of the Leitz family was dead did the "Leica Freedom Train" finally come to light. It is now the subject of a book, "The Greatest Invention of the Leitz Family: The Leica Freedom Train," by Frank Dabba Smith, a California-born rabbi currently living in England. ◊

Our thanks to Yardena Kamely for sending this in.

Celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Date: Friday, May 9, 2008

6:30 pm Buffet dinner of Israeli food followed by dancing and singing for all and games for the children

8:00 pm Services



Israel at 60

A Yom Ha'Atzma'ut Special Section

Several of your fellow KJCC members share their stories of Israel—both of visiting and living there.

My Three Years in Israel

by Joyce Peckman

e boarded the small El Al workhorse of a plane on July 8, 1967, almost 100 Sherut La'am volunteers aged about 18-38, along with a few black-coated religious men. on one of the first flights out of New York to Israel after the Six-Day War. We had just spent about a week on a Jewish Agency farm in Hightstown, New Jersey, getting to know each other. It was, for some of us, our first time seeing a farm with actual cows and chickens, and for others the chance to get guietly weeded out and sent home. This was a varied group from across the United States. A few, like me, had been planning this year of service as a first step after college graduation; others had signed up during or immediately after the war.

The flight lasted forever. We stopped in Zurich, finally arriving emotional and exhausted at Lod Airport, where we were split up and then whisked away in open transport buses to assorted ulpans. I ended up at Kibbutz Yod Mordechai, just south of Ashkelon, on the border of Gaza. We were immediately told not to go near certain sunflower fields until the mines were removed. Then we were assigned bunks in a "Tzriff," which I can only describe as a bunkhouse: a long, wooden building with about five rooms opening onto a narrow stoop, four beds per room. When I woke up the next morning, I realized that I had somehow missed my 21st birthday.

There were about 30 of us, mixed with newcomers from places like Morocco. South Africa and India. We were divided into two classes, those who could decipher the alphabet and had some minimal familiarity with the language. like me, and those who had no clue, like the young man from the mountains of India, the born-again couple from Iowa and the fiery Irish revolutionary from Philadelphia. Those who had morning class worked in the afternoon, and vice versa. Some were assigned to the kitchen and dining room, some to cleaning the nursery school, a few unfortunates to the hen-house, and many, me included, to assorted agricultural tasks. Many of our supervisors were the founders of the kibbutz - men and women who had escaped from the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto, found their way to Israel, fought in the War of Independence and created a kibbutz in the memory of Mordechai Anilewich, organizer of the Warsaw resistance. This was the first time in memory they were not worried about mortar fire from Gaza.

They taught us how to harvest sunflowers, watermelon, apples and pears. Question: What does a 21-year-old girl with a fear of heights do when a 60-year-old survivor of three wars tells her to climb a ladder to the top of a tree? Answer: she climbs the ladder.

The Jewish Agency arranged for several tours during that time. They piled us into open buses and took us into the barren desert of Gaza in the west. where we saw hundreds of burned-out tanks and jeeps. We camped out at Ein Gedi in the east and saw the Dead Sea, where one small concession provided a place to shower and change. We drove south through the Negev to Eilat, and saw the rusty-colored mountains reflecting into the Red Sea. There was one lovely hotel there. We weren't in it. but our small hostel had access

to the wonderful sandy beach. We stayed in sleeping bags in a school cafeteria in the north in Tiberius, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, and I will never forget the drive past empty mountains, with Safed gleaming like a jewel in the distance.

After three months we were sent out to our volunteer placements. I ended up with two young women from my group (some of you have met Barbara) in the new port city of Ashdod, not too far north on the coast. We shared a third-floor walk-up apartment in a brand new housing development opened to accept the immigrants pouring out of North Africa. It very quickly developed a "tenement" quality. We had a basic couch, cots, a couple of pots, tableware, a kitchen table with three chairs, a hot plate and a kerosene heater. Not much else. No TV. No fridge. Our stipend was 150 lira each month. (Think poverty.) We had

What does a 21-yearold girl with a fear of heights do when a 60-year-old survivor of three wars tells her to climb a ladder to the top of a tree? Answer: she climbs the ladder.

a small market across the street where we could buy fresh bread, dairy and seasonal vegetables each day. The bread was wonderful, and cheap. We lived on bread, eggs, leben (yogurt) and cheese. You always knew what was in season. I will never forget the piles of incredibly cheap and delicious apricots that appeared, and disappeared three weeks later.

Our neighbors across the hall were a young family, with four children aged nine to two, who had immigrated a few years ago

> from Morocco. The husband was 40. the wife 25 vears old. She often invited us over for coffee and conversation in French and very basic Hebrew. Her younger brother was a paratrooper on active duty. who visited on his days off. He soon decided it was pleasant and more relaxing to spend some of his precious hours of liberty in the company of the American girls across the hall. From him we learned about the iov of liberating lerusalem. the bravery of both the Is-

raeli and Jordanian soldiers, and the pain of having to look in another man's eyes and pull the trigger.

My volunteer job was in assisting in a bare -bones special-education class filled with young new immigrants. We taught them math, civics, Israeli culture, Hebrew and hygiene. I was a valuable asset, because my very basic spoken Hebrew vocabulary was similar to theirs; they often had no clue what the Sabra teacher was saying to them. We had Friday afternoon and Saturday off. You don't appreciate a two-day weekend until you are forced to do all shopping in one afternoon. There wasn't much shopping to do in Ashdod anyway. There was one very small central market where you could buy vegetables, fruit, chicken or fish, (the meat wasn't worth buying), basic cheap clothing, housewares, eyeglasses and jewelry. Restaurants? There was

one tiny hole-in-the-wall where you had a choice of falafel, schwarma or schnitzel, and we couldn't afford to eat out much anyway. Everything was closed on Saturday, and we worked Sunday. But we had the Mediterranean less than a mile from our front door, and it had the bluest water I had ever seen.

The Friday afternoon buses were filled with people traveling to spend *Shabbat* with friends. Sometimes people came to us, sleep-

ing on the couch or floor. I had made friends with a young Iragi "Chavellet" (female soldier) who had been assigned to my school, and she often asked me to spend *Shabbat* in her family home in Rehovot. I think one of the things I love about parts of Key Largo is that it has some of the flavor of 1967 Rehovot: small, quiet stucco homes. no sidewalks, gated vards with cactus and citrus trees. But they also had goats. chickens and hives of honevbees.



Joyce and Lilo, the young paratrooper she came to know during her time in Israel.

Sometimes, in the afternoon, we would head north to Tel Aviv. We would join the groups of soldiers and workers hitch-hiking at the crossroad near the bus stop. We would almost always get a ride, although soldiers generally got priority. If the hourly *Eged* bus came first, we could always jump on. As the bus drove by fields of thistle, we realized that even gray and purple weeds can be beautiful. Then came the groves of orange and grapefruit trees, and finally the small farms on the outskirts of the city. The central bus station was outdoors, surrounded by vendors selling wonderful juices, falafel and shwarma. Tel Aviv then had only one "skyscraper"-- the Shalom Tower, housing the only department store, but Ben Yehuda and Dizengoff Streets were full of wonderful small shops and cafes. Occasionally we took a Saturday taxi to Jerusalem. Winding through the foothills, it was easy to see the border where 1948 Israel ended and the territories began. One side was covered with lush green trees, the product of 20 years of *Keren Kayemet* efforts. The other hills were stony gray. On Saturday. West

> lerusalem was quiet. but the Old City bustled with magic and eager Arab merchants. who invited us into their shops to drink tea and buy sheepskin. hand-sewn garments, colorful cloth and fake amber. The Western Wall was a small area then, with only a narrow screen to separate the men and women. We walked out from between centuries-old buildings and there it was, a small space filled with the emotion of those who had waited so many years to touch its stones.

Israel that first year was exploding with pride and optimism.

By the second year realism and fear began to return. My father asked me to return home. That year the young paratrooper returned wounded one weekend. It was nothing, he said, not even serious enough to be counted in the statistics. But mortality became real to me. I understood and felt that commitment that says, "Death is a possibility, and this cause is worth it, and I accept that possibility."

In the end it was not fear, but the realities of cultural and language differences, and the frustrations of mundane bureaucracy, that caused me to leave. When I return, it will be to a country far different than the one I left. ◊

Traveling to Israel Over the Years On smiley faces...and stone walls

by Joan Boruszak

Gur first visit to Israel was in 1970. In many ways the country was still in its infancy. We have been there approximately fourteen times, and have watched this wonderful country come into its own as a thriving nation! We have also been observers of many changes, some rather humorous.

Early on, the people in the tourist industry had a lot to learn. On our first trip, our son was staying at *Pardess Hanah*. He came to Jerusalem on Friday to be with us until Sunday. We Americans were not used to our 13-year-olds traveling across countries by themselves, so very early on Friday we started checking bus schedules for Sunday. his day of return to Pardess Hanah. Jim called several times to be sure we understood the bus schedule and things like total transit time. We even had the transplanted American girl from the hotel call the bus company for us. Maybe it was overkill, but we needed the security. She made it very clear that "You Americans worry too much about your children!" To make a long story short, Jim took Bruce to the bus station early Sunday and proceeded to buy a ticket. The conversation was as follows:

Bus company agent: "Do you have a reservation?"

Jim: "I talked to you several times and you didn't tell me I needed one."

Agent: "Oh, you are the American I talked to."

Jim: "Yes, and you never told me I needed one."

Bus company agent: "You never asked!"

Bruce stood all the way back to *Pardess Hanah*, and that was our first of many experiences with "You never asked!"

On the following Friday we went to Eilat. It was a real pioneering town. There were stone walls to keep the dusty winds away from the houses. Israeli families were paid by the government to settle in Eilat, because living there was not easy. Typical Israeli genius allowed them to settle there because the Israelis invented air conditioners that took the dry air out and brought moisture into the homes. For those of you that have been there, you know what a beautiful, thriving tourist destination it has become.

Back in Tel Aviv. Jim had planned to rent a car after the visit to Eilat. so he had our bus driver let him off at the rental office. I returned to the hotel and waited and waited and waited! I finally decided to call the rental car company, which was no easy feat! lim answered the phone with a hearty "Shalom!" The car he was getting had problems, so the owner went to get it fixed and left Jim in charge. He returned after not being able to repair the car and told Jim we could use his car if we dropped him, his wife, and his child off at his in-laws for Shabbat dinner. Needless to say, we did, and had his car for the weekend. By the way, that car had problems, too. It did not like to go in reverse.

We had many experiences like this on that visit and others to follow, but along with the humorous ones there were the unpleasant times dealing with people in the tourist industry. They had no patience for tourists airlines included! - and made it clear we were a pain in the neck.

Over the years, there was a subtle change in the Israeli style of handling tourists. Little by little they have softened and realized the importance of people leaving with a good feeling. Probably the last people to soften have been the security people at the airport. We always understood the importance of their work, but felt they would be happier if we had never come in the first place. Their favorite question was, "WHY DO YOU KEEP COMING HERE? " It was always asked with a tone that said only a terrorist wants to do that and we know you are one! That has definitely changed. They seemed to learn that a little bit of honev goes a long way!

I took my mother to Israel in 1981. On the El Al plane she needed to take a pill. When I asked the flight attendant for water, her answer was, "I don't have time for that!" El Al has learned, too, and though it is hard to deal with them on the phone, they have become nicer.

At the airport in Lod last year, I saw a booth with a big smiley face poster. This was a pleasant surprise. On the other hand, I also saw a sign I couldn't understand and, being Yardena's student, I wanted to know what it said. I walked up to a desk and asked the girl seated there what it meant in English. She made it obvious that she had no time for me, and I never got my answer. In five minutes I had experienced both sides of the Israeli personality—smiley and the other one.

I cannot close this without telling you one of our most memorable experiences. When we went to Israel, we would very often go to Sharm El Sheik to scuba dive. One year United Air Lines lost Jim's luggage. There he was in another country, not knowing where to find clothes in his XXL size. In the Blue and White Art gallery in the Cardo in the Old City, we told the owner of our predicament and asked where we should go shopping. When we returned to the hotel that night we were surprised to find a whole wardrobe of clothing lying on the bed. The next day we went back and asked what we owed him. The answer was, "Nothing! If I were in Chicago and needed help, you would be there for me."

Somehow, no matter what their attitude, our trips and our love for Israel have flourished. It is an incredible country. It makes us proud to be Jews, and we always feel that it is our second home. We realize that life there has not been easy, and these wonderful people have more to think and worry about than we "spoiled Americans." As long as we are able, we will return and return. \Diamond

Yardena on Israel's 60th:

KJCC's Resident Sabra Reflects on What It Means to Be an Israeli

By Yardena Kamely

riting about Israel on its 60th birthday brings so many memories, feelings and thoughts to me. I was born in Israel. I am a Sabra. Israel is for me my first home. Hebrew is my mother language. My family has been deeply connected to the land of Israel since the 1920s when my grandfather, a Zionist, bought land in Palestine and then made Alivah and built the family house in Jerusalem. My father was a pioneer, had been in the Haganah, and fought in the War of Independence. My mother graduated from the Teacher's Seminar of Ierusalem verv voung. and never stopped teaching Judaic Studies, educating generations of Jewish children to live according to our Jewish values, tradition and most of all to love Israel.

I grew up in an Israel that was struggling for peace with its Arab neighbors, building the young nation and absorbing many new *Olim*, Jewish immigrants, from many different countries--Latin America, North Africa, South Africa, and Russia. I became a teacher, too, teaching Hebrew to the new immigrants, so that their adaptation and integration into Israeli society would be easier.

Life in Israel is very challenging: the absorption and integration of the diverse melting pot on one hand, the wars with the Arab world on the other, make life very dynamic. The pace of life in Israel is so intense, it is impossible to live in today if you are not

going to try and understand yesterday and tomorrow. As Israelis we have learned to live with existential anxiety the way other people live with smog. For me, the toughest experience was the Yom Kippur War (1973), when for the first time I lost friends and fellow students in the war. We were studying at the Hebrew University, full of dreams to become academics, scientists, researchers, doctors, and professors; they went to war to join their military units, to defend Israel; they never came back to classes.

Years later I had to leave Israel

and move to South America. My connection to Israel was to continue teaching Hebrew and working with Jewish Youth Movements and other Jewish Institutions. I loved to work together with teams of Israeli educators from the Jewish Agency; they are so creative, so dynamic, and do such an effective job building Jewish identity and solidarity.

My Israeli friends from the Jewish Agency are back in Israel, living in Tel Aviv, others in their Kibbutz or in development towns in the Negev. They continue with their work at the Jewish Agency. Zeev is a history teacher, an idealist. In his opinion Israel of today needs to remember that it is a meaningful place, seeking Jewish and Zionist fulfillment, not just a shopper's paradise. We share the same thought: as Israel's 60th anniversary approaches, it is time to revive faith in Israel's founding fathers, the Zionist thinkers. A Zionist revival would not solve all the state's problems, but renewed idealism could bring new meanings to our Jewish life.

In a lecture for teachers in Miami, Rabbi Salkin spoke about reflections of American Jews on why Israel matters to them. Is it a connection, an identity, a heritage? For Rabbi Salkin, "the State of Israel is the greatest Jewish enterprise of modernity; 60 years of its existence and achievements, despite internal and external conflicts, is a source of awe."

For Matthew Brooks (Jewish Policy Center), Israel is a necessity; it is a refuge, a religious homeland, a bastion of democracy. "We need

Israel to be there always, and so we carry a responsibility to support Israel and to keep her strong. As Americans and Jews, we are eternally connected to that tiny piece of land..... where amid all the diversity, we find ourselves at home."

For David M. Suissa (editor of Olam magazine), Israel is different from other countries. "But somehow Israel's different. It tastes different, it feels different, it sounds different. Why?.... In Israel, everyone talks to each other as if they're family."

For Peninnah Schram (storyteller, drama teacher), Israel is like your mother: "there are countries that have more beautiful museums than Israel. There are countries that have older universities than Israel. There are countries that have much more magnificent architecture and art than Israel. But Israel is like your mother."

Reflecting on life in Israel, an American journalist had the thought that looking at Israel is like going to an exhibition of Expressionistic painters. "If you look too close, all you see are the daubs of paint. Take a few steps back and you see the picture – and that is what Israel deserves, from its lovers and critics alike, as it turns 60."

Born, raised and educated in Israel, it is an essential part of my identity. I cannot imagine my life without Israel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ISRAEL. ◊

Israel is a source of awe.

Shaloma Shawmut-Lessner

Tales of a Young American and Her Experiences During Israel's War of Independence.

t will soon be the 60th anniversary of Israel's Independence Day, "Yom Ha'Atzma'ut." There will be reams of print and hours of speeches. But we, here in our small island community, get a special gift, the opportunity to hear an untold story.

It is the true story of "MACHAL" (a Hebrew acronym for Mitnadvei Chutz L'Aretz--Volunteers from Abroad), a relatively unknown slice of history. Those who participated were sworn to secrecy, and took their oaths seriously. Most of them are now dead. We are fortunate to know one of these rare living veterans well and to count her as part of our KJCC mishpochah.

Fifteen years ago I began talking with Shaloma Shawmut-Lessner (who with her husband, Dr. Howard, is among our longest-standing



A young Shaloma Shawmut in her days as a Zionist volunteer during the struggle for Israel's independence.

members). We met at my gallery. Bit by bit she revealed that she was a Zionist, a flight instructor in the Israeli Air Force (before Israel had an air force or was even officially Israel), and a young woman who knew how from the United States, another 400 from Canada. There were 700 volunteers from South Africa, 600 from Great Britain, and the rest mainly from France and Belgium. There were also small contingents from Australia,

to use her beauty and brains to advantage, to ferry important papers quietly in and out of Europe, doing her part to aid in the formation of a Jewish state and to rescue hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees. I knew that she was a great fundraiser for Israel and a close friend of Bella Abzug. She was chosen as our

> first Women's Seder honoree five years ago and spoke to us of some of her experiences. Still, this word "Machal" was new to me until days ago.

The "Machalniks." as they were called by Israelis, were assigned to virtually every unit in the Israeli army, navy and air force. "It should be remembered," Shaloma says, "that between 1947 and 1949 some 3.000 "Machal" poured into Israel and fought alongside Israel's finest. first in the Palmach and Haganah and. after the state was declared. in the Israel Defense Force. "About 1.500 came

the Belgian Congo, Rhodesia, Finland, Russia, Argentina, Ireland, Mexico and Cuba-and one Native American, Jake Slade. All told, volunteers, both Jews and non-Jews, men and women, came from 29 different

countries to support the Jewish homeland in her hour of greatest need.

"Many of the volunteers were wearv and worn from the battles fought in World War II. They had served in the air corps, navy, infantry, tank, artillery. radar and medical corps. Those volunteers formed the nucleus of the new Air Force, providing battle-hardened combat pilots for the first fighter and bomber wings. It was North American pilots, air and around crews who created the Air Transport Command that ferried the Messerschmitts and weapons from an airbase near Prague to an air base in Israel. The operational language out of necessity had to be English.

"The facts are that the first naval commanders, the first radar technicians, the first artillery gunners, the first tank commanders, the first senior infantry commanders, the first bomber pilots, the first surgeons for eye wounds and burns were Thinking back on her time in Israel in 1949, Shaloma Shawmut-Lessner composed this poem about a young country's beginnings in passion and idealism:

The Flight from Aden

Just before daylight arrives between rotting slats of shutters that cover shattered windows of our clandestine quarters in an old British Quonset. An apocalyptical design appears across the scarred ceiling. No need to sound the hour. My heartbeat warns, time to hurry.

In half darkness on this cold desert morn I harness myself into harsh clothing, pull a heavy sweater over my head; Tangled hair and wool nag at my finger-

tips.

blood before danger has begun, to pack my gear, run to my post at the edge of the runway. Ready to roll.

The flight is simple, just routine. We land, refugees wait. The desert sun is unforgiving. Not one moment for water or kindness. We persist, we push, say: move on. The cabin full, we do not linger We head for home and safety!

immigrants who arrived through *Aliya Bet.* My sister Esther Shawmut Friedman, a U.S. Navy veteran, served as a nurse on the *Pan York*--later renamed the *Independence*-which she described, in Jason Fenton's book

Volunteers of the War of Independence as the "Ship from Hell." On her arrival she was sent to the Negev where she fought in the 8th Battalion.

"Our Zionist-leader mother, a Miami Beach attorney, had encouraged both of us to go! Her motto was: 'If something has to be done, do it yourself.'

"Many. like myself. had never served in the armed forces, but came because of their desire to help secure a homeland for the lews. Besides fighting bravely against overwhelming odds with vastly inferior. inadequate armaments. many of the volunteers also risked their lives and citizenship doing undercover work in Europe and Arabic countries to locate and rescue endangered Jews.

"I have vivid memories of many such surreptitious crossings and flights into and from mostly unfriendly countries with frightened and bewildered

all "Machal" volunteers. And "Machalniks" manned ten *Aliyah Bet* ships that brought 35,000 Holocaust survivors to Mandate Palestine under the very noses of the British occupiers. That was half of all the illegal Jews, mostly screaming in languages that few of us understood. More than once our escapes were made under fire.

"In those days there were scarce rations of food, no housing, and only endless rows of



Shaloma today in her studio in the Upper Keys.

tents that baked under the hot *hamsin* sun and collapsed in the mud during the rains. There were no medications, no sanitation, little organization, and lots of turmoil. There was not enough time for adequate planning and certainly not enough resources. Nurturing and kindness were in short supply. We accomplished whatever we could through our ingenuity, adaptability and a sense of desperation."

After the war most of the volunteers returned to their home countries, but about 500 stayed or returned soon after and decided to make Israel their home.

Shaloma stayed and continued to assist in the rescue of tens of thousands of Jewish refugees from Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen, including in the famous "Operation Magic Carpet" in 1949-1950.

No one among the "Machalniks" ever knew anyone else's real name or the exact num

bers of people being airlifted. No one knew the exact roles that others were playing. What you did not know, you could not tell. The Operation's code name, "Magic Carpet," was a fabrication invented long after all was over.

I wish I could share 18-year-old Shaloma's code name with you. It is so perfect, for her, the time, and the myriad stories she has to share. I am sworn to secrecy. I guess we will all have to wait for the book. \Diamond

This article was told by Shaloma to her friend and fellow artist Gloria Avner. To you we say a collective and heartfelt thank you, Shaloma. We honor you, your spirit, your commitment and your courage. Israel only exists because there are heroes like you. It is a privilege to call you a fellow member of KJCC and a friend. And thank you, Gloria.





Dmitry Sandler, DPM, FACFAS

Board Certified by American Board of Podiatric Surgery

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"This just in: 'God backs off commandments. Claims Moses took comments out of context."





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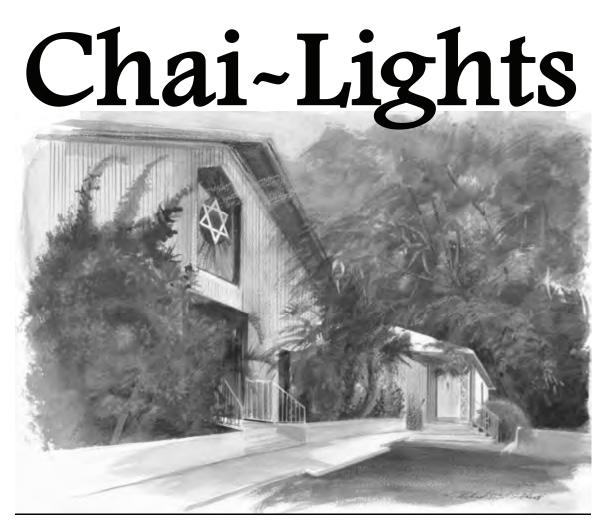
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NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION **PERMIT NO. 39** TAVERNIER, FL



June/July 2008

27 lyar - 31 Tammuz

World Jewish Report - page 11 Shavuot - page 18 Remembering Marty Graham - page 21

Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com June 2008

27 Iyar- 27 Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 George Swartz Carol & Steve Steinbock	7
8 Erev Shavuot	9	10	11	12	13 Jim Boruszak Joan & Jim Boruszak Gene & Mort Silverman	14
15 Father's Day Men's Club Picnic	16	17	18	19	20 Bernie Ginsberg Dr. Arthur Feinberg Rene & Skip Rose	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Alan Beth 6:30 Service Lauren & Stuart Sax Gene & Mort Silverman Sofy & Mark Wasser	28
29	30	Names denote leaders of Friday services. Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.				

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Newsletter

Lisa Richardson Rutherford Editor Marty Graham Editor 1987-2007

CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly newsletter of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President⁹5 Message Steve Steinbock

May began with the opening-in honor of Yom HaShoah—of our Holocaust display and a presentation by Steve Smith. He spoke, and showed films he compiled based in part on his own father's testimony as an eyewitness, on the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp outside Munich in 1945 by American forces. It was very moving and informative. Huge thanks go out to Sam, Medina, Gloria and Muriel, who put in many, many hours' work to bring Yardena's concept for this year's display through to reality.

On May 9th, KJCC celebrated Israel's 60th Anniversary with a dinner party before our Shabbat service. Those of you who did not attend missed delicious and plentiful food, desserts, fun music, dancing, Israeli posters and decorations and, most of all, good company to share it all with.

Nyan Feder's Bar Mitzvah was different than most we have at the KJCC. He did a Mincha service on Saturday afternoon, reading directly from our Holocaust Torah. Many thanks go out to Gloria who worked with Nyan on his service along with Nyan's learned and gifted father. We all offer Dave and Suzi our warmest congratulations. And we thank them for their gift to KJCC of a student



Torah, one our religious students will be inspired by for many years.

As you all know, we lost our dear friend Marty Graham during Passover. Marty, together with his wife Bea (they were married more than 60 vears) did so much for the KICC. We will remember Marty whenever we get a Yartzeit letter, look at the lights on the boards in the sanctuary, see and hear the names of birthdays and anniversaries and read any of the myriad letters that came from the database and programs that Marty developed. It will take many of us to do all the iobs he and Bea did alone. I hope you'll all enjoy the special section in Marty's honor that begins on page 21.

I was saddened to learn of the deaths of Bob Schur and Muriel Swartz's mother. To Lee Schur and Muriel, and their families and friends, Carol and I send our thoughts and prayers.

Finally, Carol and my sister Rosemary are taking me to Israel for our 25th and Israel's 60th anniversaries in mid-May. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you in the coming months.

I wish you all a pleasant summer!

Steve

Nosh

Let's Try This Again

All are invited to join the Men's Club to celebrate Father's Day, June 15, at Bahia Honda beach. We will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers and enjoying each other's company. The cost to each picnic attendee is \$10. All food will be provided. Please let us know if you are coming so we know how much food to buy. You can RSVP to me at 852 0833 or email me at joanborus@aol.com.

-Joan Boruszak

Dear KJCC:

Thank you for your condolences on the loss of my dear mother, Ida S. Reider. She died at age 98 and had been doing well until the last two years. She was a great blessing to all who knew her.

Love, Muriel

July 2008 KJCC Service Leaders and Oneg Sponsors

Leaders

- July 11th.....George Swartz
- July 18th.....Beth Hayden
- July 25th...6:30 Service..Lauren and Stuart Sax

The Oneg for July 25th will be sponsored by Shelby Strean.



A June Wedding

Steven and Barbara Smith announce the engagement of their son, Brian Smith, to Carrie Nicoletti, the Daughter of Ralph and Alice Nicoletti of Valhalla, N.Y. Brian is a Pro-Scout for the New England Patriots and Carrie is a middle school math teacher in Dedham, MA. Their wedding is planned for June 20, 2009 in Vallhalla, N.Y. Both Brian and Carrie are 25 years old. Brian is also a KJCC Religious School graduate.

BOOK PLATES

IN MEMORY OF MARTY GRAHAM By Carol and Steve Steinbock

IN MEMORY OF MARTY GRAHAM By Pauline Roller

New Member

The KJCC is happy to announce our newest member, Deborah Weiss of Key Largo. A very warm welcome to you, and we hope to see you often.

To Contact Chai-Lights

Use the new e-mail our webmaster Alan has added to the KJCC web site. It's chailights@keysjewishcenter.com. Please send all ideas, comments, and questions there, as well as all submissions.

TREE OF LIFE

IN HONOR OF OUR GOOD FRIEND MARTY GRAHAM 4/21/2008 Linda and Joel Pollack

IN HONOR OR THE BIRTH OF OUR GRANDDAUGHTER "ELLIANA" 4/20/08 Arthur and Johanna Willner

TO STEVE FOR 25 WONDERFUL YEARS FULL OF LOVE *Carol*

Wedding Announcement

KJCC members Lyle Agins and Heather Palmer are to be married on June 11th. Our warmest wishes go out to them for a long and happy life.

June Anniversaries

	Years
Ist Joan Stark & Joel Bernard	22
12th Donna & William Bolton	15
14th Joan & James Boruszak	55
8th Jane & Stephen Friedman	12
18th Ruth Schraeder- & Eric Grace	
25th Renee & Laurence Green	
25th Elinor & Herbert Grossman	
20th Linda & Allan Holbrook	
12th Beverly M & Harvey E Robins	
23rd Rene & Skip Rose	
23rd Lauren & Stuart Sax	
7th Sheila & Richard Steinberg	

July Anniversaries

2nd	Rozi & Douglas Graham	4
5th	Barbara & Erwin Kantor	51
llth	Shifra & David Kossman	48
29th	Elaine & Bernard Solas	52
3rd	Lorene & Michael Solomon	19

Mitzvah Mention

Our sincere sympathy on the loss of Marty Graham

From Judith and Harvey Klein

6:30 p.m. Friday Night Services – Feedback, Please.

There are a lot of synagogues that offer both a family night service and a regular service at least once per month. Our synagogue is too small to offer two services the same night. So, as you know, we chose (over a year ago) to offer a once-per-month service at 6:30 p.m.

Currently, the last Friday of each month is a 6:30 p.m. service.

The original intention was to offer this service as a family service, thus enabling parents to bring their kids and leave approximately an hour later. So by 7:30 p.m. services would be over.

Recently we had a discussion at the board meeting to determine if this early service should continue throughout the summer months or not. It was a 50/50 split.

During the summer months it actually does not get dark till after 8 p.m. So, having a Shabbat service Friday afternoon is actually what we are doing. Technically this is wrong.

On the other hand, some of us felt it would be confusing to switch back to 8 p.m. and then to reinstate the 6:30 p.m. service in autumn. I proposed that we keep the services as is for now, but ask the entire KJCC community for feedback.

•So, please let me know how you feel about the 6:30 p.m. monthly service:

•Do you want to keep it 'as is ' - all year round?

•Do you think we should suspend it temporarily during the summer months?

•Do you think we should cancel it entirely and have no 6:30 p.m. services at all – only 8 p.m. services?

•Any other suggestions?? Thanks.

Alan Beth - Head of Religious Committee Tel: 305-240-1509 Email: Feedback@keysjewishcenter.com

Ongoing Committees and Activities

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665. KJCC **Tree of Life Leaves** and **Rocks**, **Sanctuary Seat Plates**, **Yartzeit Memorial Plaques**, **Bookplates** for siddurim. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF *Trees in Israel* - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214. *Chai-Lights Mitzvah* - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertising in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds: e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund.

June Memoriam

By Mollie Gross In Blessed Memory of ROSE CASPI Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By David M. & Nancy L. Cohn In Blessed Memory of ESTHER R. COHN Eternal Peace

By Marty & Bea Graham In Blessed Memory of SAUL ELSON Forever In Our Hearts

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe In Blessed Memory of ROSE FINE In Our Heart And Memory

> By the Cohen Family In Blessed Memory of ELLIOT FROMKES Always In My Memory

By Margaret Gross In Blessed Memory of KATHE GROSS Rest In Peace

By Ron & Dorothy Horn In Blessed Memory of SAMUEL HORN Rest In Eternal Peace

> By Pauline Roller In Blessed Memory of BEN HORWITZ Always In Our Memory

By Erwin & Barbara Kantor In Blessed Memory of ROSE KANTOR In Our Memory Always

> By Michael Klimpl In Blessed Memory of ARTHUR KLIMPL Long Blessed Sleep

By David & Shifra Kossman In Blessed Memory of BERTHA KOSMAN We Remember Always

> By Teresa Kwalick In Blessed Memory of ESTHER KWALICK With Loving Remembrance

By Teresa Kwalick In Blessed Memory of BILL KWALICK Sleep In Peace

By Mario & Linda LaGrotte In Blessed Memory of MARY LA GROTTE Remembered With Love

By Skip & Rene Rose In Blessed Memory of MILTON LANG Forever Remembered With Love

By David M. & Nancy L. Cohn In Blessed Memory of WILLIAM OWEN Always Remembered By David M. & Nancy L. Cohn In Blessed Memory of LOIS OWEN Always Remembered With Love

> By Joyce Peckman In Blessed Memory of LESLIE PECKMAN Rest in Blessed Peace

By Myron & Myrna Rubin In Blessed Memory of MAE RUBIN REAR Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Rick & Roberta McNew In Blessed Memory of CARL C. REIFF Always Loved and Missed

> By Skip & Rene Rose In Blessed Memory of MORRIS ROSE Eternal Rest

By Allan & Linda Holbrook In Blessed Memory of SAM RUSKIN Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein In Blessed Memory of SAMUEL SEGAL Eternal Peace

By the Sherman Family In Blessed Memory of LILLIAN SHERMAN Forever In Our Hearts By the Sherman Family In Blessed Memory of MURRAY SHERMAN In Our Heart And Memory

By the Sherman Family In Blessed Memory of IRVING SHERMAN Always In My Memory

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg In Blessed Memory of WALLY STEINBERG Rest In Peace

> By Andy Tobin In Blessed Memory of LEONARD TOBIN Rest In Eternal Peace

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl In Blessed Memory of IRMA WEIHL Always In Our Memory

> By Janice Gorson In Blessed Memory of BETTY WEISS In Our Memory Always

By Teresa Kwalick In Blessed Memory of E. ENRIQUE ASTRAY-CANEDA Eternal Rest

> By Joyce Peckman In Blessed Memory of LESLIE PECKMAN Rest in Blessed Peace

June	Birthdays
------	------------------

Zoe Berk 9
Donna Bolton6
William BoltonI5
Rita Bromwich24
Dale Chasteen23
Alan Cooper28
Arthur Feinberg29
Linda Feinberg
Elanor Forbes
Bob Friedman30
Suzanne Gilson6
Joseph Goldberg23
Maxwell Grace27
Justin Greenbaum
Michal Kamely12
Peter Kantor16
Amelia Kasinof18
Harvey Klein20
Nancy Kluger6
Jessica Kordansky10
Robert N Kwalick29
Sheldon Mann8
Haley MayclinI5
Israel Mayk13
Jennifer Nobil14
Jim Nobil7
Taryn Nobil21
Abraham Rakov3
Delaney Rohde24
Joseph Sachs5
Judy Schmidt20
Kevin M. Silverman12
Elaine Solas8
Lorene Solomon3
Alfred Weihl4
Barbara Weprin30
Joan Wohl7
Dorothy Wolfe5

The KJCC is sorry to note the passing of longtime member Robert Schur. Bob, and wife Lee, have visited us in the Keys for many years and were devoted and active members, attending services on Friday nights, joining in classes and seminars, and contributing their cheerful

presence to all of our winter time activites. We knew Bob to be an avid boater as well as active with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. We will miss Bob's most pleasant demeanor and wish Lee and their children our deepest condolences.



July Memoriam

By William & Barbara Weprin In Blessed Memory of JESSIE BEERMAN Eternal Rest

By Marc & Ellen Bloom In Blessed Memory of PHYLISS BLOOM Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By the Blumberg Family In Blessed Memory of ARNOLD BLUMBERG Eternal Peace

> By Shirley Boxer In Blessed Memory of LOUIS BOXER Forever In Our Hearts

By Meredith A. Cline In Blessed Memory of ROBERT L. CLINE In Our Heart And Memory

By the Cohen Family In Blessed Memory of ZACHARY COHEN Always In Our Memory

By Larry & Judith Weber In Blessed Memory of ALFRED EICHLER Rest In Peace

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs In Blessed Memory of SYDNEY EMSIG Rest In Eternal Peace By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe In Blessed Memory of FRIEDA FEINBERG Always In Our Memory

By Bill & Freda Ferns In Blessed Memory of FRANK FERNS In Our Memory Always

By Shirley Boxer In Blessed Memory of GUSSIE FIERBERG Long Blessed Sleep

By Janice Gorson In Blessed Memory of S. MARSHALL GORSON We Remember Always

By Maryon Gould In Blessed Memory of MAX GOULD With Loving Remembrance

By Laurence & Renee Green In Blessed Memory of BARBARA GREEN Sleep In Peace

By Laurence & Renee Green In Blessed Memory of J. STUART GREEN Remembered With Love

By Mollie Gross In Blessed Memory of EMANUEL GROSS Forever Remembered With Love By Margaret Gross In Blessed Memory of JULIUS HABER Always Remembered

By Jay & Nancy Hershoff In Blessed Memory of SYLVIA HERSHOFF Always Remembered With Love

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg In Blessed Memory of MARGARET ISENBERG Rest in Blessed Peace

By Ronald & Deborah Kaplan In Blessed Memory of CATHERINE KAPLAN Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Ronald & Deborah Kaplan In Blessed Memory of SIDNEY KAPLAN Always Loved and Missed

By Mary Lee Singer In Blessed Memory of STANLEY H. KLIPPER Eternal Rest

By Kurt & Nancy Kluger In Blessed Memory of OTTO KLUGER Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

> By Teresa Kwalick In Blessed Memory of IRWIN KWALICK Eternal Peace

By Marjorie Present In Blessed Memory of GORDON PRESENT Forever In Our Hearts

By Ron & Dorothy Horn In Blessed Memory of JACOB RATCHIK In Our Heart And Memory

By Sheldon & Carole Weiss In Blessed Memory of ARTHUR RAY Always In My Memory

By Meredith A. Cline In Blessed Memory of RUTH RICHARDSON Rest In Peace

By Harvey & Susan Schwaid In Blessed Memory of KITTY ROEMER Rest In Eternal Peace

> By Joyce Peckman In Blessed Memory of FRED ROSS Always In Our Memory

By Morton & Gene Silverman In Blessed Memory of JACK L. SACHS In Our Memory Always

By Morton & Gene Silverman In Blessed Memory of SYLVIA SACHS Long Blessed Sleep By Stephen & Carol Steinbock In Blessed Memory of BEN STEINBOCK We Remember Always

> By Shelby Strean In Blessed Memory of BERNARD STREAN Sleep In Peace

By George & Muriel Swartz In Blessed Memory of MACK SWARTZ Remembered With Love

By George & Muriel Swartz In Blessed Memory of MILTON SWARTZ Forever Remembered With Love

By Mel & Blanche Taks In Blessed Memory of SALLY TAKS Always Remembered

By the Cohen Family In Blessed Memory of SAMUEL WAINER Always Remembered With Love

By William & Barbara Weprin In Blessed Memory of HARRY WEPRIN Rest in Blessed Peace

By Robert & Heide Werthamer In Blessed Memory of SEYMOUR WERTHAMER Never Forgotten, Always Loved By Donald & Nancy Zinner In Blessed Memory of HENRIETTA ZINNER Always Loved and Missed

July Birthdays

Joshua Samuel Bernstein	21
Paul Eric Bernstein	
Marc Bloom	27
Molly Bloom	30
Rachael Bloom	27
Bruce Boruszak	29
Elissa A. Denker	2
Carol Field	
Arlington Garrett	21
Jennifer Gilson	
Marcia Goldberg	13
Lindsay Gould	10
Steven Hartz	
Alex Hudson	I
Lila E. Juenger	28
Richard Karron	15
Zachary G Kwalick	18
Mario LaGrotte	
Ron Levy	5
Gertrude Mann	16
Alan Markowitz	
Chely Markowitz	1
Joyce Peckman	9
Linda Perloff	21
Pauline Roller	
Rebecca M. Schur	12
Mary Lee Singer	
Brian Smith	
Candy Stanlake	
Richard Steinberg	12
Carrie Temkin	
Robert Werthamer	17

YEDA - Knowledge Yardena Kamely



"How can we teach the Holocaust?"

In his writings "To the Teachers: Reflection, Remembrance, Responsibility," Elie Wiesel encourages us, the adults, to teach the Holocaust. Seeing the exhibit "Holocaust the Aftermath" and the presentation "The Liberation of Dachau," we can comprehend the difficulties the survivors had to face after their liberation. We learn about their struggle not only to return to life, but also not to despair in their most important task: to teach the Holocaust. Their immense courage and strength motivates us to take responsibility and continue their mission.

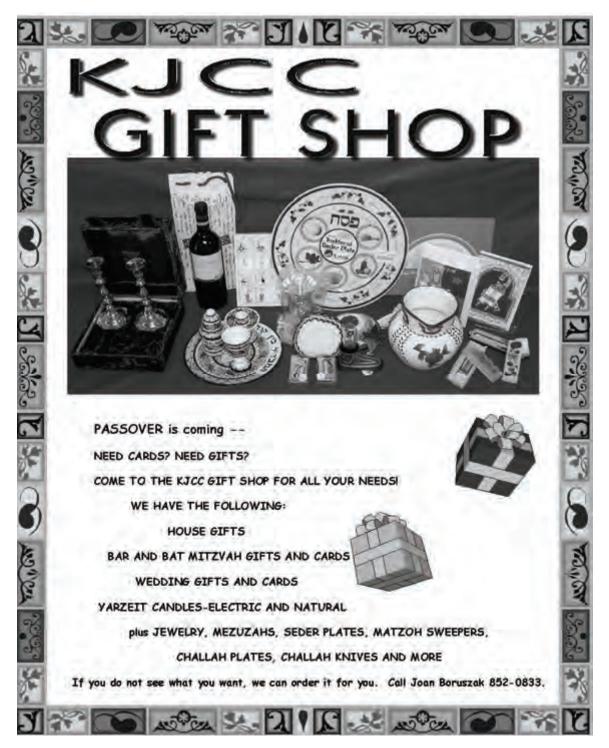
Elie Wiesel writes: "April, 1945. Liberation. All that I remember of that event, of that month, is that there was no joy. There was no joy in those who opened their eyes at the end of a nightmare. They were alive, but something of them had remained on the other side. In a way they were dead but did not know it "....We had the power, the moral strength, to speak up and demand and compel mankind to change, to give up intolerance and hate, bigotry and fanaticism. We had the right then to say, 'We are your teachers.'But we did not know how to go about it.

"Look at the world today. People know little or nothing today, and therefore I believe no subject is more urgent, more burning, than the one you and I are teaching. "....If the teachers fail, and I include myself among them, if these desecrators succeed in erasing the memories of their victims, we shall experience something worse than we experienced then. We shall feel shame because we have betrayed the victims for the last time - we will have completed the killer's work."

We, members of the KJCC, engage actively in teaching the Holocaust, not only in our Jewish community, but also in the gentile community of the Keys. Their interest in learning about the Holocaust is growing, especially in the High School. This year students of CSHS, the Leadership class, conducted a ceremony of Holocaust Remembrance Day on Yom Ha'shoah, May 2nd, inviting all classes to the Coral Shores Performing Arts Center; the auditorium was full. In their program they included a film, *"The Children Remember,"* telling stories of children in the Holocaust, and a slide show, *"Genocide,"* both showing very powerful images.

I was invited as keynote speaker, representing the KJCC, to speak about the significance of Yom Ha'shoah. I told them that I was born in Israel, which I consider a privilege. That I was raised and educated to fight for my freedom and for human rights; educated to accept the responsibility to tell my children, my students, my friends the tragedy of the Holocaust. To tell it, so that they will know how we, a free people, could conserve our freedom and stay human.

I then cited Elie Wiesel: "The memory of evil will serve as a shield against evil.....The memory of the death will serve as a shield against death." My appreciation and thanks to the Leadership class and their teachers for their work. As a Jew, and as one who has accepted the mission to teach the memories and keep them a living legacy, I was impressed. \Diamond



World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Remembering the Fallen

The total is 22,437. That's the number of servicemen and women who have fallen defending the land of Israel since 1860 – the year the first Jews left Jerusalem's Old City to settle other parts of the country. They were remembered on May 6th in ceremonies honoring Remembrance Day for the Fallen in Israel's Wars. In the past year, 132 soldiers were killed in service to the state. (*Jerusalem Post, 5-4-08*)

Yad Vashem on YouTube

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel (May 1st), Yad Vashem launched two educational channels on YouTube - one in English and one with Arabic subtitles - containing testimonies from Holocaust survivors, archival footage and historical lectures. In a statement given by Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev, he said: "We know that You-Tube is one of the most popular Web sites today. Unfortunately, there is a plethora of misinformation and deliberate lies available on the internet. The Yad Vashem channels will counter this material and make reliable information widely available to anyone who seeks to know more about this terrible chapter in human history." (www.jta.org, 4-29-08)

Bahrain's New Jewish Ambassador

A Jewish businesswoman--the first Jewish woman to sit on the Bahraini Shura Council-is reportedly being nominated as Bahrain's new ambassador to the U.S., Bahrain's top diplomatic post. Huda Nonoo belongs to the tiny Jewish community in the predominantly Muslim kingdom of Bahrain, a Persian Gulf state sandwiched between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The community dates back to the Talmudic era. Nonoo, who is descended from Iraqi Jews, was secretary-general of Bahrain Human Rights Watch. Bahrain, progressive by middle east standards, was among the first outside of Israel to allow women to run for public office. (*World Jewish Congress, 4-28-08*)

Shalom From Space

Garrett Reisman, a mechanical engineer from New Jersey, is the first Jewish crew member on the international space station. He has been in space since March 11th. Reisman sent a 60th birthday greeting to Israel from space. "Every time the station flies over the state of Israel, I try to find a window, and it never fails to move me when I see the familiar outline of Israel coming toward us from over the horizon." (*www.jta.org, 5-8-08*)

Millions to Remember

Jenna Steinbrink, 12, of Pennsylvania, has collected 300.000 pennies. By her Bat Mitzvah in September, she hopes to have six million. Jenna calls her project Millions to Re*member* and says she was inspired by the Paper Clip Project, in which middle-school students from Whitwell, Tennessee set out to collect six million paper clips, one for each Jewish victim of the Holocaust. Jenna has met both Sandra Roberts, the teacher who started the Paper Clip Project, and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. She's held fundraisers at her synagogue, put out collection boxes at local businesses, and written letters to companies requesting donations. "I want it to be used to help people understand the importance of

tolerance and the fact that one person can make a difference," she said. "Like Martin Luther King...and hopefully me." Jenna plans to donate the money to the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which promotes tolerance through Holocaust education. (*The Forward, 4-16-08*)

A Quiet 100th Birthday

Had he lived, April 28th would have been Oskar Schindler's 100th birthday. All around the world there were guiet, locally inspired memorials to the war profiteer factory owner who, at the risk of losing his own life and in an act no one who'd ever known Schindler could possibly have predicted, saved over 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust. Every year, Nahum Manor, 85, who met his wife while working in Schindler's Krakow. Poland enamelware factory, goes to Schindler's grave on Mount Zion in Ierusalem. In Krakow, thirty Schindler survivors joined a march to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the liquidation of the city's ghetto and to honor Schindler. The march ended at the Palace of Art, where more than 500 photos of Schindler and his factory were on display. Leon Leyson, 78, of Los Angeles and the youngest member of "Schindler's list," says "I think of Schindler most of the time. I don't have to wait for his birthday." (The Forward, 4-17-08)

Brain Drain out of Israel

According to a recently released report by Tel Aviv University Professor Dan Ben-David, an alarming number of Israeli researchers attracted to the U.S. could "catastrophically weaken the Jewish state." The report claims that in the academic year 2003-2004, one in four Israeli scholars were doing research in the States, placing Israel as the world's leading nation with academics working abroad. The report cautions that, "the impact on the high-tech and defense sectors could have irreversible and disastrous results for Israel unless turn-around efforts are implemented." (*Dateline: World Jewry, May 2008*)

Mohel Story #1

Cantor Abraham Seif of South Florida, estimated to have performed over 10,000 circumcisions, has died at 86. Seif, who was known as Seif the Knife and The Yankee Clipper. was a Polish-born Holocaust survivor who learned the delicate procedure in Brooklyn after WW II. When he came to Miami Beach's Knesseth Israel Synagogue in 1950, he was the only orthodox *mohel* for hundreds of miles around. Though serious about the rituals of a *brit milah* (the rite of circumcision). Seif was known for his sense of humor. Of his son Howard, who was also a *mohel*, he'd say, "He's cutting into my business," and his favorite mohel joke: Customer: "Why do you have a clock in your window?" Shopkeeper: "What do you want me to put in the window?" (Miami Herald, 4-26-08)

Mohel Story #2

For 19 years, Dr. Bob Levenson, 60, was one of the most sought-after mohels in Greater Boston. Now he's retired and there is a shortage of Jewish doctors and nurses willing to take on the demanding lewish ritual. With just two dozen or so active mohels serving all of eastern Massachusetts, many young parents seeking a *bris* for their newborn describe a frantic search for a *mohel*. The solution? In mid-April, 21 students - most of them pediatricians, urologists and obstetricians (and a third of them women) -- attended an intense three-day certification "mohel boot camp." The new recruits were already proficient at performing medical circumcisions, a common procedure performed on nearly half of all American baby boys. The first Boston-area training session in 20 years, the program was an attempt to replenish the dwindling number of *mohels* in the region and elevate the connection between lews and the ancient ritual that symbolizes the Jewish covenant with G-d. The program offered some tips (no pun intended) on how to "gracefully elevate a medical procedure ...into one of life's great blessings." (Boston Globe, 4-14-08)

Death of a True Hero

Irena Sendler, 98, born to a Polish Catholic family and credited with organizing and rescuing more than 2,500 lewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust, died on May 12, 2008. Sendler, who led the underground organization Zegota's Children's Bureau, obtained false documents for the children, smuggling them out by sedating some and even carrying some out in potato sacks or coffins. Like Oskar Schindler, Sendler kept a list of the names of all the children she saved, hoping that she could one day reunite them with their families. When the Germans learned of her activities, she was arrested, tortured and sentenced to death, but she refused to divulge any information about the organization or the children she had placed in hiding. She escaped and went into hiding for the remainder of the war. Sendler was recognized as a Righteous Gentile by Yad Vashem in 1965 and in 2003 was awarded Poland's highest honor, the Order of the White Eagle. Last year she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize won by Al Gore. (For more details on Irena Sendler. see the April issue of Chai-Lights.) (New York Times, 5-13-08)

Canada's Memorial to the St. Louis

The Canadian government has proposed an education program and a memorial to the lewish refugee ship, the St. Louis. The steamship fled Nazi Germany in 1939 with 907 refugees aboard sailing for Cuba, where they were turned away. No other Latin American country would accept them, either, nor would the United States or Canada. The ship returned to Europe and landed in Belgium after a month at sea. Most of its passengers ultimately perished in The Holocaust. The St. Louis came to symbolize the world's indifference to the plight of the Jews in Europe. Bernie Faber of the Canadian lewish Congress applauded his government's decision stating, "The idea is that when government begins to understand the follies of what they did in the past, they will ensure it's not done in the future." (World Jewish Congress, 5-14-08)

Daughter of Nazi Converts to Judaism

Addressing the audience at a Holocaust tribute at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York, Liesel Appel had a unique story to tell. Appel, the daughter of Hitler's Minister of Education in Poland, recalled how after reading Elie Wiesel's book *Night*, "I wanted to find out about this faith which was so strong that it saw people through the horrors of the concentration camps....Then I fell in love with... the meaning of Shabbat, the transforming of the ordinary and making it holy...I converted in 1990."

In 2005, Appel wrote a book, *The Neighbor's Son*, and dedicated it to the 200 Jews of Bottrop, the town where she was born, who had all been deported and sent to their death. Listening to Appel speak, many in the audience, which included Holocaust survivors and their children and grandchildren, were brought to tears.

Appel now lives in Asheville, North Carolina with her Jewish husband Dan. (*The Forward*, 5-2-08)

Houdini Reappears, on Stage

Danny Elfman's latest project is a musical based on the life of Harry Houdini. Houdini, born Erich Weiss in Budapest in 1874, will be the subject of the production scheduled to debut on Broadway in 2010. The musical will be scored by Elfman, who has been Oscarnominated three times and whose film credits include *Midnight Run, Beetlejuice* and *Men In Black*. The lyrics are to be written by David Yazbek. A book based on the play will be written by journalist Kurt Andersen. Houdini died at age 52 performing an escape stunt in circumstances that are still somewhat controversial. (*The Forward, 5-2-08*)

Soccer, Jewish-Style

None of the players on Manchester United or Chelsea, the two teams vying for Europe's Club Championship, are Jewish. But both team owners are, American Malcolm Glazer of Manchester and Russian tycoon Roman Abramovich of Chelsea. Chelsea is also coached by an Israeli, Avram Grant. (The Forward, 5-16-08) ◊

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman

The final Sisterhood of the 2007-08 season took place on a warm May 4th with lunch at the Big Chill. It was a lovely finish to an active year. We certainly kept our members well fed this season!

It all began with bagels and lox at the breakfast after Yom Kippur. We had the Chanukah Shabbat dinner with latkes and other delicacies in December, then the very successful Membership drive dinner in January. In February we provided lunch at the KJCC we are most grateful.

But we were not only about food. We enjoyed the fashion show in January at Outback. In February we traveled to the Actors' Playhouse in Miami to see "Alter Boyz," and back again in March for "Footloose." March also saw the fundraising brunch at the home of Elaine and Jerry Hirsch, where many of us

Board installation. We outdid ourselves celebrating Purim in March. April featured the Women's Seder. which gets more wonderful every year! Finally, in May, we had an Israel Independence Dav celebration. A great big thanks to all of you who arrived at these events bearing your signature salads. quiches. corn breads and desserts. Thanks



bid on handcrafted mezuzas At the Women's seder. we began the "Tikkun Olam" fund, with the purpose of helping women and children in the broader community. In April we continued the tradition of organizing the Second Passover Seder at the Islamorada fishing club.

Sisterhood also provides financial support to the KJCC. Thanks to the generosity of Elaine and

Seventeen women (we were missing two who were stuck in traffic and never made it) attended the final event of Sisterhood at The Big Chill in Key Largo on May 4th.

also to the sponsors of our dinners, who covered the basic expenses and enabled us to make these dinners a way for our members to celebrate an occasion like family, without the need to collect an entrance fee.

A very special thank-you has to go to Bill and Freda Ferns, owners of Gyros King and La Cuccina. Whatever the event, with generous hearts they unhesitatingly supply us with delicious food in abundance. Their devotion to the KJCC goes beyond words, and Jerry Hirsch, some creative fund-raising and the supplemental profits provided by the Sisterhood-sponsored Fashion Show, the Passover Seder at the Fishing Club, Bea Graham's success with the Jewish National Fund and Jim and Joan Boruszak's constant revitalization of the Gift Shop, we had a very successful season. We can pat ourselves on the back. It was a great cooperative effort. Thank you to all. And as the old song says, "see you in September." \diamond



Photo Gallery

Just before his presentation to KJCC, Steve Smith met with Barbara Mungovan of Key Largo, right, who also had a relative at the liberation of Dachau. At far right, with some of the Nazi war souvenirs his father brought home.

Thanks to Dr. Steve Smith for his presentation of "The Liberation

of Dachau." He clearly spent many hours on historical research. He also showed all of us the testimony left by his father, Louis S. Smith, M.D. who was a battalion surgeon attached to the 45th Division and entered Dachau at its liberation. Louis Smith's photo-

graphs and his 1984 videotaped interview recalling these events had a significant emotional impact on all present. So did the PowerPoint and DVD presentation of the younger Dr. Smith, a compilation of other witness' testimony and photographs. Again, our thanks to Steve Smith for sharing his unique family history with us to promote education and remembrance of the Holocaust.

—Yardena







olocaust: The Afternath

Above, the Holocaust Display that stood in KJCC's lobby for the month of May. The visitor book showed many students and interested adults from the community at large. Left, an amazing photo taken by Neal Rakov during his and Cathy's recent visit to Israel. This is not a staged photo at the Kotel, the Western Wall. But notice the juxtaposition of images: modern and traditional, sacred and temporal. Some scenes from Nyan Feder's Bar Mitzvah, which played to a packed house at KJCC on Saturday, May 10th. Dave and Alan Beth officiated. Nyan is the latest in a distinguished group of KJCC Religious School alumni. As our president, Steve Steinbock, said: Nyan, we're all extremely proud of you.



Left, Beth Kaminstein, Nancy Kluger and Pauline Roller share the simcha with Claire Pizer, Suzi Feder's mom.



The Bar Mitzvah boy with his parents Dave and Suzi, center. Below left, Dave mugs with Susan Gordon and Gloria Avner. Below right, the entire Feder/Pizer clan, some of whom came from upstate New York and Canada, because, well, it was, that day, the place to be.



Above, Beth Kaminstein with daughter Stellar, a KJCC Bat Mitzvah not so long ago.









On Friday, May 9th, KJCC celebrated Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day, the traditionally Jewish way—with food. Top left are Susan Gordon,

Candy Stanlake and Cathy Rakov. Top right, an impressive collection of KJCC brass: Carol Steinbock, Joyce Peckman, Steve Steinbock, Mark Wasser and Bernie Ginsberg. Above left, Roberta McNew and Sofy Wasser. Center, Cammie Berk, Harry Friedman, Yardena Kamely, Beth Hayden (Homestead's own), and Gloria Avner do an Israeli dance, in part because



Israelis always celebrate with dancing and in part because it helps to work off the food. Center right, Zoe Berk and Captain Sunny Andracchio. Below right and above, two shots of Mary Lee Singer's trip to Rome, with granddaughter Carrie at a synagogue Holocaust exhibit, and Mary Lee alone at a Jewish monument among Roman ruins.

Shavu-what?

Meaning behind and beneath the counting of Omer (the mystical take)

by Gloria Avner

have to admit that Shavuot has never been high on my list of favorite. much less highly anticipated, Jewish holidays. Much as I know and honor the fact that the receiving of the Torah on Mount Sinai was the key point in creating us as the lewish people. I seem to have preferred the drama of battles. narrow escapes, miracles, candle-lighting, storytelling, pageantry, the honoring of trees. and great ritual foods to the counting of days from the first grain sacrifice. What a difference some focused study makes. Learning is a lovely thing. And so is Shavuot, one of my new favorite holidays. I now understand that we are not just counting days. We are making days count.

Shavuot is the only holiday I know of that is about time itself. Yes, there is a beginning day, marking the first offering of grain at the Temple, and there is celebration when the last of the 49 days is reached, but really, the whole forty-nine days, the seven times seven as observed by the mystics, provides us an opportunity for growth unmatched by any other holiday in our lexicon of days.

The period of time from Pesach until Shavuot, at least according to the ancient mystics, is about accessing the kabbalistic aspects of God. Each of the seven weeks is dedicated to one of these aspects. Picture a grid in which week one through seven, each focused on one of the Sefirot, the divine emanations from God, are on the left-hand side vertically. Across the top are the days of the week, each day dedicated to another kabbalistic aspect of God--one of the Sefirot. The grid becomes a guide to the conscious. Each day of the "omer" period is dedicated to calling these divine emanations into our world from the heavenly realm and helping us correct or repair (Tikkun) the world, our relationships and ourselves.

On Shavuot, we are preparing both the world and our spirits to receive the Torah again at Sinai. The seven aspects that we focus on are: Chesed (lovingkindness); Gevurah (justice and strength); Tiferet (compassion/ balance, harmony, and beauty); Netzach (endurance or eternality); Hod (humility/ sincerity and splendor); Yesod (bonding/ foundation and remembering); and Malchut (sovereignty/healing and leadership).

Each day is dedicated to calling upon two different though interrelated aspects of Divine energy to help us heal ourselves, correct our lives and our relationships so that we can *personally* be ready to leave slavery behind, spiritually ready to receive the Torah. As we count off the days and weeks we have the opportunity to evolve, be inspired to change, and acknowledge our need for mending spirit

The holiday of Shavuot is one of three harvest festivals mandated in the Torah (Sukkot, Pesach, and Shavuot). Shavuot, which means "weeks," marks the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the fruit harvest.

There are seven weeks, or 49 days, between the second day of Pesach and Shavuot. Each of the 49 days is marked by a sheaf of grain—called an omer donated to the Temple. By counting the omer, one knew when to celebrate Shavuot. Other names for Shavuot are Hag Ha-Katzir, the festival of the wheat harvest, and Yom Ha—Bikkurim, the day of the first fruits from his fields to the Temple as an offering.

When the Talmud was compiled, the Rabbis decided that the Ten Commandments were given to the Israelites on that day. To commemorate this, they are read in the synagogue on Shavuot.

- George Swartz

and soul, as well as community and world.

Remember, it was forty-nine days from the time that the Jews escaped Egypt until Moses ascended Mt. Sinai and spoke with God. There is an understanding, related in Zohar, that there are 50 levels of spiritual development or impurity and that during the period of slavery, the Jews had sunk to the fortyninth. Had we gone any lower, we would have been irredeemable. Thanks to dedicated mothers and wives, though, we kept our names, our family structures, and our dress sufficiently intact to survive, becoming so elevated in the forty-nine days of wandering that we could be worthy of "seeing the thunder and the sound of the shofar" as God's voice rumbled over Mt. Sinai.

I love counting the omer now and will happily e-mail the grid to anyone who'd like to finish off Shavuot with meaningful counting and introspection.

Don't forget to have dairy meals as Shavuot draws near. The Kabbala mystics note that the numerical equivalent of halav (milk) is forty, the number of days Moses spent on Mount Sinai. At Sinai, the Jewish people were charged with the privilege and responsibility to be a "Light to the World." Our children are the guarantors that the Torah will be honored. Shavuot accordingly is marked by Torah study, and flavored with the taste of milk and honey. The Torah study is supposed to last throughout the night, guaranteeing that we will not "fall asleep."

Remember, Shavuot is not simply *Chag Shavuot*, the Festival of Weeks, and the celebration of Giving of Torah (Z'man Matan Torateinu) some 3,320 years ago. It is also the Festival of First-Fruits (Chag HaBikurim), and the Festival of the Harvest (Chag Hakazir). It is a Shavuot tradition to adorn both synagogue and home with greenery, fragrant flowers, roses, leaves, boughs and trees.

As we savor the Torah and its lifesustaining teachings, as well as our mystical traditions, let us revel in the happy, lifeaffirming outer celebration as well as the inner. Shavuot would be the perfect time to serve a holiday meal of blintzes and cheesecake. Enjoy. ◊

Shavuot Customs through History and Around the World

A medieval book of customs states: "It is customary to scatter spices and roses on the synagogue floor to celebrate the festival." Beautiful paper flower cutouts called "shevuoslekh reizelekh" or "shoshanta" were pasted on windowpanes facing the streets. Among the intricate designs of folk art creations were motifs and patterns relating to Shavuot and the Torah.

Sephardic women took pride in baking a seven-layer cake for Shavuot called "Siete Cielos" (Seven Heavens), symbolic of the seven celestial spheres G-d traversed to present the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. It was decorated with various symbols such as a star of David, the rod of Moses, the two tablets of the Law, Jacob's ladder, and the Ark of the Covenant. Others topped the cake with a seven-rung ladder to recall Moses ascending Mount Sinai.

Similar elaborate pastries called "Sinai Cake" alluded to the mountain. A large cake or bread with raisins, known as "pashtudan" or "floden" when baked for Shavuot, was also called Sinai. Jews of Kurdistan prepared large quantities of butter and cheese for Shavuot. Their dish was ground wheat cooked in sour milk with butter and flour dumplings.

In Tripoli (now Libya), women baked wafers in various shapes: a ladder, to recall Moses' rise up Mount Sinai; hands extended to receive the Torah; the two tablets of the Law; eyeglasses to see the words of the Torah, and other symbols.

In North African communities it was customary to serve matzah remaining from Passover, because Shavuot is the culmination of the Exodus from Egypt. The matzah was shredded into bowls of milk and honey.

When Yemenite Jews read "Tikkun" in the synagogue Shavuot night, each brings a choice delicacy such as spiced coffee or candy to share with those studying through the night. —*Gloria*

Yom Yerushalayim Celebrating the Re-unification of Jerusalem in 1967

In the 1966 film "Cast A Giant Shadow," the story of Jewish (sort of) American Army officer Mickey Marcus, who had been recruited (read manipulated) to help ragtag Palestinian Jews in 1948 fight to keep the fledgling, vulnerable state they'd had the chutzpah to declare independent and sovereign, there was a pivotal scene concerning Jerusalem. Marcus, played by Kirk Douglas (born Issur Danielovitch Demsky and Bar Mitzvahed-yes, Alan, you're right, it's improper to use the word as a verb—at the age of 83) screams at David Ben Gurion (played wonderfully by Luther Adler, who along with sister Stella got his start on the Yiddish stage) because scarce and precious forces are being diverted to break the Arab blockade of Jerusalem. To Marcus' practical military mind, Jerusalem was already lost, was out on the very peripherv of the little country they were desperately trying to defend, and to re-take would would stretch their forces way too thin and extract a cost far beyond what any rational army should pay. Ben Gurion listens, absorbs the tirade of impeccable military logic, then calmly gives Marcus (and the mostly non-Jewish audience of the movie) a short history of the ancient city. Finally he leans in and, in essence, gives marching orders to his general: "Mickey, without Jerusalem, there is no Israel!"

It had been almost 3,000 years since King David had made Jerusalem the capital of the Jewish confederation—the northern state of Israel, with ten tribes, and Judah, the southern half, with two. Until then the loose governance of the Judges had sufficed. But the area was getting more complex, and more dangerous, and the Jewish countries needed a king. Saul was weak, but David was a warrior, and bequeathed to Solomon a kingdom five times the size of today's Israel. Soloman's sons were not wise, and the two kingdoms split apart. In 586 B.C.E., Judah fell to the Babylonians. Jerusalem had been lost. The kingdom of Judah was no more. According to Toynbee, this is when both Judah and its odd monotheistic religion should have disappeared from history. But King Josiah and the Prophets saved Judaism. Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem—where they lived under the Persians, then the Greeks, then briefly in independence under the Hasmoneans, and then, finally, under the Romans, who after three rebellions finally destroyed the Temple and the culture and sent most of the people into diaspora.

But some stayed. Some always stayed. There was a continuous Jewish presence in Jerusalem, as there had been since King David, as Romans, then Moslems, then Crusaders, then more Moslems and finally the Ottoman Turks ruled the city. Suddenly it was 1948 and there was partial Jewish sovereignty again; and then it was 1967 and Jerusalem was united, for the first time in almost two thousand years, under Jewish control. In its jubilation, Israel declared that, henceforth, the 28th day of Iyar would be Yom Yerushalayim—Jerusalem Day.

The question to many, including the rational Mickey Marcus, was why it mattered so much. Judaism had long since assured its survival by becoming portable. For fully half its history there had been no Temple, and Jerusalem lived only as an idea. But the idea of Jerusalem had, over the centuries, become its power. It ultimately came to symbolize Jewish life itself. "Next Year in Jerusalem" didn't evoke so much a place or religious shrine as it did a Technicolor summoning of memory, an insistence of the heart to maintain an identity as a people.

So now, annually, there is Yom Yerushalayim. Touchstones matter. Ben Gurion, as usual, was right. \Diamond

Marty

H ow does one say goodbye to a friend who has always been around, and always been available, and always helped, and always made everyone else's lives a little easier? No one knows how, and no one ever will.

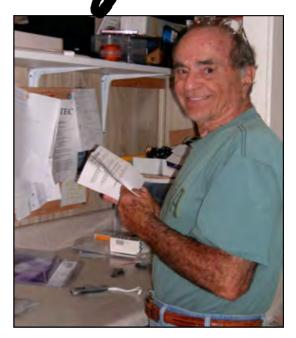
But we try. We have to try. We remember the good and we hold those images in our individual and collective hearts. There is no way KJCC will be quite the same without the redoubtable Marty Graham. In his own quiet way, possibly no one ever had a greater impact here.

What follows are remembrances from his family and friends, to be shared by all. KJCC thanks you, Marty, and honors you, and we won't forget.

The Saga of Saba Marty

Looking around the room I see my Mom and Dad's dearest friends, but those of you who only know my Dad from down here have met him in the sunset of his life. I am an artist, and I would like to paint for you a picture of my dad in the sunrise of his life.

So where do we begin to celebrate the saga of Saba Marty's amazing 84 years on earth? Where did he get his wild streak, I



want to know! The one that made him like living just a little bit on the edge, to take risks, you know, with the water skiing and boating, bowling for money, the motorcycles, the airplanes, and yes, even the thrill of high stakes poker at Silver Shores.

I think that streak was passed on to Shyella! She just made the marathon flight from Israel to JFK to Ft Lauderdale to Mt Nebo in the last 20 hours.

Did you know that my dad was a Weight Watchers clerk, collecting the fees while mom inspired people to take off their unwanted pounds week after week? Did you ever see him arrive at the field to umpire a softball game, driving across the infield on his Honda 750? He was also the assignor for the league, for 25 years, moving umpires around fields for as many as 30 games a week. Did you know he was a gymnastics judge for over 20 years? The girls always gathered around him AFTER the meet to ask for pointers so they could improve their scores in the future. In 84 years you can do a lot of stuff. In college, dad was a PIN BOY at a bowling alley, a newspaper type setter, a HAM radio operator, an amateur magician and juggler, a WWII vet who served a year in Nuremberg at the Trials, an Auxilliary Coast Guard Captain, a licensed electrician and president of Eatontown Electric Company for 20 years.

He survived some pretty spectacular and bone-breaking car, boat, motorcycle, electrical and construction accidents, coral poisoning and even strafing and shrapnel wounds in the European Theater.

He remembered jokes and could tell them at the right time and he could make you laugh just by doing all kinds of laughing until vou just broke up in howls. He knew so many cool tricks like tving a virtual knot in a string. making coffee cans into toys that rolled back to you when you pushed them forwards, whittling out of a piece of balsa wood a ball that you couldn't remove from inside a three dimensional cube that was whittled around it, making gyroscopes go in impossible directions, and catching 3 or 4 guarters that you tossed off the back of your hand into the air and snatched one a time as they started to fall. He was a great table tennis player, a skill he developed thanks to his job at Fort Monmouth. He was a cunning bridge player, a dominating scrabble player, a challenging chess opponent, a cutthroat bowler, a brilliant electrician and a master computer programmer. He was a voracious reader, often reading as many as four books at the same time!

He had the art of "napping" down to a science and was pretty much able to sleep anywhere, on any surface and in any position, and he hated formal clothing, as in a tie and jacket, so if a restaurant required that kind of dress, he would not go. He did like bolos, though. He hated traffic lights and would go out of his way to find the back roads and dirt roads (don't forget, he was usually on a motorcycle) that would avoid intersections with traffic lights.

For Dad's 50th birthday, he and Mom came to Israel for the first time and stayed with us in Holon, right after the Yom Kippur War. He returned to Israel almost 20 years later for Shyella's Bat Mitzvah, and Mom and Dad took Lou and Shirley Boxer with



Marty in 1943, age 19, in the Army.

them!

When we were kids, he developed a smart way to have us earn our allowance. Beyond the chores, Doug and I had to learn five vocabulary words a week that he would choose and we had to be able to use them and define them to get our meager weekly earnings. When Uncle Sol gave us the ultimate gift, a pedigreed German Shepherd puppy bred from his own beloved dog, my dad trained Sir Lancelot Maritime to be "all the dog that he could be" and taught Lance simply mind-boggling tricks.

But Marty wasn't just Mr. Nice Guy. He limited my phone calls to ten minutes, and what teenager can say anything in only ten minutes? He absolutely forbade my brother to play football, a cruel act for which my brother has been eternally grateful. And he



Marty and Bea in June of 1950.

taught my cousin Barry to swim by NOT rushing to rescue him when Barry fell off the boat and was thrashing about and screaming. Barry says that Uncle Marty taught him to philosophize about life and together with his own father told him to pursue the enjoyment of life while you could and not just to wait until the end. Barry also remembers that Uncle Marty was first person to show him, during the 1950s when computers were the size of entire buildings but were nothing more than data card processors, that you could program a computer to draw a picture of a very sexy woman.

Long before it was a marketing thought in anyone's mind, my dad put a wired hose

across our driveway and as you drove over it three sets of outdoor lights would flash on and bells would ring in the house. None of my boyfriends wanted to pull in the driveway at the end of a date! (Next time you see me, ask me the story about the front porch bench.)

Dad was the Chai-Lights editor for 20 years, and the first time he ever said that he really enjoyed being part of a synagogue was when he went to the KJCC, his Florida *mishpocha*.

Professionally, my dad was an Educational Research Specialist with a master's degree in psychology. He came up with a test for Princeton Testing Service to see how well people followed instructions by writing a complicated ten-page exam. At the start it said: "read the entire test through, then come back and fill in the necessary blanks." No one wanted to read first and then do the test so they struggled to fill in the answers as they read each page until finally arriving at the last problem on the last page which read, "Now that you have read the test, do NOT fill in any answers or complete any problems herein. If your test has been written on, you FAILED." He kind of liked you to follow his instructions!

Dad loved boats. We went from fishing and crabbing in a row boat, to waterskiingfrom a 16-footer with a huge jet engine, to owning a cruiser so we could go to Canada and Martha's Vineyard by boat for our twoweek vacation at the end of every summer. We lived between two rivers and the ocean near Sandy Hook. New Jersey, and because Dad maxxed out on the boating, grilling and ocean activities, my mom's brother and wife and my cousins Barry and Neil, who lived in the Bronx, loved to spend their two weeks of summer vacation at our house. Neil wrote to me: "Our childhood vacations together on the boat with your father teaching us how to water ski--then evenings with us in our pajamas going for ice cream were some of my best memories of Uncle Marty and Aunt Bea." In a nutshell, we had an incredible childhood.

My dad was a great cook, never drank a

drop of alcohol (I think he was allergic to it, actually), loved dark chocolate and moist brownies, and solving puzzles and riddles and conundrums of all kinds. He was the most ethically moral person I've ever known and said he thought his life was successful because he had children, grandchildren and nieces who loved spending time with him. He really cherished his young women....not that kind....his Faye, and Jenny, Steph, Liati and

Shyella. They kept him young! Did you ever notice that his curls never really turned gray?

Liati often remarked that rubbing Saba's head was like rubbing peach fuzz. Peach fuzz or not, he was a tough guy and expected you to speak logically and loudly and clearly to him, and he had the answers to just about everything--he was brilliant! He flew weather balloons, taught us how to shoot an air gun. use an electric lawn mower and fly kites. He fixed anvthing you could break, cried over friends and family who passed on, was just plain clever, taught us all about Rube Goldberg inventions--Google them sometime if you don't know what I'm talking about. Has he ever told vou

the story about which side of the glass to drink from? Well, if you missed that chance you will now have to hear it from my brother or my mom! It's his oldest classic.

He has singlehandedly run the sales end and shipping of orders and calls for information for Doug's business for the last five years. He was at the Post Office more than the postal clerks!

I am sure that most of you do not know this about my dad--he was a pinball wizard! His initials are on my FunHouse pinball machine--unless Doug has knocked them off-as Grand Champion and 2nd, 3rd and 4th highest games on the machine! And what absolute fun he had racking up those points on his New Jersey visits.

Marty would not have liked to have this fanfare service, since he was a better "giver" than "receiver," but our family is ever so grateful to the many neighbors, friends and relatives who are virtually holding us up now.

You know, my dad hated football and thought golf was the stupidest game ever until one day when he tried it in California

> with Uncle AI, and suddenly, at the age of about 65, Dad discovered a whole new game! He was a "natural" and his golf game improved with age. If you see any golf balls rolling in with the tides along the beach at Silver Shores, they are the ones we watched him smack into the ocean just before we went to services last Friday evening.

A life of such width and breadth and depth leaves a mighty large void when it burns out.

Actually, we will miss him for as long as we breathe.

In the end, my Dad was really, really ill for only one day, but it was his last.

Kol ha oh-lahm culo gesher tsar mih'ode vih-haeekar lo lih-fah-ched klal.

The whole world is a very narrow bridge but the most important thing is not to be afraid.

Nissan Graham-Mayk

I will certainly miss Marty, but more significantly I will remember Marty. I will remember Marty every morning when I tend to the banana trees that he lovingly gave me for my yard. I will remember Marty each and every time that I come to the KJCC. His presence will be all around me as I sit at the Board ta-



his famous banana trees.

ble or sip coffee at the Oneg after Friday night services. I will always long to hear another of Marty's interesting and clever stories, which were always relevant. I will remember Marty whenever I look around our synagogue and notice a light bulb that needs tending to.

Marty was my friend and I will always remember him as such. I will remember him as I watch the trees that he gave me grow and remember that my life has been made a little bit richer because I was fortunate enough to Although we don't have one particular instance of time spent with Marty that stands out in our minds more than any other, our memory banks are filled with all the stories of "the old days" he related to us in many conversations, over many years. While always filled with humor, we fully understood that they were meant to pass on some small piece of what his life's experiences had taught him. We will miss him.

Geri and Stuart Smith

be able to call him friend.

Mark Wasser

We joined the KJCC in 1993. We were welcomed by Marty and Bea, and they always



Serendipity! We feel we are not only fortunate but also blessed to have had Marty in our lives for over a quarter century (since our 1981 coming to the Kevs and the KICC). This unassuming man voluntarily came to our real estate office to attempt to give

Flying was another of Marty's adventures and passions.

made us feel like "mischpocha." I contributed many articles over the years to Chai-Lights, and always with advice from Marty as to content and format. I also sought his advice on other facets of practices in the Temple.

However, we will especially miss him because for many years we shared the *mitzvah* of our anniversaries together, at December services and at the onegs which followed. We joyfully rejoiced together and prayed that we would be able to continue the following year. We will certainly miss sharing our anniversaries together. Our love to Bea and hope she has good health and peace.

Lee and Bob Schur

Gigi daily computer lessons; thank G-d he had such patience and fortitude to accomplish his goal. As we got to know him we learned of his varied past life experiences and the love he had for Bea, Nissen and Doug; later, their families. We heard his war stories to the point of memorizing them and gave selfish thanks that he survived to become part of our lives. Unfortunately he did not heed our advice to write a book: Hollywood would have loved it!

The gentleness, warmth, understanding, patience and love permeated all aspects of his life. His unselfishly helping others, strong support of the KJCC and quiet wisdom have touched so many people. If there were ever an angel come to earth, Marty would be that angel.

We have always enjoyed being friends with this special man and his wonderful Bea.

We are proud and honored to have been included in his life. Our memories will be with us always.

Rest in peace, dear friend and mentor.

Bob and Gigi Auston

Marty was such a nice person. I used to write articles for Chailights. He would always say something nice about what I wrote. He would make me feel like my article was so special.

He and my husband played golf together in the same league. He would say how nice my husband was and my husband would say how nice Marty was. Marty and I would talk about golf. He was a golfer so he knew how difficult the game was. He also loved the game of golf. So does my husband. I would tell Marty that Frank loves me more than he loves golf. Marty would tell me that Frank loves golf more than he loves me. I think Marty was teasing me about that.

Frank would tell me how good Marty was as a golfer and Marty would tell me how good Frank was as a golfer. I wonder if they told each other what good golfers they were and how nice they were. Another thing that Marty

and I would talk about was being a vegetarian. That's why I was so shocked when I heard he was gone because I thought he was in such good health.

I will never forget the time that Marty described he first computer he worked with. He told me it was bigger than the entire room we were then in. He was very descriptive with his words.

I will miss Marty. He was a wonderful man. He is with G-d now, helping Him in all sorts of ways.

Gerri Weisberg

Bea & Marty pulled me over to their table the first Friday night I came to the KJCC. Since then, whenever I pulled into the KJCC lot, I looked for Marty's hug, smiling eyes and welcoming grin.

Last Succot, we stood together on the Mayk back porch, watching my adult kids cavorting with their grandaughter Shayella, chasing Nissan's goats around the yard. He was part of my life, and I will miss him.

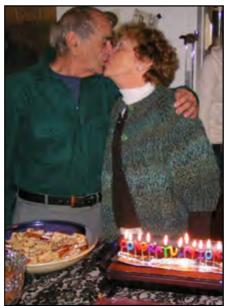
Joyce Peckman

I thought I knew Marty quite well but was shocked to learn from listening to his daughter Nissan, who spoke at his funeral, that I was a victim of Marty some forty years ago!!!

My recollection is a bit hazy but I'll try my best to reconstruct the horrific experience.

I was in middle school and my teacher surprised the class with a test. It was the most difficult test I had ever taken and was told it comprised the majority of the grade.

I briefly looked around the room to see if I was the only one in mortal danger and observed that all of my classmates were scribbling away. Geez, I wanted to cheat as



the tears were forming in my eyes with the realization of the inevitable: This straight-A student was about to flunk her first class.

I eventually reached the final question which read, "If you had read the instructions, you would have known to sign and date your paper and put down your pencil." That was the test. Period.

Nissan found the tests among her father's papers and shared that he had been commissioned by Princeton to write this exercise for the military. Of course this diabolical exam went nationwide and was revised to fit the appropriate class age and subject.

So, to this day, I always read the directions. And, when I've taught, I've always reminded my students to thoroughly read their instructions. I suppose this is why I get so upset when there is no time to read the fine print. So, Marty Graham, this life lesson has stayed with me all these decades and will continue to haunt me.

All I can say is "thank you" and I love you.

Meredith A. Cline

now, all I want to say is, "shit."

Dad said he could recognize BS as well as anyone.

He said that I should never try to BS him. I tried a few times, and he was right, as usual. I always got caught.

Speaking of shit, my wife Rozi, who cannot be here today, purchased a memorial plaque that she and I have placed in our garden. It reads, "The best fertilizer is the shadow of the gardener."

Thanks, Dad, for spreading your fertilizing love and insight so endlessly.

I will always be nourished by all that you gave to me.

Good Guys ALWAYS Get a Parking Space

I make my living speaking to people. I am usually very enthusiastic about it. This is one talk I don't really want to

really want to give. And one

that I didn't get to practice over and again.



The entire Graham clan at Passover, 2006: Liati, Israel

not expect things to be fair. Well, you didn't have to drive the point home, I already believed you. You lived

You taught me that noth-

ing is fair, that I should

You lived the life you wanted to live, on your terms. It was

Mayk, Nissan, Shyella, Doug, Bea and Marty.

I hope I can get through it.

Dad, you will live forever.

You will be forever in our memories.

And in the memories of all the people that ever met you.

You will live on beyond that, in the stories we will tell about you.

You made a lasting mark on the world.

My Dad taught me that cursing is a sign that you don't have the proper vocabulary; to say what you really want to say. Well, right truly inspirational.

You went out at the top of your game, after a good round of golf; jumping up steps, feeling great, eating homegrown bananas,

And most important of all, having seen all of your family.

Still, you went too soon, in my opinion.

Whenever I was confused, indecisive, or having any troubles in life, my Dad would remind me that, "Every decision is the right one."

I trust that you went at the right time,

Marty, because I know that, except for me, you were the world's worst at being forced to wait.

Still, I will always wish that you hadn't gone off in such a hurry. But like you always said, "It is easier to get out than in."

From the time I was very young, my Dad made a point to teach me three rules for going through my life.

Never eat at a restaurant named, "Mom's." Never play cards with a man named, "Doc."

And the important one, "Never bet on another man's game."

Dad beat me at game after game, taking my allowance time and again just to teach me this one vital lesson. Thanks for investing in me.

Fifty years later, it is still etched into my consciousness.

Dad, you set the highest standard of living of anyone I have ever met. Your example instilled the same into me.

I promise to live to that standard, to instill it into Faychesca. And to do all I can in the world to be a force for good. I will always do what I can to make you proud.

I have had the good fortune of meeting a great number of wonderful people.

Marty, there is no one else that I would ever have wanted to call "Dad." I am thrilled for each moment you made for me, each memory you gave me.

I feel sorry for the people that didn't get a chance to be affected by you.

It will take us some time to come to terms with the reality of your passing.

Marty, you were our Gibralter, our inspiration. You always were upbeat. Hopefully, you are still happy.

I hope that you are right now playing pinochle with Nick, at a huge happy family gathering, in the loving company of Lil, Joe and Fanny, Saul and Selma, Harold and Babe, Donald and everyone else that was important in your life. I am certain that if you reach down, you will find Lancelot lying at your feet.

He will return the warmth love and affection that you gave to the world.

Doug Graham

Marty always made me feel so welcome and special whenever we met. You could always count on a big hug, and little kiss on the cheek. He made me feel like family.

My in-laws were yearly snowbirds from New York City and were good friends with the Grahams in "the early days " - visiting and playing bridge.

Marty was smart about many topics. I remember him showing me his early computer and programs. He embraced the technology era right away.

Marty always made you smile.

Linda Perloff

Marty was into banana production. I heard him tell his story about the abundance of bananas he harvested every year and decided I wanted banana trees, too. I believe he delivered them to my house -- two or three of them. He told me how to take care of them, which I promptly forgot. But Io and behold, we had our own banana harvest -- more bananas than I knew what to do with. I asked Marty; he said freeze them. Well, Marty must have some huge freezer, because I could never begin to freeze all those bananas.

The banana trees grew and grew, almost over the house. The hurricanes came and knocked down the trees. They turned brown, so we chopped them down and threw them out. BUT, not to worry, the trees kept growing back. The fruit branches get so heavy, the trees fall over. We've braced them with wood. They still keep growing and keep our yard beautiful. Thank you, Marty. I always have and will continue to think of you as I watch them grow.

Nancy Kluger

Missing Marty

I still see him, clad in toolbelts, standing on a ladder, skinny man with soft frail earlobes who when lights went dark or days went long, could fix a thing no matter what the code or mode.

He'd set his gifted sights on pinning down a problem, fine-tune it, turn things on and off until they caved. He liked to play with strings of ones and zeroes too, knowing how life's bits and bytes and his good brain could put a broken world again to rights.

The man who used to be in charge of yahrzeit lamps now lives among the souls remembered, light enhanced.

Gloria Avner



Marty with Susan Gordon at SuperFly Jeff's 60th.

Marty. We love Marty. He was involved with everything at the KJCC: he was the keeper of the thermostat, the Yahrzeit board and leaves on our trees in the sanctuary. He always had a hug and a handshake to give. He loved life at the KJCC.

Paul and Barbara Bernstein

Marty always amazed me with his knowl-

edge of so many useful (and sometimes not so useful!) things. Every moment that I was in his company, I learned something new from him. Marty had done so many different things in his life, many of which I was unaware of.

This incident took place a few years back, when my RoseMarie was preparing for her Bat Mitzvah, and attending Friday night Shabbat services on a regular basis (an oddity now, at age 17!). The service had ended, and everyone was congregating in the Social Hall, kibitzing, (as we Jews do so well) and eating a multitude of sweets (as we also excel at). I scanned the room for RoseMarie and didn't see her anywhere. Being the over-protective mother that I am, I went to search for her. What I found was beautiful.

At that time, RoseMarie's passions were cheerleading and tumbling. She had recently left her figure-skating passion behind. There she was, tumbling down the KICC hallway. "Coach Marty" was perfecting her "round-off, back-handspring, backtuck." All of those years knowing Marty, I was never aware that he had been a gymnastics judge! He helped RoseMarie with her cheerleading tumbling skills each Friday night until her Bat Mitzvah in Mav. when she "suddenly" stopped attending services. (Many of you may know the joke about how to get the rats out of the synagogue...yes, Bar/Bat Mitzvah them. and you will never see them again!)

That special attention that Marty gave to RoseMarie helped her make the Competition and Varsity Cheerleading squads that fall, when she entered High School.

Thank you, Marty, for your important part in raising my child! We love you, and will miss you so much.

Susan Gordon

Dear Bea,

We miss Marty. We are not trying to make you feel bad. We are telling you that—we, as in Sunny, Zoe and me, Cameron. Sunny liked him because no matter what was happening Marty would still talk to Sunny. Zoe liked Marty because he was funny, smart and nice and would talk to her. I liked Marty because he always said "where is my hug?" He was funny.

Cammie Berk

Saba Marty and Me

Even when I was three years old, Saba Marty loved to play ball with

me. He said I had a natural talent and that I "threw the ball like a boy," which in those days was a compliment. I believed he knew because as an umpire for baseball and softball for more than 25 years he saw a lot of ball games and recognized the talented players. Saba started judging gymnastics and umpiring ball games back in the 60s when my mother and my uncle became active in sports. Saba understood the rules better than most of the other iudges/umpires and was fair in his appraisal of the athletes' performances and in

calling the plays. We knew the gymnasts respected him because after the meets they gathered around him asking his advice as to how they could improve and score higher. Most gymnasts ran off the floor after a meet, but if Saba judged, they hung around just to have a chance to talk to him.

Saba had another "career" as the assigner for two baseball and softball associations, Tri -City and Shore Umpires. For 25 years he got all his umpires to their fields; he knew the location of every high school and ball field in Monmouth and Ocean counties. Sometimes an umpire would get lost and would call Saba, who talked him through every street until he would get to the correct field. There was always someone who could not show up, and Saba would cover the game no matter how near or far. Saba rode a motorcycle for many years, and when there was a gas shortage he covered the furthest games, usually on one gallon of gas!

Saba Marty was the first person to teach me the rules of softball and loved to continue challenging me with tricky game situations that he remembered from his own experiences. Saba and I didn't play ball much after he and Grandma Bea started spending more and more of the year in Florida, but he did go all-out encouraging me to become an umpire, and so I did, but many years later. I started

> my umpiring career in Israel under the auspices of the Israel Softball Association. I was a regular umpire in the men's highly competitive fast-pitch softball league in Israel, and eventually was given the honor to be the plate umpire at a championship game.

> The most memorable softball game that I ever umped was on May 21, 2006, in New Jersey for the Tri-City Umpire Association. My grandparents were

visiting and I asked them if they wanted to come watch. Saba asked if I was the only umpire and when I said yes, he said, "How would you like me to work the bases?" I looked at him to see if he was kidding and oh, my gosh, he was serious. Of course I wanted the chance to ump with him, but never dreamed it would happen since he had retired from umping fifteen years before.

When we told the rest of the family that Saba Marty was going to ump the game with me, they all dropped what they were doing to come for this must-see event. It was by far the most memorable experience for me, to umpire with my grandfather. None of the coaches or players had any idea that we were related since I usually worked with an older male partner anyway, and the teams were just



really happy to have two umpires instead of one. We were both so excited, especially since he still had his uniform to match mine. including his Tri-City patch.

Working that game was a special thrill for us and for the whole family, who came to watch. All the other spectators were cheering for one team or the other, while my family was cheering for the umpires!

Shyella Mayk

Marty: when I think of the 18th of every month...I think of Marty: when I think of the vartzeit board...I think of Marty: when I think of the repairs needed at the KICC...I think of Marty; when I think of eating right... I think of Marty: when I think of bananas... I think of Marty.

Yes, bananas. Marty gave me some pups from his beautiful banana plants along with many instructions. They are thriving and I hope they continue to grow...and when they bear fruit I will enjoy them in Marty's honor. I loved Marty and will miss him dearly.

Thank you for many beautiful memories.

Roberta McNew

Dear Marty, A few months ago a light went out in the sanctuary. Our ceilings, as you know, are very high. I asked you if you could get it fixed. Well. vou immediately went and

brought in the 24-foot ladder and insisted on changing the light bulb yourself. When Bea came into the sanctuary later and heard this..., well, all I can say is that Bea was not pleased to hear this at all!

Last year some of us lifting the Torah hit the ner tamid, the eternal lamp over the Ark. You told me we should be careful else it breaks. Well, shortly afterwards the light fixture was moved (or should I say you moved it yourself).

Most Friday nights I found you in the office, generating reports from the computer program created by you, designed by you and maintained by you. This database held all of our members' vital information (birthdavs. anniversaries and Yizkor reports) and has been running for many, many years.

I'll never forget when we were discussing "old age" over cake during an Oneg. You told me that old age was all in the way you

It was a Sunday morning at this time last year. Yardena and I were leading our Religious School students through our first Holocaust exhibit. trving to explain what happened without devastating the young ones. Marty had been engaged in a fix-it project when we entered. As we came to the panel about liberation of the camps.

Marty left his project and walked up to us. He started to speak quietly to the children, telling us that he had been there, that he saw the people whose photos we were looking at. He had been present at the liberation of Dachau. He told them that at first he could not believe his own eves.

It's rare to learn something totally new about someone you've known for 25 years. The children's eyes were wide. You could almost see their brains begin to process the information differently. Marty was gentle, real, and generous with them, with his time. his manner, and his memories. I was, and am, grateful for his presence. I miss the warm smile.

Gloria Avner



walked. If you walked hunched over and looked like an old man then that is how you were. If you walked upright with good posture and walked with purpose and destination in mind then you were a young man.

Marty, you walked with posture, destination and purpose. Everything that needed to be done, from vacuuming the floor in the Ruth Richardson social hall to helping erect the Succah, to fixing ceiling lights, to performing high-tech computer programming: You did it and you did it well.

You will be truly missed.

Love, Alan Beth

While some are passionate about fishing or playing cards, it was obvious that connection was Marty's delight. He acted like a grandfather to me every time I saw him....arms a-waiting for a yummy hug, always asking about the girls, following their progress. Nudging me to get him pictures. Marty (and Bea) have made me feel so loved at the KJCC over the past twenty years. I will truly miss Marty's friendship.

Judy Greenman

Marty was the living definition of the word "Mensch."

Stuart & Lauren Sax

When Bobby and I joined KJCC and went to Friday night services, Marty was always the first to greet us and make us feel so warmly welcomed. Marty asked me to be on the Chai-Lights committee and I was most hesitant as I had never done anything like that before. With Marty's guidance, I was soon editing articles like a pro. Any computer problems were always solved by Marty (and he didn't make me feel like a computer dummy, either!).

Marty started up the Tuesday morning fun

bowling league and was the efficient secretary making sure that anyone who wanted to bowl was welcomed and made to feel at



home. Now that I'm secretary, I hope I can fill his (bowling) shoes just as efficiently, and every time I use his brief case will always remember him as the kind, sweet man that he was.

Mary Lee Singer

Marty and Bea were among the first to welcome us when we came to services at the KJCC in the early 1990s. We will always see Marty's smiling face, his joking and the signature gesture he had asking his women friends: "Do I get a hug?"

While we gave him physical hugs, Marty embraced everyone's life at the KJCC. Once he and Bea were snowbirds. But even when full-time Keys residents, when they went north for family visits, Marty continued his adopted KJCC "jobs" via e-mail. With his computer genius, Marty wrote the software for a KJCC database, before most of us knew what a database was.

When Marty decided to retire as editor of Chai-Lights, Linda Pollack, Sam and I sat with Marty at his computer listening to him explain how he used his software. Its complexity, and capabilities, and author amazed us all.

Marty attended almost every KJCC function, even volunteering to drive others, like my mother, to and from services and events. He was also, always, ready to have some fun.

Marty, Steve and I will dearly miss your smiling face and your warm and giving heart.

Carol Steinbock

My relationship with Marty started 12 years ago when Joel and I first came to the KJCC. He and I exchanged niceties one night during an oneg and the next thing I knew he had enlisted me to be assistant editor of Chai -Lights. I did this for a few years, all the while learning the ins and outs of the Center while writing articles and reviews for publication. We spent long hours on his home computer and long hours on the computer in the KJCC office, bringing records and correspondence into reality for our members, advertisers, and other friends of the KJCC. Marty



Bea and Saba Marty with Shyella and Liati.

would say, "Here, look how I do this - you can do it also," and I would say, "No, I am not going to climb a 15-foot ladder and change light bulbs or learn how the circuit breakers work like you do, but I will learn how you do such-and-such on the PC and we can work together at that level." "Oh, okay," he would say, and we would continue on. It was during my first summer of involvement when I learned that one of our advertisers, a close friend of Marty's, had passed away. Knowing that he would want to know, and believing that it was of the utmost importance for him to know immediately, I contacted him right away. He was at that moment boarding a ship in Alaska for a 50th anniversary cruise with Bea. If you have cruised you know that you do not just pick up a telephone and call out. And this was before we all had cell phones in our pockets.

So Marty got my message from the purser when he checked in, way up inside the ship. went all the way down to the dock to call me long distance from a telephone booth, and couldn't figure out what I was talking about at all. It seems I got the name wrong, it was someone he didn't even know, and boy, did I have a lot of apologies to make for years to come. But Marty was a total gentleman about it. never agreed with the names I called myself for making such a foolish error, and never rubbed it in. That was Marty. People could do whatever; as long as their intentions were good he was okay with it. That was also Marty's key to relationships at the Center - if it was for the KICC it was good for him.

We continued our connection over the years with almost daily e-mails, even when one of us was out of town. He brought me up to date with the happenings in New Jersey and England, sent me pictures of the new baby, the granddaughters and the "kids." Joel and I will always miss Marty, will always recall his easy and sincere smile and the many Friday night dinners which we shared before coming to services.

Linda Pollack

A Few Thoughts on the Passing of my Grandpa, Saba Marty, by his Adoring Middle Granddaughter

Saba Marty had a vision of the way he wanted to be remembered by all those who

knew and loved him. And somehow, he made sure that it happened.

As a result of his sudden passing—the unexpected and drastic transition from his healthy, active life to a place of eternal rest—I am left only with the wonderful memories of a Saba who is full of energy, vitality and optimism. This, of course, had always been his plan.

Thus, I will always remember Saba Marty as a golf-playing; bike-riding; boat-driving; stair-jumping; card game, scrabble and pinball wiz who had a mental clarity and vocabulary capacity one could only aspire to achieve, a mathematical sharpness that could challenge any scholar of numbers and a knack for telling jokes and stories that could rival any professional entertainer.

I will remember him as a grandpa who could always beat me in arm wrestling, stump me with linguistic and philosophical riddles and heal me and nourish me with plants and fruits grown by his own hands.

He was the only grandpa around who knew more than his children and grandchildren about computers, who would happily and easily communicate with his family over e-mail, instant messenger and webcam, and even had a Facebook profile.

He was the only grandpa I'd heard of who edited a monthly community newsletter, electrically wired his friends' and family's businesses, homes and Jacuzzis, and enthusiastically ran an internet shipping enterprise even in his 80s. Not to mention balancing this "work" with a fully booked social schedule.

He was the only grandpa I knew of who loved to make creative and delicious salads, enjoyed a vegan or fruit meal as much as a chocolate brownie, and relished his granddaughters' fresh juices and fruit shakes. At the family dinner table, it was Saba who taught me that you're not allowed to say you don't like something until you try it.

Saba Marty and Grandma Bea were the only grandparents I knew about who loved and were loved by their grandchildren so much that even in college they would always choose to spend their spring breaks in Silver Shores over any other young and popular Marty with Liati at her Masters grad dinner.



destination. Mv

grandpa was immeasurably generous with his time, knowledge, money and love and always expressed affection both verbally and physically. I will always remember his strong hugs—the grunting noises he would make to pretend that the hug was too strong—and the skinny-lipped pecks that would accompany his response: "Love you too, baby." He never refused or complained when I petted and kissed the soft peach fuzz on the top of his head (that my grandma called his hair).

His 61-and-a-half-year loving and loyal partnership with my grandma set such a high standard that I will constantly strive to emulate in my own life and marriage. They were the ultimate, model couple—and of course, the cutest, too. I truly hope that my grandma will allow the boundless love of her children and grandchildren to carry her through this difficult time and fill the void that Saba has left behind.

My unusually close and intimate relationship with my grandparents was, and still is, a true blessing. Though this bond only makes Saba's passing exponentially harder for me to accept. The reality that I must live the rest of my life without Saba Marty is painful beyond expression—yet I am consoled by the 27 years of wonderful memories that will live on within me, the loving bond that I will continue to share with my grandmother, and the realization that we are all just spokes in the cycles of life.

May his memory live on within all of us.

Liati Mayk

My family and I first met Marty Graham over 20 years ago. I really got to know him and appreciate him about 17 years ago, shortly after my father died. He took me aside in the sanctuary and gave me some comforting words about how he coped under similar circumstances.

Not only did he have a handle on the inner workings of the KJCC and Chai-Lights, but it was obvious that Marty had a mastery of the lessons of life. Throughout my association with him he was always proud of the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. I'm sure that his influence and encouragement was, and will be, reflected in many of the past as well as future family mitzvahs.

We all will miss Marty. Our sincere condolences to Bea and her family.

Steven, Barbara, Brian and Rebecca Smith

When I think of Marty, his eyes and smiling face flash in my mind's eye. We talked of Chai-Lights, our children, our wonderful grandchildren, my Dad & Mom (Sara & Joel), and days past, when the KJCC first started. He leaves his indelible essence on our beloved KJCC. He is missed by so many. Love and prayers to Bea and family, from the entire Joel and Sara Cohen Family

Sheila & Richard Steinberg

Remembering Marty, the first thing that comes to my mind is his image, a little man with a smiling face, a twinkle in his eyes, a welcoming gesture, inviting you to join the mishpoche in the KJCC social hall, to sit next to him and have a good time, relaxing. And then his voice, soft, warm. What a *mensh*; always happy to see me, actually all women, he would say: hi gorgeous, how are you? how about a hug? He just loved to be hugged.

Always in a good mood, his attitude would invite you to just sit together, enjoy each other's company; and then he would start to tell some story. I would not always understand his stories, could not know if he was joking or if he was serious, just like my father; with him, too, I had to guess. Both had this big heart that makes you call them Daddy. Marty was my American father; for many years when I would come from Chile to visit my family, he would smile and say: you are going to stay longer this time, you should stay here and bring your family to live in America; that would make me feel at home.

I love the Graham's home. It reminds me of a kibbutz, open with traditional hospitality, and when Marty was showing me his banana tree and giving me those bananas he used to freeze, I really felt at home.

Marty liked to take pictures, but he didn't like to be in the picture. He was a good photographer, with a sensitive eye for esthetics; my mother keeps photographs he took of me and my family on the shelves with other family pictures.

Marty was present in important Kamely family events: at my brother's wedding -first one in the KJCC - and at my son's wedding two years ago in Aventura. It was clear to me that Marty wouldn't feel comfortable in suit and black tie; he refused to wear this ridiculous costume. The only thing I told him was that it's going to be a very fancy event with gorgeous women from Venezuela dressed for an Oscar Award night in Hollywood. When I

saw Marty entering the reception hall that evening, I couldn't believe it. Martv all dressed up like a Hollywood movie star, gorgeous. I think he received the biggest hug I ever gave him. He knew how much I loved him. I know how much he loved me and



made my life happier. I will miss Marty very much. Shalom, my friend.

Yardena Kamely

Marty loved the KJCC. For so many years he was the House Manager. It was his job to be the Shamus and to see that all went well at the synagogue. Once I remember coming into the sanctuary and finding Marty on top of a 26-foot ladder. I asked him why an 80year-old man was on a 26-foot ladder. His answer was, "Because the bulbs needed changing." I was his assistant house manager for many years. We worked together to repair, replace and beautify the KJCC. Much of the time the cost of materials came out of our own pockets.

Marty also had his own way of doing things. A good example was his secret hiding place for light bulbs under the Rosh Kodosh. When anything needed fixing, Marty knew exactly how to do it. He did the maintenance work at the KJCC alone for many years.

Marty was a good friend and will be greatly missed by us all. In his memory we will see that the KJCC continues to grow "from strength to strength."

Jim Boruszak

Marty loved to be hugged. Whenever I saw him he stretched out his arms for the hug. Marty also loved to tell stories of he and Bea's early years. They were always mixed in with the history of the period. He and Bea had a beautiful life. His children and grandchildren were so fortunate to hear his stories.

One of the things I made for Onegs was brownies. Marty loved these brownies. I had promised to make some just for him. I never got to do it, but every time I do make them from now on--they will be for him.

For both of us, Marty was a dear friend and will be dearly missed!

Joan Boruszak

We will always remember Marty for his wisdom, kindness and we enjoyed his everyday take on life. We miss him directing us to all the finer spots in town for dining (i.e. Olive Garden, Biscayne Cafeteria and many more we can't remember). He would do this when we went to different theaters. He and Bea were so much fun to be around that I'm sorry we had to get busy on weekends and were unable to go with them.

Marty will be a special memory to all of us and has touched our lives very deeply. He was one of the first people, along with Bea and many others, to really show us what the KJCC family was all about.

Barbara & Richard Knowles

Dear Bea,

I remember Marty always complimenting Cory on how well he spoke when addressing the congregation and making me feel so proud. I remember all his corny jokes... but they made me laugh every time. I miss the sweet kisses I'd get from him every time I saw him. I will always remember Marty simply for being a wonderful person and such a giving soul. This world will never be the same without him.

Love you very much, and remember, anything you need, just call me.

Sofy Wasser

I remember a story I told Marty about when I was in the catering business. I was running a 50th wedding anniversary and went up to the Mom to ask her how she stayed married for fifty years. She looked at me and said: "What did you say?" Well, Marty looked at me and gave one of his chuckles; he then put his finger to his ear, turned up his hearing aid and said: "What did you say?" So just when I thought I had one on him, well.

I so enjoyed talking with Marty. I felt like we were each other's confidants. I have to say, the Bea-and-Marty act was tough to follow. I was fortunate that Marty shared his life experiences, thoughts and accomplishments.

We should all live life with the trust, love, spirit and devotion that he did. Thanks, Bea, for sharing Marty. The two of you brought to the world beautiful children and grandchildren. Be proud. Be happy. And to you, Marty, thanks.

Marc Bloom

When I first started coming to KJCC my eye was often drawn to Marty, though I wasn't sure of his name then. People sat, people prayed, people chatted. Marty moved. He would tinker with the little lights on the memorial panels, he'd move up and around and behind the *bimah*, he'd disappear out the door, he'd return with something in his hands. He'd sit for a while, then get up again.

Bea recently told me that she'd chosen Marty because he always knew the answer to things. But it's now clear he also did things. Lots of things. Incredible varieties of things. Necessary things. Useful things. Thoughtful things. Shoulder-shrugging things. Twinklein-the-eye things. Complex things. Follow-itthrough things. Family things.

Here's what I saw, in short: a life of achievement, commitment, purpose, heart, durability, involvement, adventure and brio. And an end of clarity, and dignity, economy, manliness and grace.

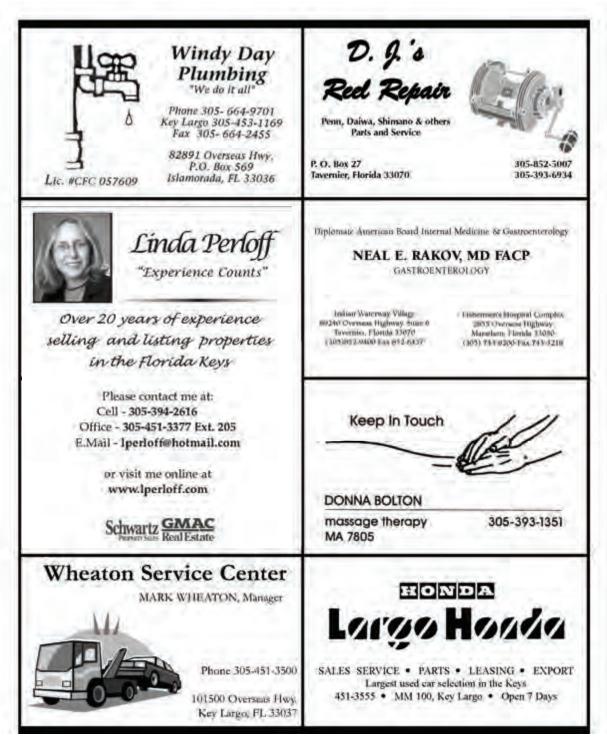
Well done, sir. Well done, indeed.

Sam Vinicur

Memories of Saba Marty that will stay in my Memory Box-by Liati

"Why do you park on a driveway and drive on a parkway?" Cutting aloe from the plant and putting it on my rash or sunburn. Making salads with different surprise ingredients each time. Hitting golf balls into the ocean. (It's better to hit it straight than far. "Stop fooling with the driver.") Becoming the living room Jeopardy champion every night. Falling asleep for a nap with an open book. Showing off how popular he is at the Post Office and how efficient his shipping business runs. Writing programs to keep track of golf handicaps and bowling averages. Hanging upside down. Distilling water. Being proud of his bananas and pineapple plant. (Never tasted a banana like Saba's.) "I didn't know I was supposed to know that." Solitaire and poker games on the computer. Morning walks around Silver Shores. Loved telling long stories. "Hey, kid." Riding his bike to poker night. "We don't eat the way we do because we think it's healthy, we eat like this because we like to." (Still, a chocolate treat beforebed.) Mathematical riddles to be solved.

"I didn't know I was supposed to know that." Saba Marty = Smarty. Always a new vocabulary word to learn. "Yehello" or "This is Marty" upon answering the telephone. Peach fuzz. (You'd have to feel my grandpa's head.) "Hiya, baby." "Morning to you is the middle of the day for us." Chai-Lights. Lunchtime: half a banana, apple, figs, nuts, raisins, and almond or peanut butter. Velcro sneakers. "But it's cold in New Jersey." Scrabble game before bed. Setting the VCR timer to record. Always up to date with the latest technology. Full of love and wisdom. Being his runner at gymnastics meets. Umpiring softball with Shy. Fun House pinball wizard. "Hey, where did you go now?" Playing bridge with the Boxers/ Langers. Always asking guestions that make you actually think. Always telling jokes and making them funnier then they really are. Hugs after each strike in bowling. "Ask your G'ma." "How do you know vou don't like it if vou've never tried it?" Jumping up the stairs two at a time. "Beat it kid, you bother me." \diamond



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The Palace Gardens Difference

For nearly 25 years, The Palace Gardens Assisted Living Community in Homestead has been known as a leader in providing outstanding care to seniors. While our grounds and the campus are beautiful, there are more than a few reasons why The Palace Gardens is different from all others.



1. Continuum of Care -

The Palace Gardens is part of The Palace Family of Senior Living Communities which offers accommodations that meet everyone's needs, from Independent Living and Assisted Living, to Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, and even Home Health. You can rest assured that at The Palace, your needs will be met, no matter what may happen in the future.

2. Palace Training & Education Center

Because our residents come first, every employee must reflect the higher standards of our communities. Based on Ritz-Carlton procedures, a comprehensive orientation program reinforces this focus. Regular training and educational programs continue so that tesidents will always receive the very best care and services.

3. Local Ownership -

Founded in 1980 by Helen and Jacob Shaham, The Palace is privately owned and locally operated by these self-made individuals who foresaw the need for quality senior living environments. Their constant involvement today ensures the tradition they established for the communities and services bearing The Palace name: only the best.

To see for yourself why The Palace Gardens sets the standard Florida senior living, call or visit our web site.



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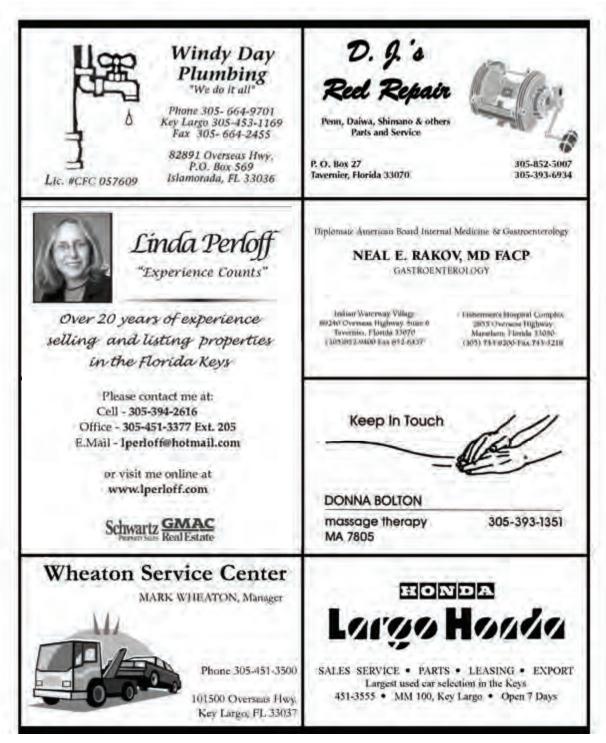
The Palace Suites / Independent Living The Palace Royale / Catered Living The Palace Renaissance / Assisted Living The Palace Gardens / Assisted Living

The Palace Nursing & Rehabilitation Center The Palace at Home / Home Health



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Grossman Roth, P.A. was founded in Miami in 1988 and maintains offices in Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton and Sarasota. The firm concentrates its practice in the areas of medical malpractice, products liability, aviation, admiralty, commercial litigation, class action and professional malpractice litigation and other cases of significant damages.

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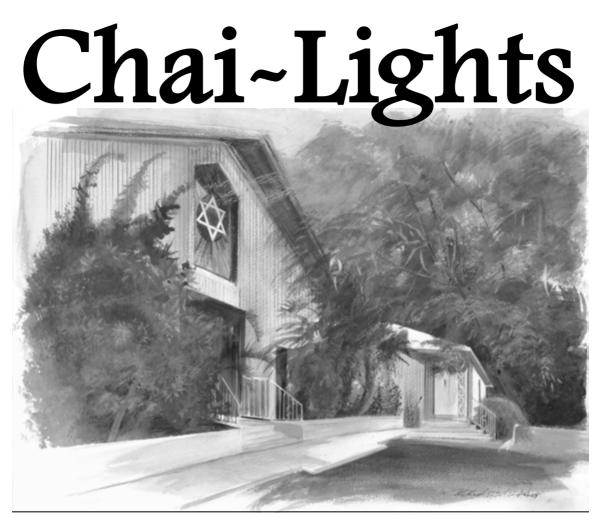
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NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION **PERMIT NO. 39** TAVERNIER, FL



September 2008

1 Elul - 1 Tishrei 5678-5679

Synagogues of the Mediterranean - page 18 High Holy Days Section - page 20 A Jewish Olympian Remembered - page 31

Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com

September 2008

1 Elul - 1 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5 Ken Atlas	6
7 Grand- parents Day	8	9	10	11	12 Jim Boruszak	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Bernie Ginsberg	20 S'lichot 5:30 p.m. Bernie & Yardena 9:00 p.m. Service
21	22 First Day Of Autumn	23	24	25	26 Alan Beth 6:30 Service Sofy & Mark Wasser	27
28	29 Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 p.m.	30 Rosh Hashanah Service 9:30 a.m. Tashlich 4:00 p.m.	1 October 2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah Service 9:30 a.m.	Names de Italici:	enote leaders of Friday zed names are Oneg sp	/ services. ionsors.

2007-2008 Officers and Board

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Lisa Richardson Rutherford Editor Marty Graham Editor 1987-2007

CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly newsletter of the

Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President⁹s Message

Steve Steinbock

Greetings, One and All! KJCC has made it through the summer without sign of a hurricane, although we did get Tropical Storm "Fay."

New members Lyle Agins and Heather Palmer were married in a traditional Jewish ceremony under our *chuppah* in the Sanctuary. Congratulations to them. Barbara Knowles' daughter, Gina Moritz, brought her son to our sanctuary and Jim Boruszak performed, in his own inimitable style, a babynaming ceremony.

You should by now have received your 2008-2009 KJCC Member Directory. This is the first time the production of a KJCC directory has generated a profit. (We sold ads.) Not only will the cost of the directory be covered but its income should also cover the cost of publishing our Yiskor book this year. I am sure you agree that the directory is a publication you can be as proud of as you are of Chai-Lights.

Early Shabbat services bring more and more people to share fellowship, food and prayer. We are always looking for more people to lead services. We even have a typed outline of the order of the service to help you get started, so grab a *Siddur*, call Alan Beth--he's the one wandering around with the calendar in his hand, ready to sign



you up--and step up to the Bema!

Alan is also working diligently to organize our High Holy Day services, a task for which he never gets enough credit and appreciation. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Don't forget S'lichot service on Saturday, September 20th. Arrive at 5:30 pm for Movie, Popcorn & Pizza before the service.

And a modest request: we're all still coping, on many levels, with the loss of Marty Graham. Marty did a great job maintaining our database, which we use for so much of the business of KICC. But we could not convert Marty's programs, which were written in DOS. so we (read Alan Beth) are in the process of creating new software to generate the information and lists and letters we need. As a result, you may see notices in Chai-Lights or personally be asked for information we have been unable to find. Please bear with us as we go through this process.

Rosh Hashanah is approaching soon. Allow Carol and me to be the first to wish all of you a healthy and happy New Year!

Steve

Nosh

Welcome New Members!

KJCC would like to announce our newest members. Michael Pearlson of Marathon has just joined us as a new member. We're glad to have you, and hope to see you often at services and KJCC events. Ralph and Lillian Tallent of Duck Key have renewed their memberships. Welcome back. We've missed you.

A Message From Alan

This year we would like as many people as possible to participate in our High Holy Day services. We are, as you know, a leader-led community. We would love to have some help. (All of our leaders are volunteers.) You can come up to the Bima for an Aliyah, you can help in the service by reading a meaningful prayer, reading an honor, reading from the Torah or reading a Haftorah. If you would like to help our leaders in any way, or participate in any of the mentioned honors, please let me know.

In addition, it's time to start thinking about construction of the Sukkah. We plan to begin on Sunday, October 12th at 9:30 a.m. It's a mitzvah, so consider joining in if you can!

My phone is 240-1509, e-mail is Alanlbeth@yahoo.com. Or call the KJCC phone at 852-5235.

BOOK PLATES

In Memory of Marty Graham Your Friends From Bowling

In Fond Memory Of Lilyan "Babe" Sax By Lauren and Stuart Sax

> In Memory Of Howard Shutan By Lauren and Stuart Sax

August Anniversaries

	tears
7th Aaron & Judith Schmidt	53
7th Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	51
15th Richard & Barbara Knowles	9
15th Paul & Susan Roberts	40
16th Jeff & Lynn Dils	23
21st Gerald & Elaine Hirsch	NA
22nd Franklin & Judy Greenman	26
27th Israel & Nissan Mayk	36
28th Kurt & Nancy Kluger	20
29th Mario & Linda LaGrotte	37

TREE OF LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROL AND STEVE STEINBOCK 25TH ANNIVERSARY From Linda and Joel Pollack

TO HONOR MARTY GRAHAM ALWAYS REMEMBERED From Rene and Skip Rose

WITH WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF MARTY GRAHAM From Your Bowling Friends

MARTY—YOU ALWAYS HIT THE HEADPIN GOOD BOWLING. WE MISS YOU. From All Your Bowling Friends

> TO HONOR OUR DEAR FRIEND MARTY GRAHAM From Hal and Gloria Langer

> IN HONOR OF MARTY GRAHAM OUR DEAR FRIEND AND MENTOR From Jim and Joan Boruszak

Did You Get Your Dues Package?

The Dues Packages were sent out in early August, so you should have received them by now. Just a reminder from Linda that she would welcome your dues payment at any time, you do not have to wait. If you have not yet received your package and KJCC Jewish Family Calendar, please contact Linda and let her know. She'll get one sent out to you right away. Linda Pollack, Treasurer, e-mail lindap4000@earthlink.net., phone 305-852-8575.

How About Your New Directory?

In addition, the new 2008-2009 KJCC Membership Directory was mailed out in early August and should have reached you by now. If you haven't yet gotten your copy, please let us know. We'll make sure we have the correct info for you and get your copy out to you. You can contact Steve at president@keysjewishcenter.com or call the KJCC at 305-852-5235.

The Steinbergs Have Left the Building

Sheila and Richard Steinberg wanted to let everyone know they have arrived safely in their new home. They have moved to Asheville, North Carolina and are enjoying their new community very much. Their updated contact info is in the new KJCC Membership Directory. Best wishes to you, Sheila and Richard, from all of us here at KJCC. You and your family have been integral to KJCC, and you will be missed.

To Contact Chai-Lights

Use the new e-mail our webmaster Alan has added to the KJCC web site. It's chailights@keysjewishcenter.com. Please send all ideas, comments, and questions there, as well as all submissions.

Support Your Local Gift Shop

For those of you who don't visit KJCC regularly (that's another subject), we have a lovely gift shop stocked by Sisterhood. If we don't have what you want, we'll get it. Please see the Gift Shop ad in this issue on page 10.

September Anniversaries

	tears
4th Lynn & Jim Nobil	22
5th Nancy & David Cohn	16
8th Deborah & Ronald Kaplan	
9th Cathy & Neal Rakov	
9th Barbara & Steven Smith	
10th Freda & Bill Ferns	
17th Sheila & Lawrence Novak	27
23rd Gertrude & Sheldon Mann	57
30th Marsha & Tom Garrettson	

Hebrew Classes Set To Resume

Yardena is going to continue the Ulpan classes on Thursdays for this year, and the Hebrew reading class will still be on Friday. She is also planning on offering a new Adult Education Course on Judaic Studies on Fridays as well. She plans on starting the Ulpan classes after Rosh Hashanah. As Yardena reminds us, "Our Hebrew classes, no matter on which level or at what stage you resume your studies, offer to enrich your learning about Jewish culture, old and modern." And parents, remember: Sunday School starts on September 7th. See the schedule in this issue of Chai-Lights.

YARTZEIT PLAQUES

In Loving Memory Reuben Oshinsky Ruby The Knish Man October 27th, 1987 24 Tishri 5748 Beloved Father

In Loving Memory Sarah Oshinsky June 11th, 2001 20 Silvan 5761 Beloved Mother

And Now A Word From Our Scholars

Dear Keys Jewish Community Center,

Thank you so much for honoring me with your scholarship. I feel so privileged to be a part of the KJCC community and I will definitely miss sharing our High Holy Days together. I truly appreciate all the love and support you have all shared in everything my sisters and I have done over the years from theater to fundraisers to bat mitzvahs! In addition, thank you for traveling to present the scholarship, it was so nice to be able to share the evening with you. I am now preparing my move to Boston but I look forward to sharing all my new adventures as they come! *Much Love, Katie*

Thank you so much for the merit scholarship you awarded me. I appreciate it more than words can say. I will be sure to keep you posted on all my future achievements. Thanks again. Sincerely, Brieze Levy

Dear Keys Jewish Community Center,

Thank you very much for the very generous scholarship you awarded me. I really appreciate it, and I want to thank you for supporting and believing in me. I'm looking forward to starting my new life in college and I will always remember my family at the KJCC.

Thank you very much! Tiffany McNew

Ongoing Projects

General Donations – can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Call Linda Pollack 852-8575.

Gift Shop - We have many lovely gift and holiday items on hand and can special order for you as well. Contact Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from the Center, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665. **KJCC Tree of Life Leaves** and **Rocks**, **Sanctuary Seat Plates**, **Yartzeit Memorial Plaques**, **Bookplates for Siddurim**. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF Trees in Israel - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214. **Chai-Lights Mitzvah** - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertisement in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for the low annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well.

In Memoriam August and September 2008

In Memory OF

JOSEPH WASSER

By Sofy and Mark Wasser

In Memory Of

SARAH SANDBERG

By Claire and Murray Cooper

In Memory Of

NETTIE GORSON

By Janice Gorson

In Memory Of

ISADORE HUROWITZ

By Melvin Jacobson

In Memory Of

SAMUEL D. SAVAGE

By Marjorie Present

In Memory Of

LOUIS A. SAVAGE

By Marjorie Present

In Memory Of

LORRAINE MARTELL

By Rene and Skip Rose

In Memory Of

GERTRUDE B. SCHWAID

By Susan and Harvey Schwaid

In Memory Of

FRED ROEMER

By Susan and Harvey Schwaid

In Memory Of

ARTHUR BEERMAN

By Barbara and William Weprin

In Memory Of

NATALIE KOMINSKY

By Eileen and Randy Kominsky

In Memory Of

LILLIAN GOLDSTEIN

By Joan and James Boruszak

In Memory Of

RONALD REPKA

By Nancy L. and David M. Cohn

In Memory Of

MOLLIE SILVERMAN

By Gene and Morton Silverman

In Memory Of

MORRIS KORNBLOOM

By Erica Garrett

In Memory Of

MOLLY FELDBLUM

By Ellen and Marc Bloom

In Memory Of

JACOB KAUFMAN

By Linda Rutkin

In Memory Of

HANNAH IMPROTA

By Carol and Alvan Field

In Memory Of

ALBERT IMPROTA

By Carol and Alvan Field

In Memory Of

H. MELVIN BERKON

By Laura and Jamie Goodman

In Memory Of

SADIE KLIMPL

By Michael Klimpl

Chai-Lights September 2008 • 5

Sn Memoriam August and September 2008

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
PAUL GOULD	ISAAC BERMAN	DOROTHY MARMAR	
By Maryon Gould	By Sylvia and Robert Berman	By Pamela and David Marmar	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
H. ROBERT WALTERS	MARK SANDS	BERYL M.O. PRESENT	
By Maryon Gould	By Claire and Murray Cooper	By Marjorie Present	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
SAM ROAZEN	HARRIET FEINBERG	SELMA SMITH	
By Sylvia and Robert Berman	By Patrice Gerard and Arthur Feinberg	By Barbara and Steven Smith	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
ANNA APPLEBAUM	MARGAUX RENE GROSSMAN	ARLENE SPERO	
By Myrna and Myron Rubin	By Stuart Grossman	By Jerry Spero	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
ANNE HENDIN MARGULIES	MANUEL HERSHOFF	EDITH RAY	
By Jenny and Stanley Margulies	By Nancy and Jay Hershoff	By Carole and Sheldon Weiss	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
JACOB KAUFMAN	CHANOCH LEVY	EVA RAUB	
By Linda Rutkin	By Michal Kamely	By Judith and Harvey Klein	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
JOSEPH GOLDSTONE	CHARLES KANTOR	PRISCILLA LESHIN	
By Gloria and Robert Auston	By Barbara and Erwin Kantor	By Joan and James Boruszak	

Sn Memoriam August and September 2008

In Memory Of

GARY W. COHN

By Nancy and David Cohn

In Memory Of

LEON NETZMAN

By Alan Netzman

In Memory Of

HENRY KIRSCHENBAUM

By Marilyn Greenbaum

In Memory Of

GISELLA REIFF

By Roberta and Rick McNew

In Memory Of

JESS GINSBERG

By Bernard Ginsberg

In Memory Of

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HOWARD SHUTAN

By Lauren and Stuart Sax

In Memory OF

JOSEPH WASSER

By Sofy and Mark Wasser

In Memory Of

JEANETTE GOULD

By Maryon Gould

In Memory Of

RICHARD GOULD

By Maryon Gould

In Memory Of

IRVING M. HOROWITZ

By Eileen and Robert Hermann

In Memory Of

ESTHER R. HOROWITZ

By Eileen and Robert Hermann

In Memory Of

GOLDIE BERMAN

By Sylvia and Robert Berman

In Memory Of

PRISCILLA LESHIN

By Joan and James Boruszak

In Memory Of

CHANOCH LEVY

By Michal Kamely

Mishebeyrach List

For those of you who might not make it to services regularly, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. Our printed list is read, and then the leader asks if anyone in the congregation has names to add. If vou can't be at services. and would like someone you care about to be included in the mishebevrach prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KICC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.

August Birthdays

September Birthdays

Marc Field.2Jessica Forman.4Carole Weiss.4David Kaufman.5Nissan Mayk.5Bill Weprin.7Ilana Gilderman.8Eric Perloff.9Rozi Graham.10Barbara Smith.10Sooner Brooks-Heath.12Sherry Turney.12Gina Egan.13Stephen L. Friedman.13Brian Gilerman.13Heide Werthamer.14Patricia Isenberg.15Eileen Kominsky.15Danielle Zinner.15Alan Lindenbaum.16Alison Thompson.16Zachary Grace.18Pamela Friedman.19Amanda Nobil.20Joshua A. Pollack.20Heather Palmer.21Ashley Solomon.21Rachel Zinner.22Morris Willner.23Carl McNew.24Elaine Hirsch.26Judy Greenman.27Jaimee Marshall.27Bill Ferns.28Evan Stuart.28Robert Temkin.30Sue Ann Weihl.30	
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Freda FernsI
Wendy KaplanI
Lloyd Wruble2
Gale Lang3
Chase Barrett4
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KJCC Religious School Calendar 2008-2009

September 7 September 14 September 21 September 28 October 5 October 12 October 19 October 26 November 2 November 9 November 16 November 23 NO CLASS November 30 December 7 December 14 December 21 December 28 NO CLASS January 4 January 11 January 18 January 25 February 1 February 8 February 22 March 1 March 8 March 15 March 22 March 29 April 5 April 12 April 19 April 26 May 3 May 10 NO CLASS May 17 May 25 NO CLASS May 31

Contact Numbers: Susan Gordon -451-0787 Gloria Avner-451-7170 or-619-0216 Yardena Kamely-393-1768

VEDA VEPPORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Perfection Also Begins At Home

The Jewish calendar is divided into two holiday periods: the spring Passover - Shavuot season, which highlights the birth of the nation and our religious - legal heritage, and the fall Rosh Hashanah - Yom Kippur -Sukkot season, which emphasizes the creation of the world and the sacred character of nature and the 70 gentile nations.

What is the essential significance of *Yom Kippur*, since it doesn't seem to fit the generally universal theme of our fall festivals? Yom Kippur, in between Rosh Hashanah with its vision of "perfecting the world under the Kingship of God" and Sukkot, with the waving of the four species in all directions, seems to focus only on the religious rituals of our Holy Temple.

Why does Yom Kippur shift our attention from the universal to the particular? Rabbi Riskin believes the answer is to be found in the curious Torah reading of Rosh Hashanah - the very beginning of our festival period. One would expect us to celebrate the anniversary of the creation of the world by reading the first verses of Genesis, *Bereshit*, which describe the week of creation. Instead, we turn to the birth of Isaac on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, and the binding of Isaac on the second.

Why? What's the connection? Riskin believes that the Jewish message is most profound. The vision of Rosh Hashanah is that we must perfect the imperfect or incomplete world created by God, that we must accept responsibility as God's partners to cause the world to turn to ethical monotheism. But one begins perfecting the world by perfecting one's self, one's family. If the Chinese teach that the longest march begins with a single step, Judaism teaches that perfection of the world begins with the perfection of one specific family.

It is told that a devoted disciple of Rabbi Yisrael Salanter, founder of the Ethicist (Mussar) Movement in Iudaism. told his teacher of a desire to leave Lithuania and spread the ideals of perfecting one's ethical characteristics to the Jewish community in Berlin. "Are all the people so perfect in our town of Salant that you can afford to go off to Germany?" he was challenged. "And are the people on your block so perfect that you can afford to teach in another part of town? Are the members of your family so deeply involved with ethicism that you can begin to preach to strangers? Are you yourself so morally and ethically developed that you can allow vourself to motivate others?"

The message is clear: universal perfection must begin with self and family.

Yom Kippur is the Rosh Hashanah Torah reading applied in practice. The individual devotes a whole day to personal introspection and re-creation, without the materialistic distractions, seeking spirituality that gives meaning to life. Near the end of the day we read the Book of Jonah, reminding us of our obligation to reach out to the world, even to enemies like Assyria, and teach God's will. And if the Day of Forgiveness has succeeded, we are ready to confront the world of nature and nations on Sukkot, prepared to sanctify every aspect of creation to the glory of God. \diamond



World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Israel's National Bird

After five months of campaigning and timed to coincide with Israel's 60th anniversarv, the hoopoe (*duchifat* in Hebrew) has been named the official state bird of Israel. The competition, sponsored by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), had a list of 10 species from which voters could choose. 155,000 Israelis voted and 46 percent of the votes cast for the hoopoe came from Israel Defense Forces soldiers. Not surprising, since the pink, black and white crested bird has a commando unit named after it. The hoopoe beat out the Palestine Sunbird, whose English translation "was deemed problematic," and the Bulbul, which in Hebrew is slang for the male sex organ. The *duchifat*, along with the eagle. vulture and pelican, is listed in the Book of Leviticus as unclean and forbidden food for Jews. (*www.jta.org*, 5-29-08)

Al-Durra Revisited

It was a powerful image, shown around the world, and it helped to sway world opinion against the State of Israel -- that of the terrified 12-year-old Palestinian boy, Mohammed al-Durra, cowering in fear behind his father in the Gaza Strip and then allegedly being killed by Israeli soldiers during an exchange of gunfire with Palestinians in September, 2000. However, Philippe Karsenty, Jewish activist and founder of Media-Ratings, a professional media analysis company, claimed that the whole incident was staged for propaganda purposes.

Doubts arose about the footage when it was revealed that the same cameraman had been responsible for faking other news footage. Karsenty accused the network, France 2, of "knowingly misleading the watching world..." and was sued for and found guilty of libel for defaming France's state-owned network. But the French Court of Appeals overturned the 2006 ruling against Karsenty, vindicating him. When all the footage was carefully examined, it revealed that many scenes were staged.

After initially apologizing for the incident, Israel said a subsequent investigation showed that Israeli troops could not have struck the boy from their positions. Interestingly, the court's ruling was slow to make French headlines. Many individuals claim that the al-Durra incident played an important role in the surge of anti-Semitism in France following the outbreak of the second *intifada*. Pierre-Andre Taguieff, the research director at the National Center of Scientific Research in France. compares the al-Durra incident to the notorious Drevfus Affair in 1894, when a lewish French army officer was wrongly convicted of treason. (Dreyfus was grudgingly exonerated in 1906, but not before having spent years at Devil's Island and surely not without the intervention of Emile Zola, the most popular French writer of his day, with his famous "l'Accuse" letter directed at the French government.) "...the Israelis are being accused in the end of having killed a child in cold blood, almost with pleasure," Taguieff said. "The old anti-lewish stereotype of the blood libel reappeared with the al-Durra affair, which is why it is extremely significant." (Wall Street Journal, 5-27-08, Reuters, 5-21-08, Jerusalem Post, 5-21-08 and other sources)

Israeli Colombian Rescue Connection

The dramatic rescue on July 4th of 15 hostages--three of whom were Americans--held in the jungles of Colombia since 2002, had an Israeli connection. Dozens of Israeli security experts, coordinated by reserve officers Israel Ziv and Yossi Kuperwasser of Global CST, advised and guided the Colombian military agents who carried out the elaborately planned rescue. On his return from Bogota. Ziv said, "It's a Colombian Entebbe operation." The Israeli involvement began $1\frac{1}{2}$ vears ago when Colombia asked Israel for help dealing with FARC, the anti-government rebels who specialize in drug trading and kidnapping civilians and military figures for ransom. Israel, though, does not want any official credit for the operation. In an interview. Juan Hurtado Cano. Colombian ambassador to Israel, said "...this operation was exclusively carried out by the Colombian army." The rescue mission succeeded without a single shot being fired. (www.haaretz.com, 7-4-08)

Mezuzot on the Space Shuttle?

The space shuttle Discovery, launched by NASA on May 31st, carried two very special mezuzot. Gregory Chamitoff, the American lewish astronaut, placed the *mezuzot* on the door post near his bunk to serve as a reminder of home and of his lewish identity that he counted on to sustain him during the six months he will be aboard the international space station. The *mezuzot*, designed by Israeli artist Laura Cowan, were designed like rockets and cost from \$69 to \$600. These are not the first *mezuzot* to travel into space. Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, who died along with the other crew members aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 2003. took along a silver, copper and barbed-wire mezuzah as a symbol of the Holocaust. (World Jewish Digest, May 2008)

Israel Praised by the UN

At the end of May, Israel was the only country to be singled out and praised by the president of the General Assembly of the UN. Why? For its role in combating world food crises because of agricultural technologies that have helped increase agricultural output. Dani Carmon, Israel's Deputy Ambassador to the UN said, "This was very special. This was a moment of gratification, and we don't have too many at the UN." At a time when 830 million people around the world face food shortages – with another 100 million people moving into poverty due to rising prices for wheat and rice – Israel is ready to participate fully with the international community and share its knowledge and expertise. Israel's recognition comes just as the first Israeli-initiated resolution was passed by the General Assembly dealing with agricultural technology for development. (*Jerusalem Post*, 5-22-08)

Legal Action Against Ahmadinejad?

Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is seeking legal advice and is considering taking Iran's president to the International Court of Justice in The Hague for inciting violence against Israel. "The Iranian president's repeated extraordinary statements, which are anti-Semitic and expressing a determination to eliminate the modern state of Israel from the map, are appalling by any standards of current international relations," Rudd said. "It is not just hyperbole from the bully pulpit of Tehran: it is the roll-on effect across the Islamic world, particularly those who listen to Iran for their guidance." Last year Rudd had promised Australia's lewish community to take action against Ahmadinejad. (World Jewish Congress, 5-14-08)

No Negotiations For Me, Please

In a letter written, but not yet delivered, by members of a decorated infantry battalion of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) to the Chief of Staff, the reservists wrote, "If we are captured by the enemy, we ask that the state of Israel does not release many hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for our freedom." These reservists are slated to be the first soldiers to enter enemy territory in the event of a large-scale military operation in the Gaza strip. The letter will be delivered only when such an operation begins. Referring to the exchange that took place in early June where Hezbollah handed over the remains of several IDF soldiers to Israel in exchange for prisoners, the soldiers are requesting that Israel refrain from paying a high price for their freedom. The soldiers said they are "ready to sit in an enemy prison for as long as it takes" and for Israel not to negotiate over their remains should they be killed. (*www.haaretz.com.* 6-10-08)

Stephan Grayek, R.I.P.

One of the last survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Stephan Gravek, died in mid-June at the age of 92. He was the founder of the World Organization of Partisans. Underground Fighters, Ghetto Rebels and Camp Inmates, the first organization to focus public attention on the needs of Holocaust survivors. In 1943, Gravek swore that he would spend the rest of his life fighting anti-Semitism and frequently led groups of Holocaust survivors on journeys of memory in Poland. In an interview with the lerusalem Post 20 years ago. Gravek was asked why he had not experienced the trauma that so many other Holocaust survivors suffered. He answered, "Perhaps, because like other people in the resistance, I fought back." Gravek recorded his wartime experiences in his book, "Shelosha Yemin Krav," (Three Days of Battle). (Jerusalem Post, 6-15-08)

Last Buchenwald Liberator Dead at 83

James Hoyt, the last survivor of the four American soldiers to first see Buchenwald, the Nazi concentration camp near Weimar in central Germany, has died. Hoyt rarely spoke of the atrocities he witnessed that day, but had recently begun to talk to author Stephen Bloom, who is planning an upcoming book. As a private first class, Hoyt was just 19 when he and his three fellow soldiers-Captain Frederic Keffer, Tech. Sqt. Herbert Gottschalk and Sot. Harry Wardcame across fifteen SS troops and captured them. Shortly after, a group of Soviet soldiers, who had been prisoners at the camp, came out of the woods and directed the voung Americans there.

Entering the camp through a hole in the electric fence, they were greeted by 21,000 men. Hoyt recalled being picked up and

tossed in the air, caught and tossed again by the men. A Bronze Star recipient and a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, Hoyt returned to his lowa home town after the war, but suffered the effects of Post Traumatic Stress the rest of his life. As he said, "Seeing these things, it changes you." (CNN.com 8-14-08)

Geneticist Explores Jewish history

David Goldstein, a geneticist at Duke University, has written a new book using his science to explore the origins and migrations of the Jewish people. *Jacob's Legacy: A Genetic View of Jewish History* combines jargon-free genetic writing and biblical history to investigate perennial mysteries of Jewish history, including the Lost Tribes and the Mountain Jews of Kurdistan and Dagestan. (Is he saying that there are mountain Jews outside the Catskills?) The book is available through Yale University Press.

(Scientific American 8-13-08)

Did you know......

-For \$4,500, you can attend the only professional kosher cooking school in North America. The six-week course opened on July 7th at The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts (which apparently is not considered an oxymoron by everyone) in the heavily Jewish neighborhood of Flatbush in Brooklyn, New York. Aside from the Jerusalem Culinary Institute, the Brooklyn center is the only other professional kosher cooking school in the world. (*www.jta.org*, 7-8-08)

-Linda Lingle, the Governor of Hawaii, is the first Republican to govern Hawaii in 40 years, the first woman ever to govern Hawaii and the second female Jewish governor in U.S. history. The nation's only other Jewish sitting governor is Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania. (Jerusalem Post, 4-22-08)

-The Jewish National Fund (JNF) is building a 75-mile bicycle path connecting Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and will include several forests and historical sites along the way. The ride, from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, is mostly downhill and will take approximately 5 hours. (*www.jta.org*, 7-22-08) ◊

Photo Gallery



Two beautiful new flags, American and Israeli, now adorn either side of the KJCC bema, thanks to the generosity of Skip and Rene Rose, owners of American Flag & Pole.

Mary Lee Singer and Skip Soule thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic sunset cruise donated by Steve Steinbock at the March KJCC fundraiser. According to Mary Lee,



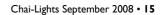
Steve and his hardworking crew (consisting of Carol), the wine and cheese plus the tranquility of the sail itself really made the cruise a fabulous evening aboard *Shalom*, the Steinbocks' 26-foot Nonesuch.



This is our son Abe receiving his diploma upon graduation from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. He has accepted a position in press relations with the attorney general of Illinois. -The proud Rakov family

Germany's largest synagogue, with a 1,200-person capacity, has re-opened in Berlin after a lavish restoration that cost more than \$60 million. This important symbol of pre-war Germany had been set ablaze during Kristallnacht in 1938. Its 2008 reopening had rabbis bringing the Torah to the synagogue in a ceremony witnessed by political leaders and Holocaust survivors. Rabbi Chaim Roswaski. who presided at the ceremony, described the reconstruction as a "miracle."





Our sanctuary was blessed with a beautiful wedding on June 11th. Heather and Lyle Agins joined each other in marriage with their family and friends there to share their joy. It is not very often that our sanctuary is filled with

Lyle Agins and Heather Palmer, right, pose at Auf Ruf, the mitzvah ritual of going to services the Sab-

bath before any celebration, but especially for weddings.





their two-year-old son walked down the aisle, followed by the lovely bride. Big Jim Boruszak did the service (and also did rose-petal-strewing duty), and everyone yelled MAZEL TOV when Lyle broke the glass with one crush. All of us at the Keys Jewish Community Center wish our new members Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Agins a long a happy life together.





Presenting the 2008 KJCC Scholarship recipients, center:



Rachel Bloom, Tiffany McNew, and Brieze Levy, with Scholarship Committee Chairman Kurt Kluger. Katie Greenman couldn't be here that night. All are high school graduates of the Class of 2008.

As usual, proud parents were there to be part of the festivities. Above, Tiffany poses with mom Roberta.



Rachel, above, gets a congratulatory hug from dad Marc.

Steve and Carol Steinbock attended Katie Greenman's graduation to present her scholarhip award. Below, Katie displays her feelings about being the last sister off to college.



A rare occurrence these days, below: the entire Levy family together for a picture—Stellar, Beth, Brieze and Ron.





Scenes from the July 4th Shabbabe-Cue: Alan brought Moira and Cammie to the Bema to help with services.

July 4th is also Pauline Roller's birthday. Those who attended all toasted her with birthday cake. She served.







On August I, the Knowles family shared a mitzvah with all of KJCC, the Jewish naming of daughter Gina's son Aidan Jacob. That's all of them below— Barbara, Richard, Aidan, Gina and Moira. Big Jim, with help from Bea, cuts the challah after services, right.





Searching For Synagogues **On a Mediterranean Cruise**

By Joan Boruszak

im and I took a Mediterranean cruise last winter. As is the norm for European trips, many of the port tours were dedicated to exploring churches. We had made a decision before we left that we were dedicating ourselves to synagogue tours. Needless to say, we were on our own as far as finding the synagogues in each port. In some places we succeeded. In others we could not find the synagogues, and in others there were none to find!

We started our vacation in Venice. We had been there in 1956. What a difference fiftytwo years make! The crowds were tremendous. San Marco Square, which is the main square in Venice, was once filled with a few very well dressed tourists and many nuns and priests. Now there were hundreds of baby prams, lots of children and no nuns or priests in sight!

In search of the Jewish community, we

went to the Foundry. It is an area about two or three blocks long surrounded by canals. It was customary in the Middle Ages to segregate the lews, so

the Foundry. with its canals. was perfect. The Jews, the ruins of wearing a yellow band, were amazing expermitted to go back and forth into the city during the day. The ghetto was locked at night. (I

Jim and Joan pose amid Pompeii, an ample of modern archeology skills. That's Mt. Vesuvius in the background.

thought it was interesting that the word "foundry" in Italian is "ghetto." Originally it was pronounced with a soft "g." Since the Germans that came a few hundred yeas ago could not pronounce the soft "a." the modern word "ghetto" was born. This was the first ghetto in Italy.)

In the ghetto there are five synagogues: two Ashkenazi and three Sephardic. The Ashkenazi synagogues were built first. The Sephardic synagogues were built by Christian artisans. Jews could not be artisans, because artisans were employed by the Church. lews were also not allowed to use marble, and, therefore, the interiors of the synagogues were painted. Two of the Sephardic synagogues are still in use. One is used in the summer and one in the winter. None of them are heated or airconditioned.

Venice has a small lewish population still living in the ghetto. There is a kosher restaurant and a lovely gift shop. The gift shop





Joan amidst the old Roman ruins in Spanish Majorca. Everything around her is marble.

also has a store in the Cardo, a lovely shopping area in the old city of Jerusalem.

We went to the main synagogue in Florence. Again, we were there fifty-two years ago and had attended Yom Kippur services. I remember sitting upstairs and observing the beautifully dressed women in the balcony. Children were running in and out, and I felt that I knew what the conversations were all about even though I did not understand Italian. It reminded me very much of home. I was surprised to find the balcony no longer in use. Now men sit on one side of the main floor and women sit on the other side. I can only assume that the Jewish community of Florence has become much smaller. The building remains a beautiful edifice.

In Marseilles we took a taxi to the only synagogue. The gates were locked, but an elderly man saw us and invited us in. The synagogue was more modern than the Italian synagogues. It had been rehabbed. We were able to wander on our own, but, before we left, he invited us into the courtyard to view the Wall of Remembrance for the Holocaust victims. We did not count the number of names on the Wall, but it appeared to be an astounding number!

Dubrovnik, in yesterday's Yugoslavia and today's Croatia, had a very small, plain Ashkenazi synagogue that we found down a very narrow street and up a long flight of stairs. It is still in use.

We tried to find the synagogue in Corfu, one of the Greek islands in the Ionian Sea. No one seemed to be able to lead us to it, and we could not find it on the map.

We had looked forward to Barcelona, and its Jewish section, for the whole cruise. Unfortunately, we were only there for one day and it poured the whole time. Barcelona will have to wait for another trip!

We had a "Jewish geography" experience on the ship. The first night we went to dinner and decided to share a table with another couple. We realized Irene and Jack were Jewish and asked the usual: "Where are you from?" Irene said she had grown up in Madison, Wisconsin. Jim said he had relatives in Madison by the name of Woldenberg. Irene turned white and said that she had been married for thirty years to a Woldenberg. Of course he was related to Jim. We laughed about that with them many times over the two weeks that we saw them. \Diamond



The old synagogue in Florence today where Jim and Joan attended services in 1956.

Approaching the High Holidays

by Alan Beth

Chair, KJCC Religious Committee

"Are You Ready?"

The Bar Mitzvah child arrives twenty minutes before the service begins. He puts all of his books down on the *shulchan* as uncle Leo walks in and says, "Nu, *boychick*, are you ready?" He takes a deep breath and nods, and goes over his Torah reading one last time. The bride and groom wait together just before they are about to walk down the aisle. He looks into her eyes and smiles; "are you ready?" he says. She smiles back as the music begins.

A young couple is awaiting the birth of their first child. With one month to go they are beginning to feel the pressure and ask themselves if they can really do this. As person after person asks, "are you ready?" their response is: "ready or not, here it comes."

Am I ready? The more I thought about it the more I realized how important that question is. Am I ready for what? Am I ready for Shabbat? Am I ready for Tax Day? Am I ready for the Holy Days? Am I ready for change?

How do we as Jews get ready?

Rabbi Allison Bergman tells a story about how, when she was ten or eleven, her entire family would get ready for Rosh Hashanah services. "My father," she writes, "in his charcoal grav pinstripe suit. my mother in a tasteful and elegant dress. My sister, who at nine refuses to wear anything resembling 'Temple attire,' finally agrees to wear a skirt, as long as she can wear her sneakers. Meanwhile, my father is downstairs. About every five minutes I hear "Are you ready?" or some derivation thereof. Exactly fifteen minutes after we were supposed to leave, my father yells one last time, 'even if you aren't ready, I'm leaving', and we come running down the stairs, grabbing coats, and pile into the car to begin the New Year."

Sound familiar? We all have different ways of getting ready, of preparing ourselves for the things that we want to do, but when it comes to those important things in our lives, how we prepare can sometimes be even more crucial than the event itself.

This Yom Kippur, I'd like to look to our tradition and see what it can tell us about how to prepare for the important things in our lives. To begin, we turn to Exodus. The children of Israel have left Egypt and have begun to wander in the desert. Once they reach Mt. Sinai, everyone is aware that something incredible is about to happen. And so Moses speaks to them and tells them,

"V'hayu nekhonim layom hashlishi." (You shall be prepared for the third day.) On the third day they will be given the Torah.

Why not just give them the Torah on the first day. Why the wait? A contemporary Torah scholar teaches that their inner preparation must begin immediately. Human beings need time to be

	High	Holiday	S
Saturday	Sept. 20	5:30 p.m.	
Monday	Sept. 29	7:30 p.m.	
Tuesday	Sept. 30	9:30 a.m.	
Tuesday	Sept. 30	4:00 p.m.	
Wednesday	Oct. I	9:30 a.m.	
Wednesday	Oct. 8	7:30 p.m.	
Thursday	Oct. 9	9:30 a.m.	
Thursday	Oct. 9	11:00 a.m.	
Thursday	Oct. 9	11:00 a.m.	
Thursday	Oct. 9	4:30 p.m.	
Thursday	Oct. 9	7:10 p.m.	
Thursday	Oct. 9	7:25 p.m.	
Sunday	Oct. 12	9:30 a.m.	

able to incorporate change into our lives. Very often, the more time we give ourselves, the easier the transition.

Abraham was faced with a difficult situation as God asked him to take his son, Isaac, and offer him up as a sacrifice. How can one ever be ready for that? Over the years our tradition has ascribed all sorts of different motives to Abraham and answered that question in various ways, but the one constant in the discussions of Abraham was his faith and trust in God.

That is the next ingredient in effective change—faith. Faith that change is good. Faith that we can do it even if we don't know exactly how. When that couple walks down the aisle, there are no guarantees as to what life will be like, but they have faith in each other and in their relationship.

Unfortunately, faith is not a constant. Sometimes it is there like a tower of strength, and in others it is a wisp of smoke.

Even some of our prophets were not so

chedule	2008
	S'lichot Service
Erev F	Rosh Hashanah (Oneg)
	Rosh Hashanah
Tashlich	– near Harry Harris Park
Second	Day of Rosh Hashanah
Erev \	om Kippur/Kol Nidre
	Yom Kippur
(Children's service
	Yizkor
Minhal	n Neilah/Story of Jonah
	Havdalah
Bre	eak the Fast Dinner
Construc	tion of Sukkah (a Mitzvah)

fish that he is ready to hear what God wants of him. Why? He told God that he was afraid of what they would do to him. When Jonah found his courage he was finally ready, and went to Nineveh. Jonah faced his fears by working on his courage.

The last piece can be found in the early story of Moses. While tending his sheep he finds the burning bush. God lays out for him what is ultimately going to be his destiny. There was no time to prepare; his faith is as

eager to leap into action. Take the story of Ionah that we will read on Yom Kippur. God comes to Jonah and says go up to Nineveh and tell them that they are sinnina. Ionah immediately aoes down the other way. It is not until spending a bit of time in a big

yet untested as this is his first real encounter with God. During the conversation we see his courage falter as he asks God to find someone else, and so God provided for him a very important aid in his readiness—help. He told Moses that Aaron would be there to help him, that he did not have to do it alone.

Time, Faith, Courage and Help. That is how we as Jews ready ourselves for the challenges that lay ahead. That is how we face change and the push to always improve. Rosh Hashanah centers on these very themes. It gives us a way to think about them and work them into our lives.

So, are you ready?

We are reaching the holiest of all Jewish holy days. It is a day of fasting and prayer, of reflection and silence. Rabbi Larry Tabick reminds us of the essential nature of the day:

"I have been walking for miles And there is a stone in my shoe That's been there for ages. Why don't I just sit down and take it out? Though we are full of excuses— I am too old, too young, Too tired. too lively. Too ill, too well, Too busy. too lazy. Too strong, too weak, Too good, too bad, Too big, too small, to repent. We are not supposed to give up the effort. Rosh Hashanah is like havina an eve exam. Are we seeing the world and ourselves in the proper perspective? Yom Kippur is like getting new glasses, But will we wear them? Will we allow ourselves to get used to them Or let them sit in a drawer gathering dust 'Till next vear?"

May you have a meaningful fast and may you be sealed in the Book of Life. Wishing you a year of health, happiness, prosperity and peace.

Shannah Tovah — Alan

High Holiday Memories (They usually involve food.)

By Joyce Peckman

udaism is a group effort, often revolving around food. This certainly seemed true during the week of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. When I married, it was into a family of three siblings, all within walking distance, perfectly matching the number of High Holiday feasts. So each provided a meal. We usually chose one of the Rosh Hashanah dinners, so that I would be able to attend at least one New Year service, and not miss the Yom Kippur *neilah* and shofar. Most of the cooking preparation was done in the days before the holiday. There was always a certain competition, and comparing of menus. "Are you doing chicken soup? OK, I'll make vegetable soup. You have chicken and turkey? Okay. I guess I'll have to make brisket or corned beef this year." My sister-in-law was celebrated for her stuffed cabbage, and generously provided enough for both Rosh Hashanah meals.

I began to research traditional holiday foods. Cabbage, it turns out, is one of the oldest cultivated plants in the world, and stuffed cabbage symbolizes abundance. Of course, everyone knew about apples and honey, or honey tayalach cake, to signify a sweet coming year. The challah is round, in honor of the cycle of the New Year. The Talmud has some additional Rosh Hashanah suggestions: dates, for a sweet year, pomegranates, because they have 613 seeds to remind us of the 613 commandments, squash because the Hebrew word "kraa" is similar to "kara" so our sins should be "torn" from the Book of Judgment, and black-eved peas, because the Aramaic name "rubiya" is similar to the Hebrew "rabah," meaning "plentiful." Fava beans, chickpeas or peas have historically often been substituted to

symbolize the wish for prosperity. Many people avoid nuts on Rosh Hashanah, because "egoz" has the same numerology as "chayt," which means "sin." No problem – there is quite enough to eat!

Yom Kippur was another story. We started the week before by slowly switching to decaf to avoid the dreaded 2 p.m. caffeine withdrawal headache. Then came the phone calls to children and cousins who were coming to spend the night. "Make sure you get here early! Dinner has to be over and cleaned up well before sundown!" Lights had to be set, either on or off, and enough toilet paper preripped. Dinner was always light. (Maimonides would have approved. Back in the 12th century, he recommended chicken soup with rice.) Many people also serve leeks. The Hebrew "karti" reflects the wish that the lews' enemies "vikartu" should be cut off. We always ended with an apple, brushed our teeth, and drove to Kol Nidre services, leaving the car to be used for the return home 25 hours later.

Is Yom Kippur not the longest day of the year? Even broken up by a 3 p.m. nap or walk on the Long Beach boardwalk, it lasts forever, and the last hour is spent standing, waiting for the shofar to be blown and the ark to close. Then a run to the waiting cars, and a huge dairy feast. First coffee and juice (in no particular order), then bagels, fish, salad, blintzes, and a half dozen varieties of fruit and cake. It is a test of our vows of selfcontrol, and failure finds us looking for antacids and aspirin the next morning, as the New Year truly begins.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy New Year, and may we all be signed and sealed in the Book of Life! \diamond

Why We Fast

By Yardena Kamely

There is something mournful about the act of turning away from food. If grief is our natural response to loss, the absence of food is its most obvious material reflection. Life turns on us, and we do not, or cannot, eat.

Foodlessness is an instinctive, primal reaction to pain. A number of years ago the Chilean writer Isabel Allende produced two works of nonfiction. The first, "*Paula*," was a diary of the illness and death of her daughter. The second is entitled "*Afrodita*"; a book of recipes and childhood memories, it is much less than the novels for which Isabel Allende became famous. As she explains in the introduction, "Afrodita" is about the return to life.

"After the death of my daughter Paula, I spent three years trying to exorcise grief with useless rituals. It was three centuries of feeling that the world had lost its colors and a universal grey had inexorably extended itself over everything.

"I can't specify the precise moment in which the first brushstrokes of color began to appear, but when I started dreaming of food I knew I was approaching the end of the long tunnel of mourning and, finally, was emerging on the other side, in plain light, with a tremendous desire to eat again......"

There needs to be space in life for grief, just as there needs to be space in life for pleasure. Most importantly, there must be a framework for separating ourselves without permanently relinquishing our place in the act, in the way of mourners sitting *Shiva*.

Fasting may be the wisest way. It opens a window to contemplation. It is a discipline that expresses the meaning of loss without allowing them to overpower life. And, it is safe. In the case of ritual fasts, life always wins; we resume eating.

The foods with which we break a fast are simple. After Yom Kippur, traditionalists begin with a clear broth. In the Middle East, bread and salt are given to the mourners: the bread of life, the salt of tears. Once the period of abstinence is passed, nourishing the body and the spirit are two sides of the same coin.

Fasting focuses the mind and the soul like nothing else. Fasting is purifying in the way that silence is; and silence expresses our deepest selves: the wondrous silence of love, the hush of admiration, the mute agony of grief. Words at these moments become superfluous.

Think about it; in the dark moment of grief, who can eat? Who can speak? Who wants to? Every year I am struck again by the realization that following the traditions of Yom Kippur we are, in fact, receiving guidance on how to heal our own sorrows.

On Yom Kippur, by choosing to fast, we acknowledge grief's sacred place. Silence and renunciation make for a single day of tremendous concentration. It is our private and undisturbed accounting with ourselves. Despite the misconceptions caused by the English term Day of Atonement, there is in fact no place in the observance of Yom Kippur for public confessions or absolutions. It is, at the end, a moment of pause. We not only renounce the food in our mouths, but also, for one day, do not have the social experience of eating, that connection to family or friends. For one day we stay alone with our introspection. But for me, going through this special day in the synagogue, hearing the prayers of the *Chazan* and the congregation, means to be accompanied at the same time that I am alone with my thoughts and reflections. \diamond

Saturday, September 20, 2008 5:30 Pizza, Movie in Social Hall 8:00 S'lichot Service

SLICHOT SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWING THE MOVIE. SERVICES WILL BE LED BY BERNIE GINSBERG AND YARDENA KAMELY.

Movie: HESTER STREET

The desire to shed or suppress all traces of one's original culture has been a primal experience of nearly all immigrants; Joan Micklin Silver's adaptation of Abraham Cahan's story makes clear that it's a process edged with pathos. Carol Kane stars as Gitl, an Eastern European Jew who arrives with her child on Ellis Island in 1896 to join her husband, Jake. She is surprised to discover that Jake has abandoned the mores of his culture by cutting off his beard and earlocks, and he's adopted the mannerisms of his new country, including a new girlfriend who runs a dance hall. Gitl, unwilling to part with traditions so easily, creates a rift in the marriage that is difficult to overcome.

The evening is sponsored by Sisterhood and there is no charge. Come and enjoy!



Contact Yardena, ykameli@hotmail.com, for information and to make your reservation.

High Holiday Stories and Legends

From the Torah to the Talmud to the Zohar to Sephardic and Ashkenazi folk tales, Jewish history is full of wonderful stories that illustrate our practices and ideals. This is particularly so for the High Holy Days. Gloria Avner (from Maine) has selected a few appealing examples for us to enjoy.

Drawing the Wind

A Rosh Hashanah Tale (Oral tradition from the Balkans) retold by Howard Schwartz in a book called "The Day the Rabbi Disappeared," published by the Jewish Publication Society and winner of the National Jewish Book Award.

Long ago on the Spanish island of Majorca, a young boy spent most of each day at the shore, sketching the ships that sailed into the harbor. Solomon was a wonderful artist, everyone agreed. His drawings seemed so real that people wondered if the waves in his pictures were as wet as they seemed—as the sun was hot.

His father was a great rabbi who really preferred Solomon to spend his time studying, but Solomon would always slip away to the shore.

A few days before Rosh Hashanah, a ship arrived from the city of Barcelona. Solomon overheard one of the sailors talking to a local merchant.

"There's news from Spain that will make every Jew on this island tremble."

"What is it?" asked the merchant.

"The King and Queen have decreed that all the Jews in the land must give up their religion and become Christian."

"And if they refuse?"

"Then they lose their lives."

Solomon was frightened. He didn't want to leave his beautiful island. He ran home to tell the news to his father, Rabbi Simeon be Tsemah Duran.

"Must we leave," Father?" asked Solomon.

"I cannot leave, my son," said his father. "The other Jews look to me for guidance. I must stay until they all escape. But you should go and I will join you later in Algiers."

"I won't leave you," said Solomon. "You are all I have since Mother died. Surely God will protect us."

Rabbi Simeon hugged his brave son. "Then let us work together and spread the word that everyone must meet in the synagogue." They hurried though the village, knocking at the doors of every Jewish home and shop.

When everyone had gathered at the house of prayer, Rabbi Simeon told them about the terrible decree.

"Save us!" they cried out in fear.

They hoped their beloved rabbi could work a miracle. For they knew his prayers had once turned back a plague of locusts. Another time, when crops were withering in the fields, his prayers had brought rain.

"You have only three choices," Rabbi Simeon told the men. "You can escape by sailing to Algiers. You can stay and pretend to convert, but secretly remain a Jew. Or you can defy the king and queen. As for me, I would rather go to my grave than say that I am giving up my religion." Solomon realized how strong his father was and how Rabbi Simeon strengthened and comforted his people.

In the days that followed, most of the Jews crowded onto ships, carrying very little with them. They saw to it that the women and children took the first available ships. Some Jews stayed and pretended to convert, in order to save their lives. They were known as *Conversos* but in secret they continued to follow their Jewish ways. Only a handful of Jews openly refused to convert. Among them were Solomon's father and Solomon himself. They planned to leave together once they were certain that all those who wished to escape had done so.

By then it was the start of Rosh Hashanah. Rabbi Simeon and Solomon and those few who dared to enter the synagogue prayed with great intensity that year, in hope that their names would be written in the Book of Life. Surely God would hear their prayers and guard them.

All went well the first day, but on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, just after the sounding of the shofar, soldiers rushed into the synagogue and dragged them all away.

They were cast into a prison cell, where Rabbi Simeon continued to lead the prayers for Rosh Hashanah by heart. Solomon would have been terrified if he hadn't seen how calm his father remained.

None of them slept that night. Even though Rosh Hashanah had ended, they stayed awake, praying. The cell was very dark, with only one high window. But at dawn it let a little sunlight in. When Rabbi Simeon saw it, he said. "Have faith, my brothers.

For just as there is a bit of light, so there is hope, and I feel that God has heard our prayers and will protect us."

The guard overheard them and laughed. "You think you have hope? You have just three days to live. Then you die. Let's see what your God does for you then."

Rabbi Simeon saw how frightened they were. So he turned to Solomon and said, "Won't you help us pass the time? Why don't you draw one of those ships you do so well?"

Solomon couldn't believe his ears. His father was asking him to draw? Solomon felt in his pocket and pulled out his last piece of chalk. When he looked up, he thought he saw a hint of a smile on his father's face.

Solomon remembered all the ships he had watched from the shore, and on the sunlit wall he began to draw the one he thought

Only a handful of Jews openly refused to convert.

was the most beautiful. He drew the wind that filled the great sails, and he added barrels of wine and bushels of wheat.

Solomon's father and the other men watched him draw until the sun set and the prison cell was enveloped in darkness. Then they began to pray to God to save them. Once again, they prayed all night long.

The next day, Solomon continued to work on his drawing. Little by little he finished every detail of the ship, and then he drew the sea around it. The waves looked as if they might spill right off the wall and splash onto the floor.

The picture seemed finished, but Solomon didn't want to stop. His father suggested that

he draw the two of them, there on the deck. This Solomon did, and all the men marveled at the fine resemblances he drew. Then the second day in prison ended, and again they prayed throughout the night.

When the sun rose on the third day, one of the men asked Solomon to draw him on the ship, too. "For I would like to be with you." And one by one, the others made the same request. But when darkness fell, Solomon had not finished drawing the last

man.

As soon as the first light of dawn came through the window, Solomon took out his chalk and quickly finished drawing the last man.

Just as he drew the final line, he heard keys jangling. The soldiers were coming to unlock the door to their cell. Then Solomon and all the men would be taken to the courtyard for their execution.

Solomon turned to his father and saw that he was deep in prayer. And, at that very moment, he heard his father pronounce God's secret name out loud.

Suddenly, Solomon could not hear the guards in the hallway and, when he looked down, he saw that he was standing on the deck of the beautiful ship he had drawn on the prison wall. His father and all the other men in the picture were with him, safely aboard a real ship floating on a real sea. The sails strained against the wind, just as they had in Solomon's drawing, and the ship sped away from danger.

All the Jews from the prison cell rejoiced with Solomon and his father—for they knew they were aboard a ship of miracles, on their way to freedom. They would never forget that Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Judgment, when God had seen fit to save them. \Diamond

The Kitten

by Doug Lipman

(We run this story with Mr. Lipman's permission. He's asked that we mention his storytelling newsletter, too. Anyone interested please contact Gloria.)

On the day before his first Yom Kippur as a rabbi, Rabbi Pesach Mendel was standing outside his synagogue. He noticed small groups of Jews arriving in the town, Jews who lived in the outlying countryside. Obviously, they were coming to attend his services. He was flattered.

The rabbi's eye lit on one young man he had never seen before. The young man wore a Russian-style winter coat and a brown scarf wrapped completely around his neck and chin. Rabbi Pesach Mendel approached him. "Welcome, stranger! I hope you join us for services tomorrow!"

The young man looked confused. "But tomorrow is Thursday," he said.

"No," said the rabbi. "Not for Sabbath. For Yom Kippur!"

The young man lowered his eyes in embarrassment. What kind of a Jew didn't know when Yom Kippur was? Rabbi Pesach Mendel smiled reassuringly. "That's all right. Just come. Please?"

That evening, the rabbi told his wife about the young man. "Obviously, he has not been

living a Jewish life. But I feel hopeful about him. If I can give just the right sermon, I may be able to reclaim him as a pious Jew. What do you think, Mimele?"

Mimele was silent. At last she said, "Did I ever tell you about my two cousins?"

"I guess not. What about them?"

"When they were young boys, their father wanted the older brother to grow up to become a rabbi. But one day, when the boys were 10 and 7 years old, they saw a stray cat enter the yard of the farm where they lived. They quickly agreed that they wanted it as a pet.

"I'll capture it,' said the older brother. He began to impersonate his boyish idea of a hunter. He stalked the cat, but in vain. He tried to trap it. At last, in frustration, he picked up a fallen branch and threw it at the cat. The cat yowled in pain, then slipped away to hide.

"Later that night, their father discovered that the younger brother was not in his bed. Searching the yard, the father found him perched in the fork of a tree, cradling the cat. The boy was rocking the wounded cat like a baby. At that moment, the father understood that it was his younger son who should become a rabbi."

Mimele arose and walked out the room. The rabbi sat a long time after she left, staring at his hands.

On the morning of Yom Kippur, Rabbi Pesach Mendel led the services with spirit. He told his congregation, "By now, you should have made amends for all harm you have done this year. If we all make *teshuvah* - turning toward God, repentance - sincerely enough, our names will be written in the Book of Life for another year."

He went on to enumerate the deeds and the lapses in observance they should repent of. When he spoke of lapses in observance, he looked directly at the young man, still wearing his coat and scarf.

The rabbi turned to continue his exhortation. As he did, he caught Mimele's eye. Something was wrong. Following her glance, he turned back to see the young man heading toward the door. "Wait," shouted the rabbi. "Wait! Wait!" The young man halted, still looking furtively at the door.

"Please," said the rabbi. "I meant to honor you. Will you come up here with me?" Slowly, the young man ascended the *bima* to stand next to the rabbi. "It is time for a reading," said Rabbi Pesach Mendel. "Will you accept the honor of reading from the Torah?" The young man's shoulders slumped. "I cannot," he said.

What could Rabbi Pesach Mendel do now? Helplessly, he looked at Mimele. She swung her folded arms gently in front of her, as though she were rocking a kitten.

Rabbi Pesach Mendel sighed. Then he turned toward the young man and took his hands. "Please," he said. "Tell me your story."

The young man began to talk softly and rapidly. The congregation strained to hear him. "My parents were poor," he said. "Their highest hope for me was to apprentice me to a tailor or shoemaker. So, when the Czar's agents came to our town, looking for boys to conscript into the Russian army, my parents

The boy, perched in the fork of the tree, was cradling and rocking the wounded cat like a baby. At that moment, the father understood that it was his younger son who should become a rabbi. didn't have the money to send me away to hide or to bribe the agents. I was ripped from my family and my people.

"My parents didn't know where I was taken. I wasn't allowed to contact them. I wasn't allowed to pray, or to live as a Jew. I repeated the prayers I remembered, as a link to my home. But, after ten years in the Czar's army, I had forgotten nearly everything Jewish I had known.

"When I was released, I took jobs as a laborer, working my way home. But when I arrived, I found my parents both dead. No one in the town really even remembered me. So I began to wander, knowing I was neither fully a Jew nor fully a Russian. I could never fit in.

"Yet when you greeted me so warmly, I allowed myself to hope once again. That was stupid of me. I don't know enough about the observances you mentioned to even know what they were, much less how to repent of not doing them."

The young man looked directly at the rabbi's face and sobbed. "But I just wanted to find a home!" At that, the young man burst into tears.

Rabbi Pesach Mendel stepped up to him and folded his arms around him. He held the young man as he cried. After a long while, the rabbi spoke over the young man's shoulder to his congregation. "This man's *teshuvah* is so strong," he said, "that it will cause all of our names to be inscribed in the Book of Life." ◊

From the Depths of the Heart

From Chassidic lore, attributed to Rabbi Eliezer of Komarno.

One time a Jewish peasant boy came to the big town to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. He didn't know how to pray. He could not even read the letter *Alef*. He only saw that everyone was traveling to the synagogues to participate in the holy prayers. He thought, "If everybody is going to town I must go too!"

He arrived at the town synagogue with his father and watched the congregants crying and singing together, swaying to and fro. He turned to his father and asked, "Father, what is this all about?"His father turned to him and

> "I am going to pray to God in the way I know best. I will whistle to God as I whistle to my flock of sheep."

said, "The Holy One, blessed be he, sits enthroned in the heavens and we pray all year long to Him. We especially pray during these two days of Rosh Hashanah when the whole world is being judged and each person is being judged for the rest of the year."

The son responded, "Father, what am I to do since I do not know how to pray?" His father quickly said to him condescendingly, "All you have to do is be quiet and listen to the other Jews praying. That is enough for you."

"But Father, if I don't know what these people are saying, how is that going to affect God's decision? How is being silent going to help me?"

His father became unnerved and blurted out, "Listen, you should be quiet so no one will know you're an ignorant peasant!"

The son stood still for a couple of minutes as his father and the rest of the congregation continued praying and then - the young boy stood up and spoke loudly.

"I am going to pray to God in the way I know best. I will whistle to God as I whistle to my flock of sheep."

He began whistling the sweet calling most shepherds know. His father was enraged. The boy continued whistling with all his might not caring what other people thought. Now, it happened that this particular Rosh Hashanah, all the heavenly gates were shut and suddenly, because of this pure whistling of the heart, all the gates burst open. The prayers of Israel were finally heard. ◊

Bits and Pieces of Insight: SYMBOLS and SUBSTANCE

We are a people rich with love of symbols, layered contexts, coded words, and hidden meanings. We know that when we dip apples in honey, we make physical our wish for a year full of sweetness. But this time of year there is more, much more.

Something about the Moon

If I asked you how many of the major Jewish Festivals are celebrated on the full moon (and you had only 30 seconds to answer), what would you say?

If you've been lucky enough to sit at a Passover Seder table facing the sea while the moon pops up (and you've paid attention on other ceremonial nights), you'd say, "All of them. Except one."

Rosh Hashanah is the only major holiday that begins in total darkness, even before the first sliver of "Rosh Chodesh." Why is this Holy night different from the others?

Rabbi Yehuda Appel, drawing on traditional sources, says the lack of moon represents the judgment being concealed. At the beginning of the 10 Days of Awe, all is obscure, hidden. The decisions about who shall live and who shall die are still unknown. We are in the dark, literally and figuratively. The answers to what will be written in each book can still be influenced. We still have opportunity through listening to the wake-up call of the shofar and through the three means of atonement ("Teshuvah, Tefillah, and Tzedakah") to emerge into Light.

Sin and Soccer

As Jews, we don't have the same notion of sin as the rest of the world. When a soccer game is played in Israel and a kick does not score a goal, the stands cry out "cheit." They are shouting, "You missed the goal." The word for sin in Hebrew comes from the same

root. It indicates we've missed the mark; we've fallen short of what we could have done.

According to Rav Abraham Isaac Kook, the Chief Rabbi of Israel until the 1930s, repentance, "teshuvah," was created even before the universe was made. The universe could not exist without it, because as we make mistakes, "teshuvah," correction of our wrong actions by appropriate "tikkun" or repair, is all that allows us, and the universe, to get back to wholeness.

Ritual Foods

And speaking of wholeness, do we all know that on Rosh Hashanah we make and eat round challahs to symbolize that unity, the oneness with creation? We all know that where Jews gather, there will be food (unless of course, it is a fast day, in which case there will still be food, but later, at communal celebratory breaking of the fast). There is much more to food than meets the eye or stomach on any day, but especially on Rosh Hashanah.

Some Siddurs encourage us in fine print to eat fish heads (good start to the head of the year) and pomegranates (increasing merit as we eat each of the 613 seeds, one for each of the sum total of positive and negative mitz-vot).

In tractate *Kareisot* of the Talmud, the famous teacher Abaye says a person at the beginning of the year should eat gourds, fenugreek, leeks, beets and dates. Some of these foods grow very speedily. Some are extraordinarily sweet. According to Rashi, you are creating omens, encouraging signs that one's mazel will blossom and you'll enjoy a blessed year. (Remind me to tell you what I've found out about *mazel*. OK, I'll say it now. It does not mean, as I've always thought, "luck." It means "stars," as in fortunate alignment thereof. In ancient times we

> must have been scholars of the sky as well as of the book.).

But the words themselves and the letters of the words spelling out these fruits and vegetables carry even more hidden meaning. The Hebrew word for fenugreek, "roobya," stands for the first letters of the phrase. "Let our merits be abundant." The letters of the word for leek, "cartay," echoes "let our adversaries be cut off." Beets or "silkah" allude to a phrase "let our enemies be removed." The letters in dates, "tamrey," hold

the message "let our adversaries be extinguished."

Very little of this eating is about hunger, but it is all about "kavanah," or intent. When we name and bless the foods we are eating this Rosh Hashanah, we are reinforcing our hopes and wishes for ourselves, our families and our world. We will henceforth have a whole new understanding of the phrase "you've said a mouthful." \diamond

L'Shanah Tovah, Gloria



According to Rashi, you are creating omens, encouraging signs that one's mazel will blossom and you'll enjoy a blessed year.

Jewish Gold at "Hitler's Olympics"

The 1936 Berlin Olympics were the first time basketball was a medal sport, and the final game was played in the mud.

The U.S. team just made a big splash in the summer Olympic games in Beijing, but in 1936 a win by a U.S. team meant even more.

In 1936, basketball was a young and almost unknown sport. There wouldn't even be any professional basketball teams for another decade. The Olympics in Berlin would be the first time basketball was to be an Olympic sport. Basketball was confined to school teams and a few amateur teams sponsored by big companies. Sam Balter was a player on one such team. and stood out not just because of his stature (he was short even by the standards of the day) but also because he was Jewish. He'd been playing basketball since college and had been the captain of the U.C.L.A. team. The U.C.L.A. student newspaper claimed that he was "the only lewish man ever honored with a major sport captaincy and one of the few Jewish athletic leaders in the country."

After college, Sam played for the Southern California-based team sponsored by



Sam Balter (far right) pictured as part of the Universal Studios Basketball Team.

Universal Pictures. It was the Universal Pictures team that went to the qualifying round for the 1936 Olympics in New York. With the entire crowd at Madison Square Garden on their feet. Universal beat The Oilers of McPherson. Kansas 44-43 to become the first U.S. Olvm-



Sam Balter (left) and the 1936 Olympic Basketball Team.

pic basketball team.

A reporter ran up to Sam after the game and singled him out. "I couldn't figure it out." Sam said. "I wasn't the big star of the game. And he asked me if I was going to the Olympics. Well, I laughed and said 'Of course, why not?' The reporter said, 'You know they're being held in Hitler's Germany?'"

Being the only Jew on the American team had never occurred to him. He had just never thought about it. Sam asked the reporter to strike his previous, off-the-cuff remark. He realized he was going to have to give this decision a lot of thought. Sam agonized for months over the decision. Some Jewish groups insisted he must boycott the games. and not support Hitler's Olympics. But other Jewish groups felt the exact opposite. (Some things never change.) They pressured Sam to

play, because they feared an American team with no Jews would be used as a propaganda tool by Nazi Germany. When the Olympic Committee assured the athletes that the games would be free of Nazi propaganda, that made the decision for Sam. It was a once -in-a-lifetime opportunity. He had to do it. In July of 1936 this Jewish athlete boarded an ocean liner bound for Berlin.

It didn't take long after his arrival in Germany for Sam to wonder if he'd made a mistake. Despite Hitler's promise that the games

would not be used to promote the Nazi cause, propaganda brochures were handed out right in the Olympic Village. Anti-Semitic magazines were sold openly on the street. Sam saw caricatures of hooked-nosed people, and read articles laying the blame for everything on the Jews. He got a sense of how bad the situation was, but not of how bad it was going to be.

But then the games began and all Sam's attention became focused on bringing home the gold for the United States. Unfortunately, the Germans didn't really understand basketball. They had scheduled the games outdoors, on dirt courts. Still, Sam did his part to help his team. He averaged 8.5 points

in the four games leading up to the medal round. The final medal game came down to the U.S. vs. Canada, and it was played during a torrential rainstorm. Sam later recalled that if you tried to dribble, the ball would float away in the mud puddles. The court was such a muddy mess that it made the game nearly impossible. These two teams were the best basketball players in the world, and yet by halftime, the score was just 15-4. The final score would see the U.S. winning 19-8.

Although Sam Balter won gold at the Olympics, he never got to parade in front of



Sam (front) reads the newscast on V-J Day accompanied by film legends Orson Welles and Marlene Dietrich.

Hitler with his gold medal as was his dream. At the time, the Olympic basketball squad consisted of two seven-man teams that took turns in the competition. Sam's team did not play the final game; it was the other team's turn. Sam got his gold medal by mail back in California. But still, he was a lone Jew who braved Nazi Germany to bring home the gold.

Sam was the only Jewish American to win gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He always claimed the games as the biggest achieve-

> ment of his life. And it helped launch his career once he returned home. Sam Balter became a successful sportscaster and sometime actor. He was the voice of the U.C.L.A. Bruins, and in 1942 he broadcast baseball play-by -play for the Cincinnati Reds. His film roles consisted mainly of playing sportscasters, but he got to be part of some major movies as a result of that. He was the sportscaster in "Champion." in which he appeared with Kirk Douglas. He also costarred with the likes of Abbott and Costello, and appeared in "Fear Strikes Out" and "Kiss Me Deadly" as well as "The lackie Robinson Story." And if you are a fan of "The Twilight Zone," you may remember an episode

called "A Kind Of Stopwatch." That's Sam, playing the part of a TV announcer. He also spent time as the host of a sports commentary show called "One For The Books" for 18 years, and added sports director for KLAC radio in Los Angeles, and sports columnist for the Los Angeles Herald-Express to his long list of lifetime accomplishments. But he always held winning gold at "Hitler's Olympics" as his proudest moment and biggest achievement.

Sam Balter died in Los Angles in 1998 at the age of 88. \Diamond

The Palace Gardens Difference

For nearly 25 years, The Palace Gardens Assisted Living Community in Homestead has been known as a leader in providing outstanding care to seniors. While our grounds and the campus are beautiful, there are more than a few reasons why The Palace Gardens is different from all others.



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Do you know all the amazing things Sisterhood does for KJCC? Things like The Annual KJCC Fundraiser, Shabbat and holiday dinners, the after-service Onegs, the annual Second Seder...and so much more. They do a great job for the KJCC, but they could always use your help! Please consider volunteering. They are experts at matching your skills and talents with the many tasks and events. Contact Joyce at 305-451-0665 or at

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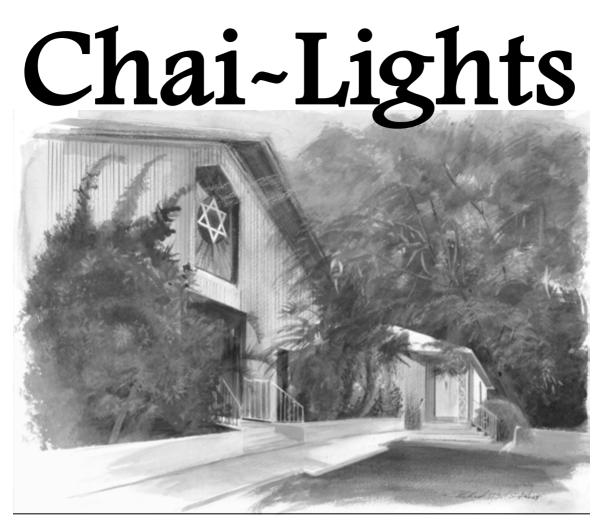
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October 2008

2 Tishrei - 2 Cheshvan 5769

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Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com October 2008

2 Tishrei - 2 Cheshvan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Italicize	d names are Oneg	sponsors.	1 Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day	2	3	4 Shabbat Shuvah
5	6	7	8 Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre	9 Yom Kippur Yizkor Service	10 Gene & Mort Silverman	11
12	13 Erev Sukkot	14 Sukkot	15	16	17 Toby & David Goldfinger	18
19	20 Hoshana Rabba	21 Shemini Atzeret	22 Simchat Torah	23	24 6:30 Service Yizkor Sofy & Mark Wasser	25 Bereshit
26	27	28	29 Rosh Chodesh	30	31 Patty & Jeff Schocket	

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the

monthly newsletter of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message

Steve Steinbock

As I write this message, S'lichot is a week away. Ike passed us by with no real problems (Thank G-d). Not so for Texas & Louisiana. Carol and I traveled to a surprise birthday party in New York for a lifelong friend, where we felt the last remnants of Hanna, then came home just as Ike passed us by.

We have had no trouble making a minyan on Friday nights this summer. Soon our snowbirds will return to fill the sanctuary.

I wish to thank Alan Beth for endless work on Ritual matters, including organizing all the services during the High Holy Days. In addition, Alan has been working on programs needed to retrieve the data for our Yizkor Book and monthly Yartzeit letters, not to mention continuing work on the overall KJCC database.

Our 25-year-old building has been giving us problems: electrical, air-conditioning and various varmints seeking shelter from the heat. A hearty thanks from all of us is owed to Jim Boruszak, who shoulders the problems alone since Marty's death. He's doing an awesome job keeping things working smoothly.

Thanks also to Marc Bloom for his hard work keeping the Onegs going during the summer. We always have coffee—leaded



and unleaded—plus a nosh waiting after services. He has done a great job.

On a sad note, we lost a long-time friend, member and big supporter of KJCC with the passing of Jerry Spero. He will be missed, on many levels.

Sunday school is back in full swing. We look forward to seeing the children return.

I hope you're all enjoying the new Member Directory. If you have any corrections or changes, please send an e -mail or call and let me know if you want it sent out to all members.

We are working on this year's Yizkor Book, which will be at KJCC on Yom Kippur. If you will not be here and want a copy mailed to you, please e-mail me as soon as possible and I will have it sent when we get it.

I have an idea for an Adult Education series for our members, which could include digital photography, basic computer skills, and, if anyone is interested, Carol has volunteered to talk about powers of attorney, living wills and last wills and testaments. Please e-mail me with ideas on other subjects you would be interested in.

Steve

Nosh

Kristallnacht Event

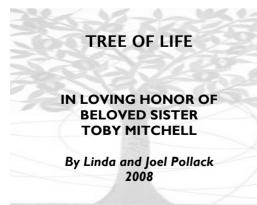
November 9th, 2008 will mark the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, and all over the U.S. and in Europe individuals and organizations are busy preparing activities to commemorate the event.

On that night at the The Mishkenot Sha'ananim conference center, Jerusalem, Israel, which is a project of the Jerusalem Foundation, they will be lighting a symbolic artistic display resembling a destroyed synagogue, planned for 8 p.m. Israel time. The German and Austrian Ambassadors to Israel will be present, as well as Israeli V.I.P.s.

At the same time synagogues in Germany and Austria, as well as in other countries of Europe, will turn on their lights and even add extra spotlights directed at the synagogues. The synagogues will remain illuminated all night.

With the time differences, it will still be daylight in America, but the display at Mishkenot Sha'ananim will remain lit all night long and will be lit again every evening of that week, November 9-13.

The Holocaust committee is planning an event for Kristallnacht Day at the KJCC and we will try to tie it in with the activity of Mishkenot Sha'ananim in Jerusalem.



Years

2nd Barbara and Paul Bernstein	14
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Remembering Jerry Spero

Jerry Spero, who died in September, was a long-time member of the KICC. In fact, he was almost an original member. Jerry was not well known by all of us as he very rarely attended services or other functions, but he was one of our most philanthropic members . Whenever we needed something, he would be there. He was always one of the first to give to any cause our synagogue needed. Jerry and his wife Arlene (who passed away several years ago) lived in Coral Harbour Club for over 25 years. Jerry was an avid fisherman and he fished three times a week on his 44-foot Cabo, named the Ar-Jay after his wife and himself. He and the captain of his boat, Ron Law, were two of the best reef and bottom fisherman in the Keys. It was always a treat to be invited to fish with him, as he was a gracious host. Several of our present and past members, including myself, would be his guest from time to time aboard the Ar-Jay. Jerry liked to dine out at the local restaurants and would always have a large group of friends with him. Those of us who knew him will miss him and those who didn't know him missed a true Keys personality.

-Jim Boruszak

Hebrew Class Reminder

The Ulpan class Level II will begin on the evening of Thursday, October 2nd . Level I Beginners will begin on the afternoon of Friday, October 3rd. Advanced Class Level III will start after Yom Kippur on Thursday, October 16th.

BOOK PLATE

In Loving Memory Of Muriel Jacobson

By Her Husband, Children and Four Grandchildren

So, Where Ya From?

Chai-Lights would like to do a Thanksgiving feature in the November issue. We're looking for stories of how you or your family made the "pilgrimage" to the United States. Are you recent immigrants, or have you been here for generations? Who was the first in your family to land in the "New World?" What brought them here? It can be a story, or just a line or two. Please send any submissions to

chailights@keysjewishcenter.com, or if you prefer, send it to the KJCC address, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070.

YARTZEIT PLAQUE

Remembering Our Amazing Dad, Joel Cohen

Forever in our hearts Missing your blue eyes when we said the "Shema" each Shabbat, Grateful for everlasting memories of you with our children, your grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and their children. We pray for your eternal rest with our beloved MommaShane, Sara. We are so very blessed to be your children.

> Sheila & Richard... And all your Mishpucha

Ongoing Projects

General Donations – can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Call Linda Pollack 852-8575.

Gift Shop - We have many lovely gift and holiday items on hand and can special order for you as well. Contact Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from the Center, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665. **KJCC Tree of Life Leaves** and **Rocks**, **Sanctuary Seat Plates**, **Yartzeit Memorial Plaques**, **Bookplates for Siddurim**. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF Trees in Israel - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214. **Chai-Lights Mitzvah** - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertisement in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for the low annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well.



In Memoriam October 2008

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In Memory Of

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LILLIAN GOLDENBERG

By Bea Graham

In Memory Of

PEARL W. HUROWITZ

By Melvin Jacobson

In Memory Of

STANLEY W. JACOBSON

By Melvin Jacobson

In Memory Of

MURIEL JACOBSON

By Melvin Jacobson

In Memory Of

LEAH KAMELY

By Michal Kamely

In Memory Of

REBEKAH LEVY

By Michal Kamely

In Memory Of

ESTER M. KLEIN

Harvey and Judith Klein

In Memory Of

ELIZA CHRISTENSEN

By Kurt and Nancy Kluger

In Memory Of

FANNIE SEROTT

By David and Shifra Kossman

In Memory Of

IRENE BECKER

By Teresa Kwalick

In Memory Of

JACK LIPPMAN

By Lillian Lippman

In Memory Of

REUBEN OSHINSKY

By Gerald Oshinsky

In Memory Of

RANDI WITTLIN WEISS

By William and Eileen Perman

In Memoriam October 2008

In Memory Of

DAVID FRANK

By Joel and Linda Pollack

In Memory Of

ROSALYN ROSE

By Skip and Rene Rose

In Memory Of

BERTHA KAUFMAN

By Linda Rutkin

In Memory Of

DAVID C. STARK

By Sid Samuels

In Memory Of

MAURICE SINGER

By Lee Schur

In Memory Of

MORTON I. SINGER

By Mary Lee Singer

In Memory Of

SOLOMON FELDER

By Stuart and Geri Smith

In Memory Of

IRA BRUCE STEIN

By Irving Stein

In Memory Of

HERBERT MESSINGER

By Shelby Strean

In Memory Of

ROBERT WOLF

By Edward and Sherry Turney

In Memory Of

HERBERT S. WEIHL

By Alfred and Sue Ann Weihl

In Memory Of

SARAH WERNICOFF

By Donald and Nancy Zinner

In Memory Of

DORAN DAVID ZINNER

By Donald and Nancy Zinner

In Memory Of

LEAH KAMELY

By Michal Kamely

October Birthdays

Michael Gilson2nd
Michael Krissel4th
Eric Pollack5th
Joel Bernard6th
Dan LaGrotte7th
Matthew Kaufman9th
Cynthia ArsenaultI I th
Ólivia LandesI I th
Benay KrisselI2th
Salomon Terner
Paul FriedmanI4th
Alan FieldI5th
Matthew A. SilvermanI5th
Jacqlyn L. BurnettI6th
Ronald KaplanI6th
Kiersten PersoffI6th
Stacey W. SeewaldI7th
Barbara Knowles20th
Alexander L. Burnett21st
Sammy Knowles21st
Michael J. Sundheim21st
Susan Roberts22nd
Marnie Gershowitz24th
Stacy Temkin24th
Jane B. Kwalick
Shyella Mayk29th
Adriana Sherman29th
Patricia Silver29th
Franklin Greenman30th
Katie J. Schur30th
Susan Cooper31st
Brittany Schur31st

MEDA MERCENASTA Yardena Kamely



Thoughts on Yom Kippur, Prayer and Changes

ur High Holidays are about prayers and praying; about *teshuva*, repentance, *vidui*, confession, *ashma*, transgressions, *slichot*, forgiveness and atonement.

In an article in the Jerusalem Report, Dr. leremy Benstein of the Heschel Center for Environmental Learning and Leadership writes about Yom Kippur in Israel, about praver and changes. He thinks that while the Yom Kippur inside an American synagogue may be similar to the Yom Kippur inside an Israeli one, the Yom Kippur outside is very different. Yom Kippur in Israel is by popular choice a "car-free day," when the entire environment is transformed, and the normally car-choked streets are returned to the people. Though only for one day, there is less pollution, less noise, and a feeling of community. The city becomes a village again, as people walk and children ride bikes, enjoying one another and their surroundings in ways that are impossible during the rest of the year.

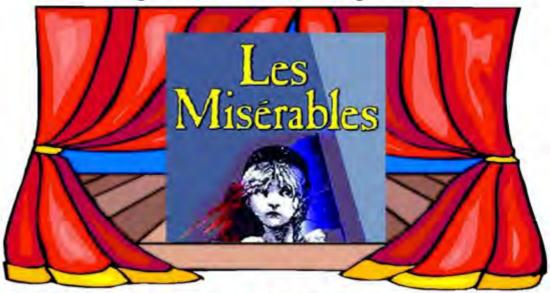
So on Yom Kippur, says Benstein, we create an urban environment that makes us all fellow citizens: "we celebrate commonality and trust, not competition and selfish consumption." This commonality is expressed in the traditional prayers on Yom Kippur. "Despite the emphasis on personal soulsearching and *teshuva*, the main features of the liturgy, such as the oft-repeated *vidui*, confession, and the *Avoda* service, are all phrased in the plural." One reason for this is to reinforce our empathy for other people. Sharing our imperfect humanity with one another through collectively praying comforts us. Bernstein thinks that it also encourages us "to pardon others seeking forgiveness for their wrongs against us."

"Moreover," writes Benstein, "there are collective transgressions that require a shared process of atonement and remediation." He refers to threats to justice and wellbeing of our society that are the result of "environmental sins" (like over-consumption and pollution), and that need to be changed economically and through the political system.

In Benstein's opinion, the *Unetane Tokef* prayer, "with its heartrending passages on who will live and who will die, who by fire and who by water, who by hunger and thirst, and who by poverty," should move us to action to change those "fates" created by societal injustice. Prayer may not change the world, he thinks, but it can change people, who themselves change the world.

As Heschel remarked: "In a free society, only some may be guilty, but all are responsible.If you can stop your household from sinning, but do not, you are responsible for the sins of your household. If you can stop the people of your city from sinning, but do not, you are responsible for the sins of the city. If you can stop the whole world from sinning, and do not, you are responsible for the sins of the whole world" (Tractate Shabbat 54b).

Keys Jewish Community Center



The most celebrated musical of all time and the longest running musical worldwide, Actors' Playhouse proudly produces the first regional production of Cameron Mackintosh's 3-time Tony Award winning musical theatre masterpiece at the Miracle Theatre. Les MisÈrables is an epic saga of social injustice. Full of passion and the triumph of the human spirit, Les MisÈrables recounts the struggle of the French people during the late 1800's. No matter how many times you've seen Les MisÈrables, its heart-wrenching ballads and powerful ensemble will make for an extraordinary experience for the entire family.

> Sunday, March 15, 2009 + 2:00 pm Donation \$35 Call Bea Graham for tickets and information 852-0214

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Preparing for War

Two major hospitals in Israel, Haifa's Rambam Hospital and Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, are building underground facilities in the event of another war. Built by the British 70 years ago and situated between two naval bases, Rambam Hospital became a target for Hezbollah missile attacks during the Israeli-Hezbollah war two years ago. It had no proper bomb shelters and some 20-30 rockets landed nearby, too close for comfort. Most of the hospital wards had to be moved to an underground parking garage and some departments, including the emergency room and intensive care units, couldn't be moved at all and were left totally exposed.

Both Rambam and Ichilov plan to use their new underground facilities as parking lots in peacetime, but they can be converted to 650-bed facilities within 48 hours. (*CNSNews.com, 9-3-08*)

Ambassador Shalev

Gabriela Shalev has begun her term as Israel's first female ambassador to the United Nations. She served as a law professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and was a visiting professor at a number of international institutions, including Harvard and Boston College. Shalev succeeds Dan Gillerman, Israel's U.N. ambassador since January, 2003.

(World Jewish Congress, 9-9-08)

I'll Take the Cash, Thank You.

The Blumberg Family Jewish Community Services of Alabama, which was launched in June, is offering as much as \$50,000 as an incentive to Jewish families willing to relocate and help repopulate the Jewish community of Dothan. Families that stay in Dothan for five years and become active in the local synagogue do not have to repay the grant. According to the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, southern states have seen a growth in Jewish population although recent trends are showing young people leaving small towns and moving to larger cities such as Atlanta. (www.jta.org, 9-9-08)

A Monument Long Overdue

After a visit to Amsterdam, where he saw a monument honoring homosexuals killed in the Holocaust, Tel Aviv city councilman Itai Pinkas contacted Ron Huldai, Tel Aviv's mayor. Pinkas was so moved by the monument that now Tel Aviv is going to have Israel's first memorial to gay victims of the Nazis.

Under Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, homosexuality was outlawed in Germany in 1871. The Nazis took it one step further and, according to Yad Vashem historian Professor David Bankier, about 100,000 homosexuals were arrested and 10,000 to 15,000 were sent to concentration camps. They had to identify themselves by wearing a pink triangle. All victims were males, because at the time, legal persecution applied to gay men and not lesbians.

"In Israel the Jewish aspect [of the Holocaust] is so powerful, that other aspects have been put aside. This is a very good first step." The memorial is scheduled to go up in Gan Meir by mid-winter. (Jerusalem Post, 5-15-08)

Henryk Mandelbaum

Henryk Mandelbaum, one of the last survivors of the Auschwitz "Sonderkommando"

unit, has died at the age of 85. This unit of Jewish prisoners was forced to empty the gas chambers. Mandelbaum claimed to have witnessed the killings of an estimated 300,000 Hungarian Jews over the course of only two months. After the war he gave guided tours of Auschwitz and spent decades teaching young people about what happened during the Holocaust. (World Jewish Congress, 6-18-08)

"For My Father"

On June 28th, the Israeli film, "For My Father." won the People's Choice Award at the annual Moscow Film Festival. It's the story of a would-be Palestinian suicide bomber who falls in love with an Israeli girl. estranged from her Orthodox family. Made by Israeli filmmaker Dror Zahavi, the film is a joint Israeli-German production. The 10-day Moscow festival featured 16 films and, after the screening of each film, the audience was asked to rank the movies on a scale of 1-5. Of all the films, "For My Father" received the highest rating: 4.7. The film festival, founded in 1959, is widely considered one of the ten most important annual events in film screenings.

(www.haaretz.com, 6-29-08)

Salonika Excavation

The remains of a historic Greek Jewish cemetery are in danger of being disturbed due to construction of a new underground train in Salonika. The cemetery dates back to 1492 when Spain expelled its Jews and 20,000 of them found refuge in Salonika, a small Greek town. The cemetery was one of Europe's largest, with more than 300,000 graves when it was destroyed by the Nazis in 1942. During the Holocaust, most of Salonika's Jewish population, about 50,000 Sephardim, were killed by the Nazis. (www.jta.org, 7-1-08)

A Gift That Keeps On Giving

With Kassam rocket attacks almost a daily event, the Israeli city of Sderot, located just over half a mile from the Gaza border, is under siege. The residents of Sderot number over 20.000, with 3.000 of them school-age children. According to recent studies. 75 percent of these children suffer from PTSD including severe anxiety, sleep disorders and nightmares, loss of appetite and trouble in school. Children in kindergarten have no outside play time because when the sirens go off, they only have 15 seconds to seek shelter. Because of this. the lewish National Fund (INF) is planning to build the largest indoor playground in Israel. In this all-inclusive Indoor recreational Center, children will have approximately 20.000 square feet of state-ofthe-art play park equipment, interactive skill games, a small soccer field, volleyball court. and rock climbing simulation as well as three therapy rooms to help children suffering from trauma. (www.jnf.org, 7-2-08)

Elie Wiesel's Day in Court

In a San Francisco hotel in February, 2007. Eric Hunt allegedly attacked and dragged Elie Wiesel out of an elevator in an effort to force the 79-year-old Nobel Peace Prize Laureate to deny the Holocaust and to declare his Holocaust memoir "Night" to be a work of fiction. Hunt was arrested at a New Jersev mental hospital after he boasted about his role in the incident on a web site. Hunt pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to charges of attempted kidnapping, false imprisonment, battery, elder abuse, stalking and a hate crime. Wiesel took the stand and during direct examination stated. "The Holocaust deniers] are not only unfair and unjust, but they are ugly. I don't know how to respond to ugliness..." He went on to say, "To negate someone's memory is a violation of that person's humanity." Hunt was found guilty and faces up to three years in prison. (World Jewish Congress, 7-24-08)

Australia's Book of the Year

Geraldine Brooks' "People of the Book," a novelization of the true story of the preservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, has been named Australia's Book of the Year. Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize-winning former Middle East correspondent for the Wall Street Journal, said she was inspired to write the novel in the aftermath of the war in Bosnia. The heroine of the book is an Australian rare books expert who is asked to conserve the 14th century manuscript, believed to be the oldest Sephardic Haggadah in the world, surviving both the Nazis and then, fifty years later, the Serbian shelling of Bosnia. On permanent display in the National Museum in Sarajevo, the Haggadah is appraised at more than \$700 million. (*www.jta.org, 6-16-08*)

Digitized Torah

A project to digitize the Torah as downloadable sound files was completed by a group from the Music Programming department at New York's Union of Reform ludaism just before Shavuot, the holiday celebrating the giving of the Torah to Moses at Mt. Sinai. In a few months, the project will become available, allowing people to download, for free, all 5.845 verses in the Torah to their digital music players. Twentythree Reform cantors and cantorial students from the New York area recite all the Torah and Haftorah portions using the same musical tones, to provide listeners with a standardized version of Torah chanting. (www.ita.ora, 6-13-08)

Hot "Potato"

Three weeks ago, a tiny little novel with a cute title -The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society-started storming best-seller lists, and driven largely by word of mouth and a sweet back-story, it now has over 200,000 copies in print. The novel, which follows the WWII- era exploits of a Nazifoiling book club(!?), was begun by Mary Ann Shaffer but finished by her niece, Annie Barrows, after Shaffer got sick. Sadly, Shaffer died in February before seeing the success of her work. And now. Hollywood producer Paula Mazur and Florida bookstore owner Mitchell Kaplan, a rather unlikely partnership, have secured the movie rights. "The story is about (a book club), so it's nice to keep the movie within the family of booksellers," Barrows says. "I hope Mary Ann is up there watching all this, and taking pleasure in it." (Entertainment Weekly 8-29-08)

A Polanski/Ratner Joint Production

Jewish filmmakers Brett Ratner and Roman Polanski recently embarked on a road trip through Poland, when Polanski surprised his friend Ratner by suggesting they visit the concentration camp where Polanski's mother perished during WWII.

Ratner, director of movies such as "X-Men 3" and a Miami Beach native, says, "Little did I know Roman was going to take me to Auschwitz on an incursion through his Jewish history. Roman's mother perished at Auschwitz."

Ratner assembled a photo journal of the trip to the former concentration camp, and it appears in the current issue of *Heeb* magazine, which Ratner is also guest editing. *(IMDB.com 9/1/08)*

"Adam Resurrected" To Big Screen

The acclaimed 1968 novel "Adam Ressurected" has been made into a critically praised feature film starring Jeff Goldblum.

Goldblum, who is Jewish, spent over a year researching the role of Adam Stein, a pre-war nightclub performer driven mad by the loss of his family in the Holocaust. By the time film viewers meet him in an Israeli insane asylum in the 1960s, Stein can still dazzle a crowd and can seduce a pretty nurse half his age. But he has lost nearly everything that really matters to him: his family, freedom and sanity.

Through flashbacks, we see Stein in his days as a Jewish entertainer, performing alongside his wife and daughters. They are arrested as the net closes around Germany's Jews and taken to a concentration camp, where Adam's talents catch the eye of a Nazi commandant played by Willem Dafoe.

Goldblum prepared for over a year for the role, visiting Nazi-era concentration camps and speaking to Holocaust survivors. Goldblum said he felt a responsibility to do justice to the material, which deals heavily with "survivor guilt" experienced by many of those who survived Nazi death camps during the war.

Early reviews at the Toronto Film Festival, where "Adam Resurrected" premiered, have been overwhelmingly positive. (*Reuters 9-11-08*) ◊



Photo Gallery

Summer is a slow time at KJCC, but there's still life. For those of you not here in the summer, here's what KJCC looks like when boarded up for a hurricane, as it

was for Ike. Above and left, scenes from S'lichot, the service that begins the High Holy Day period. Bernie and Yardena led the service, and there was pizza, too, beautifully modeled by Stuart and Muriel, and a movie. Below, Sunday School has begun. Our thanks to Richard Knowles for his profes-

sional expertise and time to take these









A SPECIAL SHABBAT MOMENT

By Stuart Sax

t took us nearly five years to take a longdeserved vacation. In June, Lauren and I spent a week on the Freedom of the Seas cruise ship. It is the largest ship in the Royal Caribbean fleet and one of the largest cruise ships on the ocean. There were more than 4,000 passengers.

Why is this worth mentioning? Because, in my guess-timation and limited eyesight, I figured that of the 4,000 passengers about 5-10 percent could be Jewish. That would mean between 200 and 400 Jews on board.

Why is this worth mentioning? The day we boarded the ship we visited the library, where there was a notebook to sign up for Sabbath services, which were to be held on Friday evening in the conference room on deck two. We signed up. I even told Lauren that with our experience here at the KJCC, maybe we could help lead the service.

Each day I visited the library to see how many other Jewish passengers would be joining us for Shabbat observance. By Thursday afternoon there was only one other name in the notebook under ours.

Even with such an underwhelming response to observing the Sabbath, I was compelled to visit the conference room on deck two just to see how many Jews would show up even though they had not signed up. I arrived a few minutes early. There were about 100 chairs set up with a podium next to a long table with two large challahs, four bottles of kosher wine, and about 50 wine glasses. That would indicate that a reasonable turnout was expected by the cruise line.

Nearly ten minutes after the service was supposed to begin a woman from Colombia walked in. We spoke for a few minutes and she said that her family was back in their stateroom and they would have their own service there. She proceeded to take half a challah, a bottle of wine, four glasses and exit the conference room.

Alone again, I decided to remain and, at least, say Kaddish when the door opened and a petite, frail woman, likely in her eighties and with a cane, entered. I said, "Good Shabbos" and she replied, in a thick eastern European accent, "Shabbat Shalom." We exchanged first names only. Hers was Sophie. We commented to each other on the more than sparse turnout but agreed that even though there were only two of us, it was still the Sabbath.

Sophie proceeded to light the Shabbat candles and recite the blessing. I read several of the prayers from the service order provided by the cruise line. We recited Kaddish together and then blessed the challah and wine and shared a bit of conversation before leaving.

Why is this worth mentioning? Sophie told be that wherever she is on Friday evening, she observes the Sabbath; be it in a synagogue or in a hotel room. She rotated her left arm and showed me the fading imprint on her arm and told me that she is a Holocaust survivor now living in Canada. She is the only remaining member of her immediate family. I then told her of our small congregation in the Florida Keys and how we came to receive our holocaust Torah from the small village of Susice in the former Czechoslovakia.

Why is this worth mentioning? Sophie told me that she was born and raised less than 100 miles from Susice. So wherever you are this evening, Sophie, thank you again for a very special moment, and from all of us at the KJCC, Shabbat Shalom. ◊

Jean Lafitte Lewish Pirate of the Garibbean

Pirates may be all the rage lately, but you wouldn't know from the Disney blockbuster movie trilogy that many of the buccaneers were also Jewish. Hollywood past and present usually portrays pirates as rebellious English seamen, but several recent books

uncover the Jewish roots of the real Pirates of the Caribbean—most notably the well known Jean Lafitte.

Even in the 1800s, Jews as pirates would have been nothing new. Jewish historian Flavius Josephus recorded that Hycanus accused Aristobulus of "acts of piracy at sea." That's pretty cleancut!

But the number of Jewish pirates increased dramatically after Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492. In his as-yet untitled book, author Ed Kritzler states that "The Jewish pirates were Sephardic. Once they were kicked out of Spain, in 1492, the more adventurous Jews went to the New World." Later, during the Spanish Inquisi-

tion, many more Jews turned to piracy. Although some were just trying to make a better life for themselves, others were out for revenge against the Spanish. It's hard to know just how many pirates were Jewish, since many of them would have lived as "Conversos," or converts to Christianity, and would have only practiced Judaism in secret.

This was the case with Jean Lafitte. In her

book "Jews on the Frontier," author Rachelle Simon cites Rabbi I. Harold Sharfman on the history of Jean Lafitte. According to Rabbi Sharfman, Jean Lafitte was a Sephardic Jew. Lafitte's grandmother had become a Converso and fled Spain after her husband was executed in the Inquisition for "Judaizing." In



1765 she fled to France with Lafitte's mother. Jean Lafitte was then born in France in 1780. During the Napoleonic period, he moved to French Santo Domingo.

Eventually. Lafitte wound up as a Pirate of the Caribbean. He operated out of a "pirate village" in the swamps around New Orleans. He didn't have just one pirate ship, but a whole fleet of them. Also known as The Corsair. Lafitte even owned his own shop in New Orleans, disquised as a blacksmith shop, to fence his pirated aoods. Although his revenge against the Spanish was condoned during the War of 1812 (he even had 1,000 men serving under him during the war), he was eventually run out of post-war New Orleans as

'undesirable.' He moved his operation to the island of Galveston, Texas, then known as Campeche, and during the Mexican fight for independence from Spain was once again encouraged to attack the Spanish fleet and keep the loot.

Lafitte was one of the few Buccaneers who didn't die in battle or on the gallows. Lafitte died from fever in 1826 at the age of 47. \Diamond

Steve and Carol's Israel Adventure

Or, how to go visit the cradle of Jewish civilization and come home needing a vacation.

By Carol Steinbock

Unforgettable! A once-in-alifetime experience! A ten-day whirlwind! Steve's sister Rosemary (Ro) had decided to go to Israel this year. We were going to wait a year or so but decided to go with her. So the three of us decided on a group tour in mid-May. It seemed like a good idea at the time. But I now believe that tours are only for insom-

niacs, people without arthritis and people who can tirelessly walk miles every day. We got our wakeup calls by 6 a.m. Breakfast was at 7 a.m. We were on the bus at 8 a.m., and off we went, every day.

The first five days, we stayed in Jerusalem. Driving from the airport into Jerusalem, we stopped to view the city lights at night and recite the *Shehechayanu* blessing. Entering



All was smiles and anticipation on the bus the first day in Jerusalem.



Steve and Carol on a scenic overlook on Jerusalem's west side, near Yad Vashem.

the city, we went to the Western Wall where we saw throngs of people praying, singing and dancing (men and women separated, with a makeshift wall between them). We visited the Wall a number of times, and no matter when we were there, we always saw people praying, day or night. The Wall is more than just a visual icon and the constant murmur of prayers, it is a feeling that we will never forget.

We explored the Western Wall tunnels. There is a "secret passage," large halls and then a section that is on the other side of the Western Wall (underground). The passage is very long and becomes more and more narrow until it is less than four feet wide and the ceiling height drops until it is only about seven feet high. This is where I learned that I am claustrophobic. I had to turn back (Stephen stayed with me) and wait for our group to go down to the narrowest end and come back. We waited in a section that was wider, with a higher ceiling, in an area where



In a little shop on a winding street in Jerusalem's Jewish sector, Steve has *tfillin* laid for the first time in, oh, a while.

men, women and children regularly came and sat on two chairs that face the wall underground and prayed. Ro had no such problems and said it was great.

We visited the Jaffa Gate and walked the Old City through the winding cobblestone streets or alleys. This was on Shabbat, and we went to the Christian, Armenian and Moslem Quarters. We walked the Via Dolorosa and toured the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is said to hold the tomb where Jesus was buried. (I'd promised my mother.) Then it was on to the Tower of David, a museum What can one say about Israel's memorial to the Holocaust and Children's Museum? Everything about it and all it contains is a reminder of that horrible tragedy, one of the darkest periods in the history of mankind. The memorial is huge. There are audio displays, films, photos, testaments and recollections of survivors, personal artifacts. Torah scrolls. breastplates and other silver ornamentation from synagogues pillaged by the Nazis. One would have to spend days there to really take it all in. I know no words that can adequately express my feelings during my time there. The closest I can come is to say that I felt an overwhelming and profound sorrow and sense of quilt that men could do such

things to men and that men would stand by and allow it to happen. When we left, we had a *Yizkor* service on the bus.

Another day, back on the bus at 8 a.m. and on to Masada and south along the Dead Sea. We stopped along the way at an animal preserve. The land is desert and hills. We were told that there are natural springs from which they pipe water to various locations to water plants and to drink. The Dead Sea is really something. Yes, it really is soooo salty you float whether you want to or not, which is quite a sensation. Even Rosemary, who can't swim and is afraid of the water, went in and, sure enough, she floated! And there were lots of people covering themselves with black mud, which is supposed to be great for the skin. Not me!

and climbing the walls of the city. This was all in one day.

The next day led us to Mount Scopus to enjoy the wonderful views of Jerusalem, then back to the Old City, this time to the Jewish Quarter where we saw the excavated Roman *Cardo* and then back again to the Western Wall.

Yad Vashem:

A panoramic view of the Kotel plaza.



We went to the Hadassah University Hospital synagogue to see the Chagall windows. Absolutely beautiful and lots of symbolism. We learned that a number of them were badly damaged during one of the wars and Chagall replaced them. Then it was on to an archeological site to DIG. Yes, here we were, twenty adults, nicely attired, all on our hands and knees digging in the dirt to try to find artifacts. I know there was not one of us who did not have a great time, even though we all got filthy. We all found some kind of pottery Six-Day War, and saw the line dividing Israel (green grass and trees) from Lebanon (brown dirt). Then, to a kibbutz for dinner and to hear about their daily lives.

In Tiberius, our hotel overlooked the Sea of Galilee. Lovely. There were people camp-

shards or pieces of formal bric-a-brac, or as I like to call them, *chatchkas*. I only found a few small broken pieces. Steve had more luck and Ro did the best of all three of us.

Kabbalah country - Safed - is beautiful in its own way: cobblestone streets, artsy, lots of wonderful shops. I bought a rose-colored scarf and some cards; handwritten in tiny print is the story of Noah on one and



The world-famous Bahai Gardens in Haifa. No part-time gardeners here.

the Lord is My Shepherd on the other. I took photos of Stephen wearing *tfillin*. We visited a tiny temple with magnificent torah coverings. Then off to a raft ride on the Jordon River. Lots of fun. Then on to the Golan Heights for a jeep tour. We heard about the



picnicking on the shore. We went on a short boat ride. Leaving Tiberius, we traveled northwest to Rosh HaNikra. where we took a cable car ride down to lovely grottos in the rocks on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. I could swear I heard the sighs of the voung lewish

ing in tents or just

maiden who threw herself into the sea rather than be forced into an arranged marriage.

We stopped in Acre, a crusader stronghold, and then on to Haifa, where we had just a glimpse of the magnificent Bahai Gardens, which I think was Stephen the Gardener's favorite place of all.

Our last stop was Tel Aviv. At last, a day to ourselves. We decided to be lazv.

Steve, Carol and Rosemary pan for chatchkas at one of Israel's many digs.

We went to the beach, Ro and I splashing in the water, and walked along the boardwalk, peoplewatching and enjoying the sun. And all too soon, it was time to return home to the United States, laden with souvenirs, photos and lots of wonderful memories to cherish.

Israel is so much more than a place to visit. It is homeland. It is history, not only of the Jewish people, but also of civilization, dating back more than 10,000 years BCE. If you haven't been there, *go.* If you have, *return.* We will. Just not on a tour. \Diamond



The Musical

Based on the best selling book "Dish and Tell" written by 6 high powered Miami women, Miami Bombshells celebrates its World Premier at the Actors Playhouse. The musical, like the book, is a compilation of vignettes based on the stories of how the women juggled their personal and professional lives, which will leave the audience nodding in understanding, winking in complicity, and howing with laughter. Set to an original pop score, Miami Bombshells provides a look at the rollen coaster that is life. Some of the stories are funny, some are full of raw emotions; others are outragious. Every woman will see a bit of begrent on stage, and both men and women will be moved, touched and entertained by this brand new musical.

Sunday, January 18 2009 • 2:00 pm Actors Playhouse• Coral Gables Donation \$30 Call Bea Graham for tickets and information 852-021

Yom Kippur and Sukkot

The last two holidays of the Jewish year, just before Bereshit, are rich in tradition and stories. Our section last month was so well received, and there is such a rich trove of information, that we decided to fill you up. You'll be fasting soon enough.

All original line art courtesy of Gloria Avner

The following was adapted from a posting by Ozzie Nogg on the United Jewish Communities web site, ujc.org.

L s Rosh Hashanah really the birthday of the world? Well, the Hebrew letters in the word *Bereshit* -- In the Beginning -- can be rearranged to make the words 1 Tishri -- the date of Rosh Hashanah -- so who needs more proof?!

Then again, another Midrash says the world was created on 25 Elul, making Rosh Hashanah/1 Tishri fall on the sixth day of Creation -- the day God made man. The logic being that the beginning of humanity marked the real beginning of Creation. Nice thought!

Did you know the zodiac sign for Tishri is the scales? Makes sense, since Tishri is the month when all our deed are weighed up there in The Big Court.

Now, we can't discuss the New Year without discussing the shofar -- that prayer without words -- said to echo the consciousstricken human voice. Think about it. *Tekiah* is a deep moan. *Teruah*, a wavering sob. And *Shevarim*, a broken groan. These different sounds, according to folklore, are tenderly carried to God by special angels.

Getting even a few squeaks out of the shofar (let alone the regulation one hundred) isn't easy, and an accomplished Ba'al Tekiah (the ones who do the tooting) is a treasure. The less skilled sometimes put a trumpet mouthpiece into the shofar, but such brazen chutzpah deserves no further discussion. By the way, the shofar is curved, according to the sages, to symbolize the bent back of the humble penitent. Very poetic, those sages.

At the main Rosh Hashanah meal, serve the head of a fish to the head of the household as a symbol of his/her leadership and wisdom. In some communities they go for broke and serve up the head of a sheep! (I dare you...)

Don't eat nuts on Rosh Hashanah. Why? Because the Hebrew word for nuts -- through some Gematric trickery -- has the same numerological value as the Hebrew word for sin.

And why apples and honey and not mangoes and honey? Because God's presence, according to the Zohar, is like an apple orchard.

When making *tzimmis*, cut the carrots in rounds so they look like coins. That will bring a sweet year and a prosperous year, as well.

The challah should be round, too, so your year will roll 'round smoothly with no unhappy bumps. Some of the challah can be shaped like birds to symbolize God's sheltering protection. Top others with winged figures to symbolize our hopes to be more like angels. Or decorate your challah with ladders to help your prayers reach heaven. And as a reminder that this year God will raise some men up and lower

others. A sobering thought, surely... In the



shtetl, the highlight of the Ten Days of Repentance between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was Shabbat Shuvah -- the Sabbath of return. That's when the rabbi gave THE SER-MON, a scathing harangue during which he mercilessly berated the congregation for their sins. The rabbi wept. The people wept. The sermon took HOURS, and why not? Back then, the Rabbi spoke (get this!) only twice a year (at Passover and on Shabbat Shuvah) so he had to make up for lost time, after all.

To give tzedakah before a holiday is important.

To give tzedakah before Yom Kippur is imperative. Charity, along with prayer and repentance, is central to Yom Kippur. So pick your favorite cause and send them a check.

In the olden days, people were flogged on the day before Yom Kippur. That custom, happily, has been abolished.

In the olden days, people paid their synagogue dues IN FULL on the day before Yom Kippur. That custom we should bring back! [Somewhere Linda is nodding - ed.]

Remember, if a person comes to you before Yom Kippur and apologizes for a wrong he committed against you, you must forgive him. Don't keep grudges. And don't seek vengeance. If you don't forgive those who did you wrong, your prayers will not be heard on Yom Kippur. According to tradition, only one who forgives will have his own sins forgiven.

And you can ask forgiveness even of the dead. Just go with ten men to the grave of the injured party and ask forgiveness while you walk around the grave three times -- barefooted, preferably. If the grave is too far away for you to visit, you may send others to offer your apology. All of which proves it's never to late to make peace with neighbors and family.

Now, for any of you unfamiliar with schlogging *kappores*, here's the simple formula. On the day before Yom Kippur, swing a live hen or rooster around your head three times while saying, "This is my substitute, my atonement. This bird will die but I will live a long, pleasant and peaceful life." Having thus transferred your sins to the fowl, you slaughter the traumatized bird and give its meat to the poor. The Hebrew word, *gever*, means both rooster and man, so the fowl does seem a logical scapegoat, though it is rumored the rich performed *kappores* using a ram or a lamb or a goat, which is truly mind-boggling.

The *kaporres* ceremony appealed greatly to the masses, but many rabbis, not surprisingly, were appalled by it, calling the ritual as bad as idol worship or, more succinctly, stupid.

Today, charity money wrapped in a handkerchief is commonly used instead of the rooster, but without the feathers flying the whole ceremony loses most of its charm, if you ask me.

The Talmud says, "Just as it is a mitzvah to fast on Yom Kippur, so it is a mitzvah to

The Talmud on Repentance:

One cannot atone via an act which is, itself, sinful: *Temurah 20b*

Repentance was created before the universe: *Pesachim 54a; Nedarim 39b*

Repentance is considered to be an act of wisdom: *Nedarim 32b*

Repentance is always possible, even until death: *Berachot 10a-b*

There is always hope, even for the fully evil: *Eruvin 21a-b*

One should repent daily, because it may be your last day: *Shabbat 153a*

Repentance brings the Redemption: Yuma 86b

Repentance brings physical rejuvenation: *Yuma 86a*

Repentance is more effective than [100 sets of] whippings: *Berachot 7a*

Repentance of an individual Causes Forgiveness for the World: Yuma 86b

Repentance Extends Life: Yuma 86b Repentance is preferable to the punishment of the wicked: Berachot 10a eat well on the day before." Especially kreplach! Why? Because the meat signifies stern judgment, but the dough in which the meat is wrapped represents the softness of God's mercy and justice. (Some Midrashim are a bit of a stretch, aren't they?)

Important! Make sure this meal is easy to digest and not salty -- so you don't get too thirsty during the fast. And eat early enough so you have time to get to *Kol Nidre*, which, according to tradition, is repeated three times, to make sure it's heard even by latecomers.

As to *Kol Nidre* -- The prayer that stirs our souls and psyches is really just a legal statement releasing us -- as you know -- from all vows and obligations made from this Yom Kippur to the next. What you may not know is that rabbis long debated the merits of *Kol Nidre*, feeling its intent can be misunderstood by lew and non-lew alike.

Does *Kol Nidre* allow us to blithely make promises we don't intend to keep? Do the words mean Jews can't be trusted? How can we vow "unwittingly" and how can *Kol Nidre* cancel vows made to this One but not to that one? There are rabbinic explanations for all of this, of course, but maybe we should just follow the advice of the Talmud and not vow at all.

Meanwhile, some Reform congregations start their Yom Kippur services not with *Kol Nidre* but with Psalm 130, as did the Jews of ancient Palestine. It's

chanted to the traditional *Kol Nidre* melody, though, so old customs, apparently, die hard.

Al Chet -- For the Sins -- is one of the most important prayers of Yom Kippur. Interestingly enough, the word chet doesn't mean sin, but "to miss the mark." In other words, we're not wicked. We're just a bit off target.

Bathing for pleasure on Yom Kippur is traditionally forbidden, but the Code of Jew-

ish Law says it's okay for a new bride to wash her face "so that she becomes not repulsive to her husband." And how about the face of the husband, one wonders...

One last thing! It's customary to start building your Sukkah immediately after you get home from Yom Kippur services. Just hammer in one nail. It shows that our devotion to God never stops and that our observance of His mitzvot is continuous. How continuous? The day after Yom Kippur it's customary to get up earlier than usual to go to services so Satan can't say to God, "Look! Yom Kippur is barely over and already Your people are too lazy to get up for morning minyan." (Those Talmudists thought of everything.)

There's an amazing discussion in the *Talmud.* It's one of those Hillel and Shammai

It's customary to start building your Sukkah immediately after you get home from Yom Kippur services. disagreements. For two and a half years *Beit Shammai* and *Beit Hillel* argued over the following issue: *Beit Shammai* saying, 'It would have been better for humanity had we not been created, rather than being created.' And these *Beit Hillel* saying, 'It is better for humanity that we were created, rather than not having been created.'"

The Schools of Hillel and Shammai are not debating here about some prosaic *halakhic* matter or some esoteric theological point. They know sufferingno less than we know suf-

fering. They know despair--no less than we know despair. For two and a half years they debate the awesome question: Would it have been better if we had not been created? And finally, both schools together came to a final decision: 'It would have been better for humanity had we not been created, rather than being created.'"

It's amazing! How can they conclude that

way? How can our spiritual leaders leave us with such a despairing conclusion about life? But that's not the final line in their discussion. Here's the next line: "Now, since we have been created, we should examine our deeds." It might have been preferable that we had never been created--and yet we *were* created. It might have been preferable that the world, with all of its imperfections, had never been created--and yet it *was* created. Like it or not, we're here. Whether life is predictable or not, we're here. Whether life

is easy or not, we're here. And our existence does matter. And the way we live our lives does matter.

Ultimately, we can't predict the way our lives will unfold. We can neither predict, nor prevent, suffering in life. Ultimately, there is one measure of control that we can exert in a world in which we have so little control. We can decide how we are going to live our lives. We can decide how much meaning we are going to try to inject into our lives. We can decide whether we will fill our lives with *mitzvot*—with assertion

of meaning—or with despair. We can decide whether we are going to connect ourselves to God--and that includes doubting God, struggling with God, shaking our fists at God whether we're going to derive guidance and support from God to see us through our struggles, or whether we're going to go it alone. No one suffered more than Job, who probably never existed. There's one opinion in the Talmud that the Book of Job is only a fiction, a parable about human suffering. Job didn't really exist, but he does really exist: Each of us is Job, in a way. Each of us suffers more than we think we should. Yom Kippur in the Warsaw Ghetto

From the book "Reut" (Friendship) compiled by Ehud Manor, a story of

Yom Kippur during the Holocaust, told by Moshe Prager. It has been translated from the Hebrew by Yardena Kamely.

The young Partisan was remembering:

I am a Partisan from the Warsaw Ghetto. I had the opportunity to fight in a battle against the Nazis twice. I took part in both revolts of the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto. The second revolt, the last, was on *Pesach* (1943), and the bat-

tle went on till the last bullet we had in our hands. When there were no bullets left, I managed to hide in the sewer canal and to pass from there to the Aryan part of the city.

In 1944, when the general revolt of Christian Warsaw finally began, I went to war against the Nazis again. We fought alongside the Polish people, although many of them were not treating us better than the Nazis did. But at that time we forgot all [cheshbonot, accounts] with the Polish. We knew that the war against the Nazis was something we all had in common. In the beginning the Polish fighters received us nicely. But later, when they had many losses and great difficulties, they started to blame us, the Jews. During those days, when we had to watch out for bullets from the Nazis on one side, and the bullets of our Polish comrades

Each of us suffers more than we think we should. from the other, suddenly one of the Jewish fighters remembered that Yom Kippur had come. There was a great will to gather and to pray together.

We gathered in the attic of one of the hospitals for *Kol Nidrei* prayer. One by one they came, young men, the last remnants of the Jewish community of Great Poland, to the prayer that unites the Jews all over the world. But we had no *machzor* or *siddur* [prayer book] in our possession, and none of the young men knew the prayer by heart. We didn't know what to do. Finally, we decided that each of us should write on a notepaper the [*pasuk or psukim*] chapter or verses from Yom Kippur prayers that he remembered. We collected all the notes and our cantor started to read.

"And we will forgive the whole congregation of *B'nei Yisrael*

[Ashamnu. Bagadn. Gazaln. Dibarnu Dofi.....] We have trespassed, we have dealt treacherously, we have robbed, we have spoken slander........[AI Chet Sh'chatanu Lefanecha....] For the sin which we have committed before Thee........[Shmah koleinu Adonai Eloheinu] Heavenly Father, heed our cry......."

We prayed, and we felt that these fragments of prayer, from the last Jews in Warsaw, were in fact the complete prayer of "*Kol Nidrei.*" wisdom to the next generation from mouth to ear. We often tell our truths through stories. The Jewish people have good memories, strong intent, and a flair for the dramatic. The best and most loved Jewish teachers throughout the ages have transmitted history, values, ethics, and worldview not through cold, rigid lecture but through very human stories. They make us laugh and cry and fear and think and learn.

I was mailina a storvbook to our "talmidim" last week, for them to hear and discuss before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. As I addressed the package, I thought: why should our children be the only ones to enjoy this most loved story of the Baal Shem Tov? The man who is re-telling the story, Eric *Kimmel, heard it first from his grandmother* when he was six vears old. None of us are too old to be told not to sweep our misdeeds under a rug (or down basement steps), or how our misdeeds can haunt us. None of us are so pure as to not need a reminder of the true nature of T'shuvah. As you read this story, hear the voice of a beloved grandparent telling it to you, or better yet, hear your own voice telling it to a grandchild. It is a gift to all of us as we contemplate the "Days of Awe." You may well want to buy the book. The pictures are exquisite. We now have a copy in our KICC library. -Gloria

-Gioria

On Teaching, Learning, and Telling Stories

Before there were schools and books and alphabets, there was still a need to share, to impart. There was no Torah to study for the children of Sarah, Rachel, Rebeccah and Leah. For millennia, in every culture in the most remote parts of the world, elders passed **Gershon's Monster**

Retold by Eric Kimmel

The city of Costantsa stands on the shores of the Black Sea. Many years ago, a man named Gershon and his wife, Fayga, lived there.

No, Gershon was not always the best person he could be. True, the mistakes he made were not huge. They were common, ordinary things: a broken promise, a temper lost for no reason, a little untruth told here and there. But unlike most people, Gershon never regretted what he did. He never apologized or asked anyone's forgiveness.

This way of behaving becomes a habit. Gershon paid no attention to how he treated others and he didn't care. For he could shed his mistakes and thoughtless acts like a dog sheds hair. Every Friday, Gershon swept them up and tossed them into the cellar.

Then, once a year on Rosh Hashanah, he stuffed them into a sack, dragged the enormous bundle down to the sea, and tossed it

"Foolish man. I will do what you ask, but you will regret it." in But selfishness and thoughtless deeds are never disposed of so easily. There is always a price to pay, as Gershon was about to

learn.

Now Gershon was a baker, an important man in town. But he and his wife were childless. They wanted a child more than anything in the world.

One day, Gershon's wife heard of a *tzaddik*, a wonder rabbi, who lived in the town of Kuty. Perhaps the *tzaddik* can give us a child," Fayga said to her husband.

"I will go to Kuty and see," Gershon answered. So Gershon harnessed his horse to the wagon and set out.

The journey took many days. Gershon asked a stranger how to get to the *tzaddik's* house. Of course, he didn't say, "thank you."

When Gershon arrived, he barged through the door without knocking. The *tzaddik* frowned and said, "One does not buy children the way one buys chickens. But your wife is a good woman. For her sake, I will see if anything can be done."

The *tzaddik* closed his eyes his began to pray. Gershon fidgeted impatiently. The clock on the wall ticked away the minutes. At last, the *tzaddik* opened his eyes.

"Be thankful for all that you have. Do not ask for more."

"What kind of answer is that?" Gershon cried. "If God cannot give me a child, at least tell me the reason why!"

The *tzaddik's* eyes searched the depths of Gershon's soul. "Did you think you could live so thoughtlessly forever? The sea cried out because you have polluted her waters. God is angry with you. Accept God's judgment. Your recklessness will bring your children more sorrow than you can imagine.

"I will take that risk," Gershon said selfishly.

"Foolish man. I will do what you ask, but you will regret it."

The *tzaddik* took a piece of parchment and wrote upon it with a quill pen. After the ink dried, he folded the parchment in half and gave it to Gershon. "Have your wife wear this around her neck. In one year's time she

> "If something is going to harm my children, tell me now so I can protect them."

will give birth to twins, a boy and a girl. They will be all you desire. They will be with you for five years."

"And then?" Gershon asked. "What strange prophecy is this? If something is going to harm my children, tell me now so I can protect them."

"You cannot protect them," the *tzaddik*

said. "On the morning of their fifth birthday, they will go down to the sea." He paused. "Enjoy your precious children while you can. Do not ask for more."

Gershon threw himself at the *tzaddik's* feet. "What will happen at the sea?" Gershon pleaded. "At least give me a sign!"

The *tzaddik* spoke with a steady voice. "The day you put two stockings on one foot and storm around the house looking for the missing stocking is the day your children

will . . . enough! I can say no more!"

Gershon kissed the tzaddik's hand. "Holy man, you have saved my children's lives. I will remember your words and be watchful. Furthermore, I will repent for all my wrongdoings."

The *tzaddik* shook his head. "You will forget everything as soon as you return home. Go now, unhappy man. I can do nothing for you."

Gershon returned home. Just as the *tzaddik* predicted, he soon forgot everything except the promise of children. Fayga wore the charm faithfully. In a year's time she gave birth to twins. They were the most beautiful children Gershon had ever seen. They named the boy loseph and the girl Sarah. The twins grew up healthy and strong. They spent whole summers at the beach, running on the sand and swimming in the sparkling water.

And Gershon went on behaving as recklessly as ever, sweeping his thoughtless acts into the cellar. And once a year, he stuffed them into a sack and dragged them down to the sea.

Five years passed. One August morning, Gershon awoke with the sun pouring in his window. It was scarcely eight o'clock, yet the air hung heavy with heat. Gershon reached for his clothes. He pulled on his shirt, then his trousers, and finally his left stocking. The heat made his head swim. He sat down on

Yom Kippur being a day of worship and fasting, it's good to set aside some time to pray and meditate alone. Read Rebbe Nachmann of Bratslav's prayer and think about the ways in which you are part of the natural world that surrounds you. Contemplate in what ways you can contribute to preserve and enhance the beauty of the world? How can you be of assistance to the world?

Rebbe Nachmann's Prayer:

Master of the Universe, grant me the ability to be alone.

May it be my custom to go outdoors each day among the trees and grasses, Among all growing things,

There to be alone and enter into prayer. There may I express all that is in my heart,

Talking with Him to whom I belong. And may all grasses, trees, and plants

Awake at my coming.

Send the power of their life into my prayer,

Making whole my heart and my speech through the life and spirit of growing things,

Made whole by their transcendent Source.

Oh! That they would enter my prayer! Then would I fully open my heart in prayer, supplication, and holy speech; Then, O God, would I pour out the words of my heart before Your Presence. the bed to collect himself, and without thinking, took his right stocking and drew it over his left foot. Then he started to put on his shoes. "Where is my other stocking?" Gershon grumbled when he noticed that his right foot was bare. "Who has taken it?" he roared as he stormed through the house.

Fayga laughed. "No one has taken your stocking. Look at your feet. You have put two stockings on one foot."

Gershon's face suddenly turned pale as he remembered the *tzaddik's* prophecy. "Where are the children?" He cried frantically.

"At the seashore, where they always are."

As soon as Gershon heard the words "at the seashore," he ran out the door.

"Come back!" Fayga cried. "You forgot your shoes!"

But Gershon had no time for shoes. He tore down the path to the beach. "Dear God", he cried, "let me not be too late."

And then he saw them, Sarah and Joseph, playing at the water's edge. Gershon cupped his hands to his mouth and shouted, "Come away from there!" But he was out of breath, and his voice did not carry far. The children waved and went back to their play. Sarah chased Joseph into the water.

All at once, the sky grew dark, as if a cloud had covered the sun. But it was no cloud. Gershon saw it rising from the sea: an immense black monster covered with scales like iron plates. On each scale was written one of Gershon's misdeeds. "Father! Save us!" the children cried out as the monster came toward them.

Gershon ran as he had never run before. He pushed the children aside and threw himself down before the monster. Looking up into the creature's glittering eyes, he pleaded for forgiveness.

"I know what you are. You are my pride and selfishness coming back to me, just as the *tzaddik* foretold. Please have mercy. Spare my children. Why punish them for my thoughtless deeds? Take me instead."

For the first time in his life, Gershon truly felt sorry for all of his wrongdoings. Heartbroken, he kneeled before the monster and awaited his end.

But it never came. The monster rose into the air like a great cloud. Its scales melted into raindrops that fell like a summer shower, cleansing the sea.

Gershon carried Sarah and Joseph home to breakfast. The whole family blessed their food and offered thanks for God's mercy.

Then Gershon went down into his cellar and scrubbed each crack and corner until every trace of his old ways was gone. He scrubbed his soul, too, until it shined like a pair of Sabbath candlesticks. Never again did he throw another bundle into the sea. And never again did he see the monster.

When Joseph and Sarah grew up, they made sure to tell this story to their children every Yom Kippur, as I am now telling it to you. Remember it. For if you keep your soul clean, your best self will always shine through as surely as raindrops cleanse the sea.

Yom Kippur and Hitchadshut

by Yardena Kamely

The Hebrew word *Hitchadshut* comes from the root (*shoresh*) *ch'd'sh'*, which builds words that have something to do with "new", and means renewal. Usually *Hitchadshut* involves changes, new beginnings, making choices and decisions. *Yamim Nora'im* (High Holidays) give us a time for meditation, a time to think about our spiritual life. We can take the time to meditate on renovating our souls, and as with other renewals we need to think of a renovation project. To complete our project, we must first start with a vision, a plan. A vision of where we are heading and what we would like the renewed model of ourselves to resemble.

Franz Rosenzweig (1886-1929) was an influential 20th-century German-Jewish existentialist thinker and lewish educator. Rosenzweig's parents belonged to an assimilated Jewish family with little attachment to Judaism or Jewish life. He himself, although extremely well educated in general German culture and especially proficient in the classics of philosophy, had, at first, hardly any Jewish knowledge. A cousin who had become a Christian urged Rosenzweig to take the same step. The story has often been told of how Rosenzweig felt that if he was to be converted to Christianity he ought to do so as a lew, moving, as he saw it at the time, from a lower to a higher form of religion. While contemplating his conversion, he attended an Orthodox synagogue in Berlin on Yom Kippur. There he was so profoundly overcome by the devotion of the worshippers as they sought forgiveness from the God of their fathers that he realized there was no need for him to find his salvation outside his ancestral faith.

Berlin, Germany, Yom Kippur, October 11, 1913:

This will be my last *Yom Kippur* before I become a Christian, thought Franz

Rosenzweig as he entered an Orthodox synagogue on *Yom Kippur*. He cast curious glances at the men sitting around him, each clad in a *Kittl* – the white ceremonial garment that symbolizes purity, holiness, and new beginnings. Franz had never seen anything like this, and he marveled at the sea of whiteness that surrounded him. The congregants smiled politely, but they remained aloof from the young stranger who, they noticed, frequently fumbled with his *Machzor* (High Holidays prayer book) while looking for the page.

These pious Jews could never understand the religious doubts that have tortured me, Franz thought, nor would they have tolerated the endless discussions about Jesus I've had with my cousin Hans, who converted to Christianity. "Judaism is a relic of the past," Hans had insisted. Ultimately, Franz agreed, but because he vowed to enter the church as a Jew – like Christianity's earliest founders – he decided to stand one last time with the Jewish people....at least, that's what he intended.

"Avinu Malkeinu, chaneinu v'aneinu," pleaded the exhausted congregation as it stood in the evening twilight at Yom Kippur's end. "God, be gracious and answer us!" The gates of Teshuvah were closing, and Franz felt as if he alone were standing before the Divine Judge. At this moment, he realized, he felt as close to God as humanity can ever be.

After his *Hitchadshut*, Franz Rosenzweig devoted himself to Judaism and Jewish studies, and in 1920 established in Berlin the *Lehrhaus*, where Jewish teachers of high renown lectured on many aspects of Jewish life and thought. This remarkable institution provided German Jews with opportunities to follow Rosenzweig in the quest for a Judaism that spoke to their condition and would be authentic for them. Towards the end of his short life, Rosenzweig was afflicted with a severe form of paralysis, but he continued working and writing heroically. Together with Martin Buber, he translated the Hebrew Bible into German.

Shanah Tovah and G'mar Chatimah Tovah May you have a meaningful fast and may you be sealed in the Book of Life —Yardena

Sukkot

B'Sha'ah Tovah

To and Through Sukkot: A Fitting Conclusion to a Ceremonial Cycle

by Gloria Avner

For years I thought that *Yom Kippur* was a kind of grand finale. Didn't it bring to completion the forty days of introspection, the ten Days of Awe, our *Rosh Hashanah* prayers, our sincere inner repentance, and our outer acts of *tzedakah*? Haven't we listened to the *shofar's* wake-up call, cast our sins into the water (or onto a runaway goat or into a chicken swung around one's head which then becomes a needy person's dinner), and asked both God and man for forgiveness? We've eaten honeyed apples to invoke a sweet year. We've fasted for twenty-four hours to deepen our focus and sincerity.

Humble and spent, we are at last written into the "Book" for another year of life. We then do as Jews have always done. We come together, cleansed, renewed, meaningfully connected, and we eat. But is our fate actually sealed?

I was wrong about the finale. The lady has not sung yet. Jewish ceremonial journeys are nothing if not complex. They are also very rich and generous. It turns out that the seal is not fully sealed until the last day of *Sukkot*.

After sorrow comes joy. Yes, the "breakthe-fast" is joyful. But now, after all the inwardness, we have a different focus. We honor the earth, we talk of fire and wind. We pray for the dew and the rain, acknowledging the goodness of our creator's gifts. We go back to our wandering roots and for seven



days we live under the sky.

We act as if our makeshift shelter were our true residence. Observing the *mitzvot*, we eat, drink, and sleep in our lovingly decorated Sukkot. We are hospitable to *Ushpizim*, whether the guests are friends and family or, as tradition tells us, the seven shepherds of Israel—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron,

and David, one visiting on each day.

We are asking, through the *Hosannot*, to be saved and, in the process, we recite all the attributes of God. The liturgy in the *Sukkot* service is extremely moving.

I have just finished reading a dozen Chasidic tales about *Sukkot*. I like them. Filled with ordinary people and revered rebbes, they inspire by example, making sure we know the names and towns from which the characters come so we know the stories are true. One of the most frequent themes is whole-hearted *tzedakah*. The other is the power of joy.

A man takes boards from

his own roof to give to a destitute man who otherwise could not build a Sukkah. Another, on his way to buy an especially fine *etrog*. gives the money he has saved to a crying man who has just seen his horse, his only means of livelihood, collapse in front of him. The man is so grateful he can only express his gratitude by cracking his whip three times, and it is that sound that moves the angels to save the Jews that year. A rebbe sits in his Sukkah during a rainstorm singing God's praises so passionately that the sun appears. These people, and we as well, as we observe the *mitzvot*, are the ones that will be visited by the seven Ushpizim in our Sukkot. These are the ones whose *etrogs*, no matter how inexpensive, will smell so sweet that a rabbi will stop his discourse to discover who is the owner.

This holiday is full of generosity, not only from us and to us, but also to the world. Another teaching new to me is that the sacrifices made in Jerusalem's Temple during the week of *Sukkot* were actually offered on behalf of the gentile nations. The understanding is that if those nations had any idea of the

> great benefit they were deriving from the Jews' efforts on their behalf, they would send legions to surround Jerusalem and guard it. I don't fully understand this teaching, but it makes me smile.

Best of these new insights is that, even if you have not fully repented by the end of Yom Kippur, it is not too late. This is not license to procrastinate, but generosity in the extreme. Sincerity of prayer, repentance and tzedakah can still influence divine judgment up until and through Sukkot. Sincerity can be rewarded both with inclusion in the book of life and with opportunity for a joyful week of harvest celebration in the Sukkah. We can all sing.

The Lulav and the Etrog: Water, Rain, Unity, and Joy

by Gloria Avner

For *Sukkot*, the Torah instructs us to collect "*arba minim*," four species, including the *etrog* (a citron), and the *lulav*, a bouquet of tree branches—palm, myrtle and willow. It does not really specify what to do with them.

Jewish tradition, hundreds of years old, inspired the Sages to have us shake them towards the four cardinal directions and towards heaven and earth. I am struck by the similarities between this ancient tradition of ours and all early, even aboriginal, earthbased cultures. Unspoken is the seventh sacred direction--within--as we stand in the center, holding the *minim*, doing the shaking.

In the shapes of the "four kinds," we also have explicit symbols of the masculine and feminine, the tall erect species coupled with the rounded womblike citron, united as one as are all parts of the Jewish world as we perform the *mitzvah* of living as our ancestors did, on the earth and under the sky, in total trust. We can have more space above us than substance (as we are instructed to in making the roof of our shelter), because in our *sukkah* we are living within the embrace of *Shekhina*, the divine presence.

The most intuitive explanation of *lulav* and and *etrog* though, relates to water—a

central theme of Sukkot. The rainy season in Israel begins at *Sukkot* time. This is when we start saving the sentence in the praver book that asks for rain. In Temple days, one of the most important ceremonies observed on Sukkot was "water drawing." in which the altar and its surrounds were splashed with water. Unlike all other holidays when libations offered were wine. on Sukkot the libations were water.

In each of the four species there are differing degrees of moisture. The palm core is on the dry end of the scale, the willow is water needy (and withers over the course of the week), the myrtle holds its water well, retaining its fresh appearance all week, and the aromatic *etrog* is the ultimate fruity reservoir of moisture.

When the *lulav* is shaken, its rustling

makes the sound of rain. Perhaps the waving ceremony is meant as a sympathetic ritual of power, inspiring the urge to rain, from the sky to the earth, filling well, rivers, and lakes, allowing fertility and assuring the abundance necessary for survival.

It is especially propitious if you do not get rained on while you are living in your *Sukkah*, but it is the best of all worlds if rains begin right afterwards. Apparently, we are to be joyous in our outdoor dwelling, and discomfort hampers joy. Asked the question how much rain must fall before we can leave the *Sukkah* and go inside, the teaching responds "when your cereal gets soggy."

May each of us experience every level of joy and blessing as we break bread together and wave the four species in our *Sukkot*.

Sukkot Celebrations Far

What to do with a leftover etrog

Slice the etrog after Sukkot and put the slices into a bottle of vodka. Store the bottle in the freezer until the following Sukkot and use it to make a "I'chaim" toast in your Sukkah.

Away

Jews have dwelt in the mountainous regions of the Caucasus, now part of Russia, since ancient times. They say their ancestors came to live there after the Kingdom of the Ten Tribes (Israel) was destroyed in 722 B.C.E. by Sargon II, King of Assyria. (But it took them ten years, and he was two kings removed from the one who originally attacked.) In the

last hundred years they have been joined by a small number of European Jews, including Chasidim. About twenty-five thousand of them live n the small Jewish towns of Kutais and Tiflis.

The Jews here are too poor to be able to afford a *lulav* and *etrog* for each family. So they have a "communal" *lulav* for each synagogue. It is usually brought in from nearby Persia. The *etrog* is brought into the synagogue with great respect and love. It is placed on a shiny brass tray, and everyone in turn takes the *lulav* and *etrog* and kisses it lovingly, then makes the blessing, waves it, kisses it again and puts it down for the next fellow-Jew to do the same. Before long the *etrog* can hardly be recognized from so much handling and kissing.

Lulav and Etrog in Folklore

If you want to have a baby:

Put the *lulav* under your bed with the top pointing towards the head of the bed. Some say bite the *pitom* off the *etrog*. Some say eat the *etrog* (make it into jam or candy or put it on your salad).

If you are expecting a baby:

Bite the *pitom* off the *etrog* if you want a baby boy. Save the *etrog* and bring it with you to the hospital when you go into labor. Having an *etrog* with you during labor is supposed to make it less painful.

An Etrog From Eden

A Sukkot story found for us by Gloria Avner.

It was the first day of *Sukkot*, and all the congregants in the shul of Rabbi Elimelech of Lisensk were in a festive mood. One could feel the *Yom-Tov* spirit in the atmosphere.

As Rabbi Elimelech began reciting Hallel, all eyes turned upon him. There was something unusual in his manner this *Sukkot*. Why did he put aside the *etrog* and *lulav* in his hands to sniff the air? And why did he not go through the service in his usual leisurely manner? It was evident that something was on his mind!

The minute the *davening* was over, Rabbi Elimelech hurried to where his brother Rabbi Zusia was standing, and said to him eagerly: "Come and help me find the *etrog* which is permeating the whole shul with the fragrance of the Garden of Eden!"

And so together they went from person to person until they reached the far corner of the shul where a quiet-looking individual was standing.

"This is the one," called out Rabbi Elimelech delightedly. "Please, friend, tell me where you obtained this wonderful *etrog*?"

"My name," began the quiet-looking man, "is Uri, and I come from Strelisk. I have always regarded *etrog bentschen* as one of my favorite *mitzvot*. I am employed as melamed (teacher) in the village of Yanev. One half of my earnings I use for our needs and with the other half I buy an *etrog* in Lemberg.

"This year, during the Ten Days of Repentance, I was making my way on foot as usual, with fifty gulden in my wallet with which to buy an *etrog*, when on the road to Lemberg I passed through a forest. It was time for *minchah* so I stood in a corner and *davened*.

I was in the middle of *shemone esrei* when I heard a terrible sound of moaning and groaning, as of one in great anguish.

"As I turned towards a man who was in obvious distress, I beheld a man dressed in peasant garb with a whip in his hands, pouring out his troubles to the inn-keeper.

"I managed to gather that the man was a poor Jew who earned his living as a *baal agallah* (owner of a horse and cart for carting purposes). He had a wife and several children and barely managed to earn enough to make ends meet. And now, a terrible calamity had be fallen him. His horse had suddenly collapsed in the forest not far from the inn.

The inn-keeper was saying to the *baal agallah:* "I'll sell you another horse for fifty gulden, although I assure you he is worth at least eighty, but just to help you out in your

difficulty!"

"I haven't even fifty cents, and you tell me I can buy a horse for fifty gulden!"

I felt I could not keep my *etrog* money when here was a man in such desperate plight that his very life and that of his family depended upon a horse.

So I said to the inn-keeper: "Tell me what is the lowest price you would take for your horse?"

The inn-keeper turned to me in surprise. "If you pay me cash, I will take forty-five gulden, but absolutely not a cent less. I am selling my horse at a loss as it is!"

I immediately took out my wallet and handed him forty-five gulden, the *baal agallah* looking on, his eyes nearly bulging out of their sockets in astonishment.

"Now you see that the Almighty can help you, even when the position appears to you to be entirely hopeless!" I said to him as he hurried off with the innkeeper to harness the newly-bought horse.

"I eventually reached Lemberg with the remaining five gulden in my pocket, and naturally had to content myself with buying a very ordinary-looking but kosher *etrog*! My original intention had been to spend fifty gulden for an *etrog* as I do every year.

"Usually my *etrog* is the best in Yanev, and everyone used to come and *bentsch* with it, but this year I was ashamed to return home with such a poor-looking specimen, so my wife agreed that I could come here to Lisensk, where nobody knew me."

"But my dear Rabbi Uri," cried out Rabbi Elimelech, "yours is indeed an exceptional *etrog*! Now I realize why your *etrog* has the fragrance of the Garden of Eden! Let me tell you the sequel to your story!"

"When the *baal agallah* whom you saved thought about his unexpected good fortune, he decided that you must have been none other than the Prophet Elijah whom the Almighty had sent to help him in his desperation. Having come to this conclusion, the happy *baal agallah* looked for a way of expressing his gratitude to the Almighty, but the poor man knew not a Hebrew word, nor could he say any prayers. He racked his simple brain for the best way of thanksgiving.

"Suddenly his face lit up. He took his whip and lashed it into the air with all his might, crying out with all his being: ' Dear Father in Heaven, I love you very much! What can I do to convince you of my love for you? Let me crack my whip for you!' Saying which, the *baal agallah* cracked his whip into the air three times.

"On the eve of Yom Kippur the Almighty up above was seated on His 'Seat of judgment,' listening to the first prayers of the Day of Atonement. Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, who was acting as the Counsel for Defense on behalf of his fellow Jews, was pushing a wagon full of Jewish *mitzvot* to the Gates of Heaven, when Satan appeared and obstructed his path with piles of Jewish sins. Rabbi Levi Yitzchak just got stuck there. My brother Rabbi Zusia and I added our strength to help him move his wagon forward, but all our combined efforts proved fruitless.

"Suddenly there came the sound of the cracking of a whip, causing a blinding ray of light to appear, lighting up the whole universe, right up to the very heavens! There we saw the angels and all the Righteous seated in a circle, singing G-d's praise. On hearing the *baal agallah*'s words as he cracked his whip in ecstasy, they responded:

"'Happy is the King who is thus praised!'

"All at once, the Angel Michael appeared, leading a horse, followed by the *baal agallah* with whip in hand. The Angel Michael harnessed this horse to the wagon of *mitzvot*, and the *baal agallah* cracked his whip. Suddenly the wagon gave a lurch forward, flattened out the Jewish sins that had been obstructing the way, and drove smoothly and easily right up to the Throne of Honor. There the King of Kings received it most graciously and, rising from the Seat of Judgment, went over and seated Himself on the Seat of Mercy. A happy New Year was assured.

"And now, dear Rabbi Uri," concluded Rabbi Elimelech, "you see that all this came about through your noble action!" ◊

HIGH HOLIDAYS SYNAGOGUE SEATING REQUEST FORM

During the last holiday season, many individuals expressed concern over the synagogue seating arrangements. In order for us to place you in a suitable seat, we ask you to complete the following questionnaire and return it to the office as soon as possible.

- I. I would prefer to sit in the ... (Check one) Talking section
- No-talking section

2. If talking, which category do you prefer? (indicate order of interest)

- Stock market
- Sports
- Medicine
- Congregates secret medical tragedies
- General gossip

Specific gossip (choose)

- _____ The cantor
- _ The cantor's voice
- The cantor's "secretary"
- _____ Fashion news
- ____ What others are wearing
- Why they look awful
- _____ Your neighbors
- President Bush
- Sex (Preference:
- _____Who's having an affair with whom

3. Which of the following would you like to be near for free professional advice?

- Doctor Dentist
- _____ Nutritionist
- Psychiatrist

Mother-in-law

- Podiatrist
- Chiropractor
- Stockbroker
- Accountant

Lawyer

- Criminal
- Real estate agent
- Plumber
- Sexologist
- Golf pro (tentative: we're still trying to find a lewish one)

4. I want to be seated (Indicate order of priority)

- On the aisle
- Near the exit
- Near the window
- In Monte Carlo
- Near the bathroom
- Near my in-laws
- As far away from my in-laws as possible
- As far away from my ex in-laws as possible
- Near the pulpit
 - Near the Kiddush table
- Near single men
 - Near available women
- Near anyone who's available I'm bisexual or just not particular
- Where no one on the Bimah can see/hear me talking during services
- Where no one will notice me sleeping during services
- Where I can sleep during the rabbi's sermon (Additional Charge)

5. Orthodox only - I would like a seat where:

- I can see my spouse over the mechitza
- _____ I cannot see my spouse over the mechitza

I can see my friend's spouse over the mechitza

My spouse cannot see me looking at my friend's spouse over the mechitza

6. Please do not place me anywhere near the following people: (limit of 6: if you require more space, you may wish to consider joining another congregation)_____

Your name;

Building fund pledge: _____(Thanks to David Kaufman for this submission.)

The Palace Gardens Difference

For nearly 25 years, The Palace Gardens Assisted Living Community in Homestead has been known as a leader in providing outstanding care to seniors. While our grounds and the campus are beautiful, there are more than a few reasons why The Palace Gardens is different from all others.



1. Continuum of Care -

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2. Palace Training & Education Center

Because our residents come first, every employee must reflect the higher standards of our communities. Based on Ritz-Carlton procedures, a camprehensive orientation program reinforces this focus. Regular training and educational programs continue so that residents will always receive the very best care and services.

3. Local Ownership -

Founded in 1980 by Helen and Jacob Shaham, The Palace is privately owned and locally operated by these self-made individuals who foresaw the need for quality senior living environments. Their constant involvement today ensures the tradition they established for the communities and services, bearing The Palace name: only the best.

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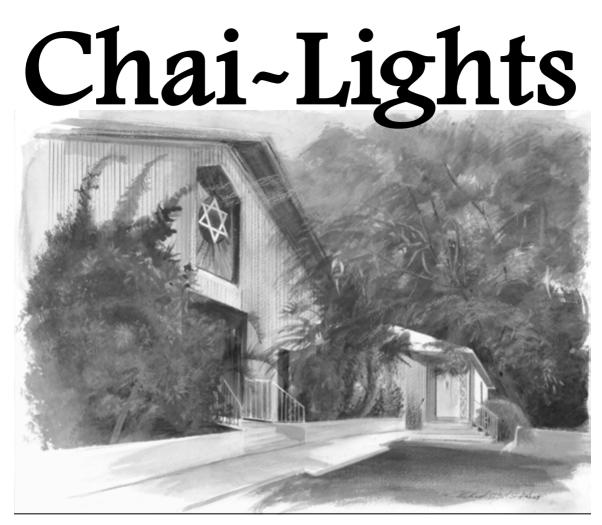
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NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION **PERMIT NO. 39** TAVERNIER, FL



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Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com

November	2008
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3 Cheshvan - 3 Kislev

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nan	nes denote leaders	s of Friday service	25.			1
2 Fall Back! Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7 Jim Boruszak	8
9 Kristallnacht 70th Anniv. Observed	10 Veterans Day	11	12	13	14 Steve Steinbock Yardena Kamely	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Sam Vinicur and the Shabbatones	22
23 30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Stuart & Lauren Sax 6:30 Service	29

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly newsletter of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message

Steve Steinbock

Here are excerpts from Steve's Yom Kippur State-ofthe-Synagogue message to the congregation:

I am very happy to tell you that, as a result of your continued support, KJCC continues to be in good shape-physically, financially and spiritually.

We recently published our Membership Directory in a new format, including information we never had before plus an upgraded look.

Our Men's Club, led by Bernie Ginsberg and Joan Boruszak, sponsored a barbeque and a Casino Boat Cruise. They are looking into having a Casino Night early next year. I really hope they can make that happen.

Bernie also frequently leads services on Friday nights. We are all richer for his knowledge and insights into the Torah.

Adult education produced a memorable Holocaust Display on new panels that we purchased. Steve Smith delivered a moving presentation about the Holocaust and the liberation of Dachau that his surgeon father witnessed first-hand. Adult Hebrew classes continue. I have proposed expanding adult education to include some nonreligious lectures on a limited basis.

Special thanks must go to Alan Beth, who as Ritual Chairman organizes our High



Holy Day services and also every Friday's Shabbat service. After the passing of Marty Graham, Alan also took charge of the KJCC Database, so vital to the everyday workings of the KJCC.

Jim Boruszak, as House Committee Chair, deserves our thanks for his work keeping the KJCC building in shape. This last year we needed major air conditioning work and roof repairs, on top of the everyday jobs that always need doing. Jim is also our indefatigable Membership Chairman.

Thanks to Rachel Bloom for the great job she did blowing the Shofar on Rosh Hashanah. To her father, Marc, thanks for seeing to Onegs all summer.

Thanks to Sisterhood, we have Shabbat dinners, theatre trips, an annual Fashion show, a fundraiser event and the Women's Seder.

We will deeply miss members we lost this past year: Joel Cohen, Marty Graham, Bob Schur and Jerry Spero.

I look forward to seeing our snowbirds soon. Please join us for services and the many events coming up this season.

L'Shana Tova, Steve ◊

Nosh

Shabbat Shuvah

Members of the KJCC were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend a special service in our own sanctuary. The occasion was Shabbat Shuvah, the Saturday morning after Rosh Hashannah and before Yom Kippur. The service was led by Rabbi Richard Agler, who hails from Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton. Rabbi Agler was visiting the Keys that weekend and honored us by leading a service interspersed with a learning session. The experience was most interesting and enlightening and we look forward to participating in more services like it in the future.

-Linda Pollack

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to Mary Lee Singer on the death of her son, Jon Singer

Books for Veterans

Stuart Sax received a request from Rabbi Joshua Kreindler of the Veterans Hospital in Miami for books of a Jewish nature to be made available to Jewish veterans at the V.A. They are looking for donations of used prayer books but also for fiction and non-fiction books with a Jewish flavor. Some of the veterans have head injuries and could use easy-to-read children's books as well. Stuart plans on putting a collection box at the KJCC. He hopes to take the donated books to Rabbi Kreindler prior to Chanukah.

Sanctuary Seat Plates

Arthur Lee and Johanna Willner

Suzanne and Michael Gilson

TREE OF LIFE

ADAM LINE LOVED AND REMEMBERED By The Line Family

IN HONOR OF MATTHEW ADAM SILVERMAN Bar Mitzvah - October 2005 Love, GG and Poppy Silverman

IN HONOR OF

ELISSA ANNE DENKER University of California Graduation June 2008 Love, GG and Poppy Silverman

IN HONOR OF MICHELLE EDEN DENKER High School Graduation June 2008 Love, GG and Poppy Silverman

IN HONOR OF GENE AND MORTON SILVERMAN 50th Anniversary April 30, 2005

Department of Corrections

In a recent issue, in thanking Skip and Rene Rose for their donation of the two beautiful flags—one American and one Israeli— that now adorn each side of the KJCC Bimah, we erred when noting the name of their company. The correct name, should you, say, be searching for them in order to buy unique Hanukkah gifts, is American Rose Flag and Pole Company. Their ad, as always, is in the back pages of this month's issue.

To All Veterans, Their Families, and Friends

The Murray Solomon/Brown Post of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) announces a special Community Open House, 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 16, 2008. The program is especially designed to acquaint Post 243's neighbors with the Post's community outreach programs.

The event takes place at the American Legion Post 98 meeting hall located at 303 Alhambra Circle in downtown Coral Gables. Among the programs to be presented are Post members volunteering to substitute for Christian support staff at police headquarters for the Christmas holidays. Also, there will be a presentation on a very special February event honoring "The Four Chaplains." These chaplains gave up their life vests to the sailors on the Dorchester, when it was torpedoed and sunk in February, 1943. Their sacrifice has become an enduring testimony to humanity's ability to stretch the hand of friendship across all faiths.

The program should end by 10:30 a.m. Attendees will enjoy coffee and bagels, compliments of the Post. RSVP the number of attendees by email to: sliebowitz@aol.com. Family and friends are welcome and you don't have to be Jewish!

The Jewish War Veterans, founded in 1896, is the nation's oldest federally chartered veteran's organization. The Murray Solomon/Brown Post 243 was established following World War II, and meets 9:30 a.m. on the third Sunday of every month at the American Legion Hall, 303 Alhambra Circle in downtown Coral Gables. For more information, visit the Post 243 website at www.jwv243.org or you can call me at 305-586-8729

Stuart Sax Past Post Commander

> The KJCC extends deepest condolences to the Line family on the death of John's brother, Adam Line

A Note From Lee Schur

Dear Mischpocha,

Thank you for your calls, contributions to the KJCC, Trees for Israel, and most of all your sincere concern for me, after the very sudden death of Bob. We have been active members of the KJCC for over fifteen years, and Bob always enjoyed the informal services, the feeling of community, the many social events, and the feeling of being part of a *mischpocha*.

A very emotional memorial service was held for him on Lake Michigan, in Chicago, led by the Chicago Police Department, the U.S. Coast Guard, and twenty-five boats from the Diversey Yacht Club, which encircled our family, in the *Schur Thing V*, in a "circle of love." Even though Bob spent most of his adult life as a volunteer, he would not have believed the expressions of love and loss.

I am still in a state of shock and disbelief, but I thank everyone who has tried to ease my pain.

-Lee Schur



The flotilla on Lake Michigan in Chicago to honor the memory of Bob Schur.

Welcome New Members!

KJCC would like to welcome Dave Mont and Georgia Landau of Key Largo, and Ken Fields as our newest members. Glad to have you join us, and hope to see you often at services and the many KJCC events throughout the year.

November Birthdays

Brian Boruszak2nd
Emma Neidenberg
Hannah Werthamer2nd
Jeremy M. Schur
Madalyn F. Tobias2nd
Matt Temkin2nd
Herbert Grossman4th
Jake H. Blumenthal4th
Zoey Barrett4th
Milton Wohl5th
Michele Lindenbaum7th
Jeri Goldberg9th
Cathy DuttonIIth
Marilyn GreenbaumI3th
Marjorie PresentI3th
Mark WasserI3th
Larry WolfeI4th
Rae WrubleI4th
Samantha LangI5th
Sofy WasserI6th
Jason OransI7th
Michael E. SchurI9th
Christopher Gould22nd
Gloria Avner22nd
Arthur Lee Willner24th
Will Travis Pollack24th
Nancy L. Cohn25th
Robert Hermann25th
John Greenbaum26th
Ruth Schrader-Grace26th
Samuel E. Vinicur26th
Sarah Slonk26th
Amy LaGrotte28th
Nicole Hudson
Benjamin Rakov29th
Fred Hermann
Steven Horowitz

Anniversaries

Years

lst	Patty and Jeffrey Schocket	5
l4th	Nancy and Donald Zinner	21
27th	Jenny and Stanley Margulies	14
28th	Eileen and Robert Hermann	40
30th	Eileen and Randy Kominsky	28

Adult Hebrew Classes Schedule 2008 - 2009

Thursday Hebrew Classes

Hebrew (II) Ulpan, intermediate time: 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm Hebrew (III) Ulpan, advanced time: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Friday Hebrew Classes

Hebrew Siddur and Prayers Reading We invite all members of our community who would like to continue practicing Hebrew Liturgy reading to join this class. Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm Hebrew (I) Beginners Time: 3:00 - 4:30 pm

All Classes will be in the KJCC School of Jewish Education class-room. Former Students, please bring your notebooks and books from last semester. New students, please call Yardena at 305-393-1768.

Thanks Marc!

Our thanks to "Honorary Sisterhood Member" Marc Bloom for all his support, especially this past summer. We appreciate you!

Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood



BOOK PLATES

In Loving Memory Of Harry Joseph Friedman

By The Friedman Family

In Memory Of Toby Mitchell Sister Of Linda Pollack

By Muriel and George Swartz

For My Loving Friends, Linda And Joel In Memory Of Beloved Sister Toby Mitchell

By Bea Graham

In Memory Of Robert Schur Beloved Husband Of Lee Schur

By Bea Graham

Honoring Pasquale DeEsposito On His 97th Birthday

By Toby and David Goldfinger

KJCC Men's Club Road Trip

The Men's Club is planning a visit to Key West on Sunday, December 14 to visit the traveling replica of the National Vietnam Memorial Wall. The plan is to depart from KJCC at about noon following the monthly Board meeting. The trip may include a stop in Marathon for lunch on the way. We should return in time for the I.C.E. concert in Founder's Park that evening. Watch for more details in Chai-Lights. For more info or to make a reservation, call Stuart Sax at 664-8445.

A Message From Sisterhood

The Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood is open to all female members of the KICC. There are no dues for the membership. We are the "backbone" of most of the activities that the KICC provides for you and your family to enjoy and participate in lewish life. Our small congregation needs as much help as it can get, in any way you are able to give, so we can continue to offer the feeling of "mishpocha" here in the Keys. You may choose to become involved in any of our committees or just attend a meeting and have a voice in our decisions and see how it all works. We really have a great group of women and a wonderful social atmosphere! Meetings are the first Sunday of every month at 9:30 am, September through May. Again, please show your support so we can continue to provide all the wonderful events that define the KICC! If you can't attend meetings, just give me a call to ask how you can help. Here are some committees you can join: High Holidays, Shabbat dinners, Onegs, Fashion Show, Theater, Seders, Installation lunch or Fundraising. Joyce Peckman, our Oneg Shabbat chairperson, is currently working on sponsorships for Friday night Onegs. Please contact her at 451-0665 (home) or 240-1000(cell) if you have a special date which you would like to observe. We look forward to a wonderful new season and to seeing new and familiar faces this year! - Joan Stark

YARTZEIT PLAQUES

In Loving memory Barry Kwalick November 2, 1992

In Memory of Dr. Harry Stoler Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather January 21, 1994 Kominsky Family



Ongoing Projects

General Donations – can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Call Linda Pollack 852-8575.

Gift Shop - We have many lovely gift and holiday items on hand and can special order for you as well. Contact Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from the Center, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665. **KJCC Tree of Life Leaves** and **Rocks**, **Sanctuary Seat Plates**, **Yartzeit Memorial Plaques**, **Bookplates for Siddurim**. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF Trees in Israel - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214. **Chai-Lights Mitzvah** - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertisement in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for the low annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well.

In Memoriam November 2008

In Memory OF

SYDNEY SLONK

By Robert Jay and Gloria Auston

In Memory Of

LORETTA MESSER

By Marc and Ellen Bloom

In Memory Of

HAROLD GOLDSTEIN

By James and Joan Boruszak

In Memory Of

DONALD GRAHAM

By Bea Graham

In Memory Of

ESTHER BERNSTEIN

By Laurence and Renee Green

In Memory Of

SUSAN BAN

By Franklin and Judy Greenman

In Memory Of

HERB HOLBROOK

By Allan and Linda Holbrook

In Memory Of

HELENE TULSKY

By Henry and Patricia Isenberg

In Memory Of

DAVID JACOBS

By Lawrence and Pearl Jacobs

In Memory Of

BERTHA JACOBSON

By Melvin Jacobson

In Memory Of

DAVID KAMELY

By Michal Kamely

In Memory Of

JACOB S. RAUB

By Harvey and Judith Klein

In Memory Of

ETHEL HANKIN

By Richard and Barbara Knowles

In Memory Of

DEBORAH K. CANNON

By Michael Krissel

In Memory Of

BARRY S. KWALICK

By Teresa Kwalick

In Memory Of

JOSEPH LA GROTTE

By Mario and Linda LaGrotte

In Memory Of

SOL LEVY

By Ron Levy and Beth Kaminstein

In Memory Of

TILLIE POLLACK

By Joel and Linda Pollack

In Memory Of

HARRY BROWNSTEIN

By Pauline Roller

In Memory Of

SUSIE IDESTONE

By Linda Rutkin

In Memory Of

DR. SANDRA SAMUELS

By Sid Samuels

In Memoriam November 2008

In Memory Of

JULIUS DEUTCHMAN

By Sid Samuels

In Memory Of

SANDY SAMUELS

By Sid Samuels

In Memory Of

SEYMOUR SCHOCKET

By Jeffrey and Patty Schocket

In Memory Of

SHIRLEY SINGER

By Lee Schur

In Memory Of

DAVID W. SCHWAID

By Harvey and Susan Schwaid

In Memory Of

FLORENCE COHEN

By Jules and Nettie Seder

In Memory Of

ALBERT SILVERMAN

By Morton and Gene Silverman

In Memory Of

PHILLIP SILVERMAN

By Morton and Gene Silverman

In Memory Of

ROSE STEINBERG

By Richard and Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

BERTHA SWARTZ

By George and Muriel Swartz

In Memory Of

KENNY TEMKIN

By Robert and Susan Temkin

In Memory Of

DICK JACOB

By David and Pat VanArtsdalen

In Memory Of

SOLOMON WASSER

By Mark and Sofy Wasser

In Memory Of

SAMUEL WEISS

By Sheldon and Carole Weiss

In Memory Of

DIANA WOLFE

By Larry and Dorothy Wolfe

Mishebeyrach List

For those of you who might not make it to services regularly, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. Our printed list is read, and then the leader asks if anyone in the congregation has names to add. If you can't be at services, and would like someone vou care about to be included in the *mishebevrach* praver. call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) vou tell us about. The main KICC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.

YEDE VETORASTE Yardena Kamely



Fall Holidays and the Concept of Renewal

R abbi Abraham Isaac HaKohen Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel, explained that the *sukkah* is "an embodiment of an exalted and complete elation, a joy that emanates from a sense of renewal constant through the holiday." The word in Hebrew for renewal is *hitchadshut*. While one can easily discern the connection between the holidays earlier in *Tishrei – Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur –* and the concept of renewal, the relationship between *Sukkot*, the structure of the *sukkah* itself, and *hitchadshut* is more elusive.

When the *shofar* is sounded at the end of Yom Kippur, we feel spiritually refreshed and awakened. It is with these feelings that we begin the work of building the sukkah. a dwelling that removes us from the physical trappings of our home and places us, vulnerable, in the hands of God, just as we were in the Yamim Nora'im. In the sukkah, exposed to the forces of nature, we find ourselves sitting not only in a replica of the booths that our ancestors built in the wilderness, but also in the embrace of God's Glory, the protective shelter that God provides for the Jewish People. Sukkot, thus, magnifies our spiritual renewal experienced during the Ten Days of Repentance (teshuvah) by reminding us that all our blessings of life, shelter, and abundance come from God.

Shanah chadasha, a new year, means new beginnings. There are few beginnings that are not truly difficult. They demand of us a great deal of self-discipline and selfmotivation, forcing us out of our complacency. Most beginnings require courage and fortitude. But they also give us opportunities for making changes. Rosh Chodesh – the beginning of a new month on the Jewish calendar – provides us with a monthly opportunity for renewal. The commandment of *Rosh Chodesh* teaches us to continually *l'chadesh* renew—our perspectives and relationships, and to embrace *chiddush*, innovation, as a fundamental value of Jewish being. The word we receive with the commandment of time is *hodesh*—month, or more literally, newness. It is very instructive that our word for this basic time unit implies renewal and revelation, as opposed to a continuation of the status quo. Even the word for year, *shanah*, is connected to the word for change, *shinui*.

On *Rosh Chodesh*, (in actuality a celebration of the appearance of the new moon, marking the beginning of the month), on Passover, on *Shabbat*, and with the rising of the sun each day, we are reminded that renewal is possible at every moment. As we experience the changes of time, we should be changing and adapting along with them. And as we grow, we cannot afford to ignore the natural world.

Renewal, *hitchadshut*, is about starting *m'chadash*, anew. When it occurs in nature, we are aware of the tremendous energy of renewal that occurs in the springtime, the rebirth of flowers and greenery, the new life in the fields. Renewal can also give energy to a person's life by producing many positive feelings. Renewal can produce greater hope, love, ease, zeal, knowledge, fortitude and direction. Renewal can also produce other feelings, including confidence, dedication, faith, focus, strength, and growth. To move forward, sometimes a person must simply start over. \Diamond



KJCC

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World Jewish Report Medina Roy



The Diary of Ilan Ramon

Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, who, along with his fellow Columbia astronauts died when the space shuttle disintegrated upon reentry in February 2003, kept a diary during his journey into space. Two months after the disaster, 37 pages of the diary were found in Texas and NASA returned them to Ramon's widow, who asked Israeli forensic experts to restore them. A portion of Ramon's diary is now on display at the Israel Museum. Ramon was the first Israeli to fly into space. (www.jta.org, 10-3-08)

"The Beaters"

Researchers at Israel's Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion have, for the first time ever. succeeded in creating beating cardiac tissue in a lab from human embryonic stem cells. They also managed to create tiny blood vessels within the tissue, making it possible to implant these tissues into a human heart. In the lab, technicians call these tissues "the beaters" and the whole idea began with a question: instead of transplanting an entire heart, why not replace only the damaged scar tissue with new cardiac tissue? The technique is still a long way away from everyday application. (www.rambam.org, [ND], and The Jerusalem Post, 1-14-07)

Methuselah Tree

A four-foot-tall date palm, named "Methuselah" by one of its cultivators, is growing in a laboratory in Jerusalem. The sapling grew from a 2,000 year-old seed – the oldest scientifically dated seed to ever be germinated. In a study reported in June in the journal *Science*, a team of Israeli researchers confirmed the seed's age, using radiocarbon dating which determines age by measuring levels of a type of carbon found in all living organisms that decays at a specific rate. The seed was discovered 40 vears ago, having been excavated at Masada. Along with its fellow seeds, it sat in a drawer until 2005 when Israeli scientist Dr. Sarah Sallon and botanist Elaine Solowey procured them for study and planted them. Sallon has spent more than a decade studying the medicinal properties of plants, most of which are found in the Middle East, after she had a severe intestinal illness in India that only responded to an herbal potion provided by a local doctor. Many plants of this region believed to have had medicinal properties are now extinct. Climatic conditions at the Dead Sea may be responsible for the longevity of this seed. (Boston Globe, 6-16-08)

They Said Goodbye, He Said Hello

In late September, 43 years after the Beatles were told they could not perform in Israel because of their corrupting influence on the country's young people, Paul McCartney wowed a crowd of 50.000 Israelis at Yarkon Park in Tel Aviv. Before the concert, McCartney visited the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Beit Sahur, east of Bethlehem. He sat in on music lessons, iammed with the students and spoke with teachers about music being a gateway to tolerance. McCartney's visit was originally scheduled for the school's Ramallah branch but Palestinians were upset with his decision to perform in Israel and began staging a protest outside the school. McCartney also met with a group from OneVoice, a grassroots group working for a peaceful resolution to

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying "I'm not a politician; I just want to bring a message of peace." (*The Forward, 7-2-08* and *The Jerusalem Post, 9-23-08*)

A Rabbi in the Family

Rabbi Capers Funnye is the chief rabbi and spiritual leader of the mostly black Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation on Chicago's South Side. His mother and Michelle Obama's paternal grandfather were brother and sister, making him Michelle's first cousin once removed. Funnye and Michelle were not particularly close while growing up, seeing each other several times a year, mostly at family functions. Funnye is well known for trying to build a bridge between mainstream Jewry and the black Jews, sometimes referred to as black Hebrews or Israelites. He hopes to make the larger lewish community more accepting of lews who are not white. Funnye converted to ludaism and was ordained as a rabbi. He serves on the Chicago Board of Rabbis. (The Forward, 9-2-08)

"The Voice of Peace" Goes Silent

Former Israeli air force pilot, peace activist and founder of "Voice of Peace" radio station Abie Nathan. died last August at Tel Aviv's Ichilov hospital. Nathan was 81. Born Abraham Jacob Nathan in Iran in 1927, Nathan was educated in India and served in the Royal Air Force as a fighter pilot before emigrating to the newly born state of Israel in 1948. He flew for El Al, ran an art gallery and an American style restaurant, which not only helped popularize the hamburger in Israel but also became the center of Tel Aviv's Bohemian life. But his real claim to fame occurred in 1966 when, in a one-man effort to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. he took diplomacy into his own hands by making a dramatic solo flight to Egypt. "We are getting nowhere with the politicians," Nathan said, and flew "Shalom One" to Port Said with the disapproval of the Israeli government. The Egyptian authorities were courteous but sent him home. Seeing no victory, he then bought a 188-foot freighter,

funded in part by John Lennon, and anchored it off the coast of Tel Aviv, turning it into a pirate radio station, "The Voice of Peace." In his maiden broadcast in 1973, Nathan said, "The Peace Ship is a project of the people. We hope through this station we will help relieve the pain and heal the wounds of many years of suffering of the people of the Middle East." For more than twenty years, Nathan's "Voice of Peace" was especially popular with Israel's young people, with its mix of pop songs and peace messages. Finally, in 1993, he sank the ship when Israel and the PLO signed an interim peace agreement. (*Jerusalem Post, 8-27-08*)

Hill 24 Re-released

What some call the first classic of Israeli cinema has been released on DVD to coincide with Israel's 60th anniversary. Originally released in 1955, "Hill 24 Doesn't Answer" was Israel's first movie filmed in English. It tells the personal stories of three men and one woman, all Zionists and of different ethnic and religious backgrounds, assigned to protect a strategic location hours before the cease-fire that ended Israel's War of Independence in 1948. (*The Forward, 7-1-08*)

Dog bark Analyzer

Israel's Bio-Sense Technologies, established in 2000 and based in Beer Sheva, has electronically analyzed 350 different dog barks. They discovered that dogs of all breeds and sizes, when they sense a threat, emit the same alarm-type of a bark. As a result, Bio-Sense has designed a security device which uses a sensor to identify a dog's natural instinctive reaction to emergencies and then alerts the human operators. Bio-Sense is looking to sell its technology to high -security facilities such as prisons and power plants. No training is required and the technology works on all dogs. This is just one of many innovative security systems to emerge from Israel. (Israel Startup News, www.isunews.com, 3-23-08)

A Genetically Modified Rose...

Would smell even *more* sweet. So say researchers at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The scientists there have genetically engineered flowers so that they give off up to ten times the normal level of scent, and are fragrant twenty-four hours a day instead of having a dormant period. Researcher Alexander Vainstein is hopeful this method can also be used to enhance the scent of fruits and vegetables, since aroma is a key factor in our sense of taste. (*The Week*, 10-24-08)

Khazar Capital Found?

A Russian archeology professor believes he has found Itil, the capital city of the medieval Khazars, in the Caucasus between the Caspian and Black Seas.

Dmitry Vasilyev, of Astrakhan University on the northwest Russian part of the Caspian, has been in search of the Khazars for nine years. His team recently found the foundations of a triangular fortress of flamed brick, along the legendary Silk Road that connected Europe and Asia. By law, Khazars could only use flamed brick in the capital city.

Why are the Khazars important? An empire that controlled the entire Caucasus between the 7th and 10th centuries C.E., the Khazars are notable in that, caught between the armies of Christian Byzantium to the west and militant Islam to the south, the kingdom converted en masse to Judaism.

In his book "The Thirteenth Tribe," Arthur Koestler postulates that it was the Khazarians, after their defeat and dispersal by Russians and Mongols, who formed the bulk of what became Eastern European Jewry. (Yahoo News/Associated Press, 9-20-08)

Did You Know...

It was Golda Meir who, 40 years ago, really cracked that glass ceiling. Now, former Mossad agent Tzipi Livni has a good chance of becoming Israel's next prime minister and, should that happen, all three branches of Israel's government will be headed by women – unprecedented in a Western democracy. (www.newsweek.com, 10-6-08)

Israel took home six medals (five silvers and one bronze) from the Paralympic Games in Beijing. (*www.jta.org*, 9-17-08)

Elie Wiesel, 1986 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, author and likely *tzadik*, turned 80 on September 30th, which fell this year on Rosh Hashanah. (*World Jewish Congress, 9-29-08*)

The "Sarah Palin Wig" is now on sale at Sheitl.com, a Brooklyn, New York wig shop for Orthodox Jewish women who, for modesty reasons, conceal their natural hair by sporting a wig. Made of 100% human hair, it's a steal (?) at \$795 (marked down from \$895) (*The Forward, 10-7-08*)

At the end of September, Jason Marquis, playing for the Chicago Cubs, became the first Jewish pitcher to hit a grand slam since 1950 and led the Cubs to a 9-5 victory over the New York Mets. The last Jewish pitcher to hit a grand slam was Saul Rogovin of the Detroit Tigers in 1950. (*www.jta.org, 9-23-08*)

Paul Newman, Jewish Icon

We take time to note the passing last month of Paul Newman, who although he was technically only half-lewish, was undeniably a member of the tribe. Newman's father was lewish, his mother a Catholic, but Newman always identified himself as a lew. commenting one time that it was "more of a challenge." Austrian-Jewish director Otto Preminger reportedly cast Newman in "Exodus" because he was of Jewish descent, but didn't "look Jewish." Looks aside, he certainly took to the idea of *tikkun olam* through his many charitable causes. His Newman's Own food empire alone has donated more than \$250 million in profits. Newman seemed to be more than a movie star, he was mishpoche. (The Forward, 10-10-2008)

American Moms With Israeli Eggs

At least three egg donor companies in the United States offer a unique product: all their donated eggs come from Jewish Israelis. Their market? Infertile American couples who want babies from a familiar gene pool. (*The Forward 10-03-08*) \diamond

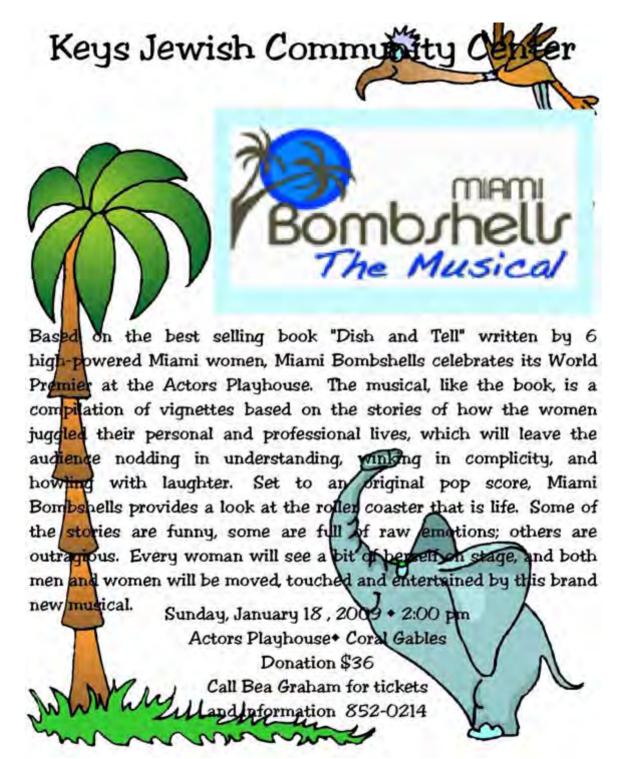


Photo Gallery

Water and Autumn Holidays

When teaching the Fall Holidays, on Sukkot we focus on the environment, both locally and in Israel, and discuss with our students the Jewish relationship with Ha'aretz (the Earth). Another central theme of Sukkot is water. Connecting to Shemini Atzeret (eighth assembly), the eighth day of the Sukkot festival, a holiday in its own right, celebrated with great joy, students learn about water in their communities, in Israel and around the world. They also explore personal responsibility for protecting nature, the environment, and living



creatures. *-Yardena*



Some scenes from building and decorating the KJCC Sukkah. Special credit should go to the designer and annual assembler, Candy, shown with assistant Paul Bernstein.





Candy happily celebrated her retirement, left and above, at Meredith's oceanview house. Note the boa and occasional glass of wine.

Joyce always takes the long way home. At top, in the sukkah with Nissan and Bea in New Jersey. Above, with Yardena and friend Barbara Levy on the famed Brooklyn Bridge.





The Mah Jongg group had their annual getaway recently, at an undisclosed location. Photos left and above courtesy of Gene and her Minolta.

16 Chai-Lights November 2008

They'll Always Have Paris

In France, the Rakovs find an ancestor's name and, in the process, meaning for Yom Kippur and Yizkor.

Cathy and I recently spent a few days in Paris. Before we left, I spoke with my uncle who was born in Paris in 1930. The Nazis captured the city in 1942. He and his mother survived capture, by their wits, for over two years. His infant brother was saved by a Christian family. But his father and most of his relatives were captured and murdered in the camps. Today, there is a memorial/ library dedicated to the over 79,000 Jews of France who were slaughtered by the Germans. The names of the 79,000 martyrs are etched into stone monoliths at the facility. My uncle told us where we could find his father's name.

We found ourselves in the Jewish section of Paris during our last afternoon in the city. After a wonderful lunch at a kosher Israeli-style restaurant, we visited the memorial and found the name of my uncle's father. Cathy then said that we should look for the names of other relatives. I was quite skepti-

The monolith at Paris' relatives, l memorial to France's Jews. thought, were



cal, as all our relatives, I thought, were from eastern Europe. Well,

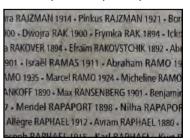
Europe. Well, Cathy found an Efraim Rakovstchik who was murdered in 1942. I was stunned. This was my family name before it was changed at Ellis Island in 1918. And this is where I would visualize the A street scene in the old Jewish Quarter of Paris.



name for the first time in my life. We then sought information on Efraim in the library. We found that he had emigrated from Minsk to Paris. My family was also from Minsk. He must have been a distant relative. We were given his Paris address. He was an auto mechanic and there was no known family.

This brings us to Yom Kippur services at the KJCC. I had the honor and responsibility of carrying the Holocaust torah around the sanctuary. During the procession, I started to think about my relative, Efraim Rakovstchik. He had been murdered over 65 years ago. As he apparently had no family, there is a significant possibility that no one has said *Kaddish* or *Yizkor* for this martyr. He deserves better. I normally do not participate in

Yizkor, as I have been fortunate. I have not lost a parent or a sibling. But I prayed during Yizkor this Yom Kippur. I remembered Efraim Rakovstchik. ◊



Ephraim Rakovstchik's name is on the third line.

Keys Jewish Community Center



The most celebrated musical of all time and the longest running musical worldwide, Actors' Playhouse proudly produces the first regional production of Cameron Mackintosh's 3-time Tony Award winning musical theatre masterpiece at the Miracle Theatre. Les MisÈrables is an epic saga of social injustice. Full of passion and the triumph of the human spirit, Les MisÈrables recounts the struggle of the French people during the late 1800's. No matter how many times you've seen Les MisÈrables, its heart-wrenching ballads and powerful ensemble will make for an extraordinary experience for the entire family.

> Sunday, March 15, 2009 + 2:00 pm Donation \$40 Call Bea Graham for tickets and information 852-0214

KRISTALLNACHT

Most of you know the basic story. On November 9th and 10th. 1938. Nazi thugs carried out the most organized and comprehensive pogrom in history, one that would have made any Russian tsar envious. Throughout greater Germany, synagogues and Jewishowned businesses and property were looted and reduced to rubble by mobs, or set ablaze and allowed to burn unmolested until they were but masonry shells or a pile of smoldering cinders. German police stood by to protect not Jewish lives and property but the mobs destroying them. German firefighters were fully mobilized, but their job was to protect non-Jewish property from inadvertent damage; calls about lewish property went unanswered.

The event has been known ever since as Kristallnacht. literallv German for. ves. "crystal night." The term, sneeringly coined by Nazi official Walter Funk, referred to the billions of shards of broken glass in streets throughout Germany, all of which the night before had gracefully adorned Jewish places of worship and lewish businesses and lewish homes. (Replacing the glass required six *months* of production by the Belgian glass industry; Germany at the time did not manufacture plate glass.) It is believed that some 7.500 lewish businesses were smashed and their wares looted. Hundreds of synagogues had their Torah scrolls desecrated and then were set afire. Armed mobs rampaged into homes of wealthy Jews, stealing valuables, raping the women and tossing both lews and their pets from upper stories to the street or into cold, local rivers. Up to 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps. The next day, from minutes of a meeting of the Nazi police and propaganda elite, Hermann Goering is guoted as having concluded some remarks with, "Incidentally, I would like to say that I would not like to be a lew in Germany."

Despite being consumed by tertiary, historic European anti-Semitism, the Nazis did not have a clear plan for the Jews when they took power. It was complicated. Germans liked shopping in Jewish stores, which had quality merchandise at good prices. Jewish businesses often had Christian landlords, who liked the regular rent they received. Jews as a whole were productive, and Germany was still desperately in the throes of the Great Depression. Nothing comprehensive had been done since the Nuremburg Laws in 1935. But an opportunity soon presented itself.

Thousands of Polish lews had migrated to Germany for economic reasons. As bad as Germany was, Poland had it worse. In late October of 1938. some 15.000-18.000 Polish Jews in Germany had been summarily rounded up and deported to Poland. Poland had withdrawn their passports, and Germany did not want thousands of stateless lews on its hands. Dumped on the Polish side of the border in early winter with little food or shelter or clothing, all their possessions confiscated, many of the Jews died. Zindel Grynszpan wrote to his 17-year-old son Herschel, then studying in Paris, to tell him of their plight. Overcome with grief and rage, the young student shot and killed Ernst vom Rath, Third Secretary of the German Embassy in Paris. Here was the pretext the Nazis needed, and they acted. Jews were a danger and needed to be completely eliminated from German economic life. Ironically, Ernst vom Rath was anti-Nazi.

Now the propaganda machine found its stride. New laws were passed. Jews were held responsible for all the damage on Kristallnacht, and forced to pay Germany reparations of one *billion* Deutsch marks. New laws stated that Jewish businesses could not re-open unless managed by non-Jews; Jewish children were barred from attending school: and lews were to be prohibited from selling goods or services anywhere. They were also to be barred from public transportation and hospitals. On November 12, Goering announced instructions from Hitler that "the Jewish guestion be now, once and for all, coordinated and solved one way or another." The Final Solution, replacing random laws and sporadic action, was now under way.



Sunday, November 9, 2008 7:30pm KJCC joins Israel and the world as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Kristal Nacht & Special presentation by Dr. Steve Smith Lighting of the KJCC building



Coffee and Dessert to follow

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833 for information

20 Chai-Lights November 2008

High Holidays Redux

The Days of Awe are done for this year. The High Holidays also signify the beginning of the new season at KJCC. But before we move on, a last holiday treat. We asked three of our regulars—Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman and Medina Roy, all who celebrate the Holidays elsewhere—to share with us their non-KJCC experiences. We begin this section with reflections on the KJCC religious experience by Alan Beth.

Alan Beth, KJCC VP and Religious Committee Chairman, addressed a full congregation on Erev Yom Kippur.

My name is Alan Beth, and I have the privilege of being the head of the religious committee. I would like to say how good it is to see so many of you here this evening, this *Kol Nidre*, the holiest night in our religion.

First, thanks to Cantor Mark and his family for joining us these High Holidays, and for providing us with a beautiful service.

I have belonged to several synagogues, as I am sure you have. This time of the year, sadly, money is usually involved and synagogues require payment for High Holy Day tickets. Most synagogues even have a guard at the door ensuring you do not enter without a valid ticket.

This actually reminds me of a story from years ago, of a colleague who was trying to get me a message in one synagogue. I was inside on Yom Kippur. He was told at the gate by the security guard: no ticket, no entrance. But he pleaded that he had to get an urgent message to Alan. Sorry, said the security guard, and repeated his instructions: no ticket, no entrance. So finally, desperate, my colleague pleaded: "Please, I'll just be a minute, let me in. *I promise I won't pray!!*"

This leads me into a thank you: I would like to thank all of you and also the members of our board. Our open-door policy at the KJCC is something we should all be very proud of.

Kol Nidre: This is a time of reflection, to look back and of course to fix the things that have needed to be fixed. I have been giving these speeches for several years now on Kol Nidre. This will be my last, I promise!! (This is an annual joke. Ha, ha. Alan threatens to resign every year. – ed.)

You know, of course, that we have no Rabbi. Instead, we have a few select volunteers that offer to lead services. Every Friday night one of them leads service in their own special way: Some introduce more English, some introduce more Hebrew. Some introduce more singing and.....some introduce singing even when they cannot carry a tune!! (For non-regulars, Alan is making a little joke at his own expense. No one loves music more, but he is, in truth, a tad harmonically challenged.) Tonight I would like to give thanks to our Leaders for their efforts this past year. Steve tonight is leading us through Kol Nidre, but recently you will have noticed Jim, George, Yardena, Bernie, Gloria. Stuart and Lauren. Meredith. loel and Linda and Susan. Also, recently we have a couple of new leaders: Ken Atlas and Steve Friedman.

There is a book recently published: *Stars* of *David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish.* Written by a prominent journalist (Abigail Pogrebin), *Stars of David* interviews some of America's most visibly successful Jews: actors (Dustin Hoffman, Gene Wilder, Richard Dreyfuss, Sarah Jessica Parker, William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy of "Star Trek" fame, Natalie Portman, Jason Alexander, Fran Drescher); directors (Steven Spielberg, Mike Nichols, Aaron Sorkin, Barry Levinson); CEOs; broadcasters (Mike Wallace, Morley Safer, Larry King, Aaron Brown); musicians, politicians (Ed Koch, Barney Frank); lawyers (Ruth Bader Ginsburg); doctors (Dr. Jerome Groopman); designers (Diane Von Furstenberg); and athletes to divine to what degree Judaism is "resonant, crucial, or incidental" for their lives and careers.

A common thread running through the sixty-two narratives is the clear and distinct separation between being Jewish culturally and Jewish in a religious sense. With few exceptions, nearly everyone mentioned letting lewish ritual (davening, Shabbat, synagogue, keeping kosher) go by the wayside after bar/bat mitzvah (if they did indeed make it that far). All mentioned the inherent pride in being lewish, the attraction to other Jewish friends and spouses, and embracing the Jewish fundamental ideals of

tikkun olam (healing the world) and *tzedakah* (charity). Some mentioned the Jewish drive as an extra push for success, many mentioned disturbing incidents of anti-Semitism from their childhoods, and many, although they aren't particularly observant themselves or married non-Jewish spouses, want to make sure that their children grow up with the rituals, language, and culture of Judaism.

This is a fascinating glimpse at some of the most famous names and faces in the media today. The author notes in her epilogue that researching the book and conducting the interviews led her to an increased interest in the Torah.

It was very enlightening to see that "famous" people struggle with the same issues of faith that the rest of us do. While most don't hold on to traditional Jewish customs, most are fiercely loyal to their heritage.

I look out here tonight and I see that is true of us here as well. We may not think of ourselves as religious, but being here tonight, together, praying on this Yom Kippur, we are holding to our heritage.

I have been head of the religious committee for what seems like a very.... very.... very long time. Confession time: I should tell you that prior to this position at KJCC I was a three-time-a-year Jew. So, I understand perfectly well that coming to the synagogue is not a requirement to being Jewish. However,

> belonging to a cause greater than yourself and being a member of that cause brings a lot of satisfaction.

> This is a story of a small town in Australia. You may know that Australia is suffering from the worse drought in its history. It has not rained for a few *years* in certain sections of the country. Last year it was so bad that the Prime Minister, John Howard, actually went on television and asked the whole country to pray for rain. Guess what? The next day it actually rained. Some would say this is

the power of prayer.

Also in Australia, there is a small town going through this same drought. There was a historic tree in the center of the town. The community was in fear it would die. The mayor asked the entire community to take a small part of their daily ration of water and give it to the tree in the center of the town. The tree flourished and continues to live. Everyone in the town contributed to what they could afford. Some would say that is the power of community.

This is our synagogue. I should refer to it by its correct name – Keys Jewish Community Center. We are the only synagogue between Homestead and Key West, a distance of nearly 130 miles. We *are* the center. We can make this a study center, a religious center, a social



center, a getting-together center. Or all of the above. It is *our* center and we should be proud.

Keeping our center should be top priority for all of us. This center cannot survive without everyone giving something, much like the small community in Australia. in Bangor, ninety minutes away. I attend only on High Holidays. This year I chose to spend the holidays with the Reform Congregation, Beth El, mostly because they have been bringing musical programs to the island and I want to support their outreach.

At first I thought I'd be writing about the

If being lewish is important to vou, if keeping ludaism is important to you, then we need to keep the center alive. Contribute: Be it your time. your energy, your money, your presence or even your smile. We are the center of the lewish religion in the Kevs. We can come here to schmooze, to nosh, to pray, to study, to socialize,



Gloria, smiling despite the frozen tuchess, with Rabbi Lerner atop Cadillac Mountain, the first Americans to see the sun that day.

new experience of taking part in a large choir (imagine our liturgy sung accompanied by guitar, with clarinet solos, punctuated with African drums), or about how much I enjoyed going to services with Linda Perloff's sister, or how inspired I was by Temple Beth El's *tikkun* work, partnering with African Jews in Ghana and opening up dialogue with Islamic college students at Orono.

But then there came the third annual Beth El sunrise service held on my Island on Shabbat morning two days after Yom Kippur. It was a first for me, and if it had not been for a woman named Esther who stood looking Jewish (ok, I'm not sure what that means exactly, either) near a path I'd never noticed before on one side of the parking lot away from the paved paths, I might still be wandering the mountain with the early morning photo-snapping tourists. Esther took me in hand and walked me up a wide gravelly path to a perfect mountaintop sunrise viewing spot where Beth

and of course to meet people. It is a place in these troubled times that you know is yours, and is yours to make as much of or as little as you want. But this comes at a price. The price is you. Please give part of yourself, in a small or a large way, to the center.

Shana Tova. I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year. \diamond

High Holidays Downeast

By Gloria Avner

"Downeast" is a funny word. It refers to the part of coastal Maine that I always want to call "up north." I live on Mt. Desert Island, a beautiful island with easy access to this country's second-most-visited national park, Acadia, but with little access to services for Jews who would like to practice in community. The closest temples to my island are all



Upon her return from the top of Cadillac Mountain and the service, Gloria sketched the scene from memory.

El people were assembling. She greeted another woman with two children climbing down the path looking for bathrooms. (We would wait for their return before starting.) Eighteen of us met on top of that uniquely "Downeast" bit of Maine geography--Cadillac Mountain--the first place in all the United States to be touched each morning by the sun.

There we stood, a motley but committed group of Jews on the rocks, freezing our Yankee *tuchesses* off, wearing mittens and scarves, huddled against the wind, holding our prayer books with their fluttery pages. Two college students are wearing colorful *tallit* over their overcoats. Rabbi Darrah Lerner, in wool cap and jacket, asks why no one has brought her any coffee. Then, when the children come back, she starts the service in a way that makes me feel quite homey—we sing "*Ma Tovu*" in the same melody we use at KJCC, just in a slightly more raggedy version as the wind tries to rip away our words.

The sky gets lighter, the vista more majestic, the wind more frigid. I can see that the service will not be a long one as we go quickly through the basic, traditional, necessary, and somehow more-meaningful-thanever prayers. This post-Yom Kippur, preSukkot time is, after all, when the Jews of antiquity would have been at the mountain, living and worshipping outdoors and in improvised shelters. We could, with just a little imagination, be listening to Moses himself talking this morning's *Parshah* to us on that mountain.

We reach the part of the service where we recite the blessings of the *Sh'ma*, and drama takes over. Just as the Rabbi says the words "... Yotzayr Or" ("Blessed are *You who has formed the light*"), she spins around, lifts her arm, looks out instead of at us, and the sun rises up, a shimmering golden bubble, whole and huge, out of the sea.

We involuntarily exclaim with true delight at the work of creation, a simulcast this brilliant morning of living color and living wordsthe psalms, the *Amidah*, the *Kaddish*, *Aleinu*, and *Ein Keloheinu*. A familiar service in a huge, brand-new to us but ancient surround, it is a short and essential service. It creates layers, wide and deep, in all of us, with extra heartfelt meaning in those words of praise and appreciation we recite so often that sincerity and wonder can easily get lost in rote rhythms.

Have I ever been more grateful for that profound sudden presence of light, that beauty, that sense of connection to "all that is?" I don't think so, not even on the rambling walk back down to the parking lot. The upliftment (no. I know it's not a word, but it should be) lasted through the logistical direction-giving and arranging of whose car would follow whose down the long and winding road out of the park, into Bar Harbor, and over to the house where the not-so-earlybirds (as many of us as had been *davening* on the mountain), were preparing food. We snaked our way down the mountain. not quite a Lewis and Clark expedition, but I have no doubt that like their exploring party, we were filled over and over again, at each turn and vista. with awe. And that was before they even met Sacajawea.

Arriving at our hosts' house, we parked our cars where we could, entered and thawed. We jabbered and shared. We laughed. We ate and connected and ate and talked some more. We segued into ordinary time from our extraordinary experience with rosy cheeks and a sense of fullness. In that way, at least, "downeast" felt just like home. ◊

High Holy Days in the High Country

by Medina Roy

The northwest corner of North Carolina is known as the High Country. It is part of the southern Appalachian Mountains and includes the towns of Banner Elk, Linville, Blowing Rock, Beech and Sugar Mountains and Boone, among others. Boone is where I observed the High Holy Days this fall. There are 163 churches in the High Coun-



Approaching St. Elizabeth's of the High Country Catholic Church for services. The crucifix is behind the tree.

try and no synagogue. The nearest ones are in Charlotte to the southeast and Hendersonville to the south, both some two hours away. There is, however, a small but strong Jewish community here, calling themselves the Boone Jewish Community (BJC). For thirty years they have worshipped as nomads, holding services in basements, living rooms and



Some shul presidents are pharmacists, some sell Christmas trees from their pickups, like Chuck and Elinor Lieberman.

church foyers; their Torahs are stored in people's attics. Weekly services are held Friday nights at an Episcopal church. But for Rosh HaShanah & Yom Kippur, a larger place is needed, since many people come from neighboring towns. For the past nineteen years, the congregants of St. Elizabeth's of the High Country Catholic church have graciously played host to their Jewish brothers and sisters. The Christian symbols and statues are covered; an *aron kodesh* is brought in containing two Torahs, one of which is a Holocaust Torah from London, just like the one at KJCC.

I met with the president of the BJC, Chuck Lieberman, and his lovely wife Elinor. Born in Chicago, Mr. Lieberman lived in Miami and Gainesville until about thirty years ago when he moved to Boone. He spent twenty years as the BJC's Vice President and when he was asked to take on the presidency, he agreed but it would have to be on three conditions: 1) Board meetings would no longer drag on for hours – they would be limited to thirty minutes and they would be held right before services, ensuring that they would be brief. 2) No one is permitted to say "we need to...".... You can only say "I want to..."; and 3) "If you do, you have control," meaning if you are in charge of an event, an oneg for example, you do it your way – don't ask for permission or call numerous meetings. Needless to say, Lieberman was nominated and elected president on the spot. But that's not all. He is also the Hebrew school teacher (currently about six students ranging in age from 5-26), has tutored about 18 *B'nei Mitzvah* students over the past twenty years, and works closely with the Hillel group at Appalachian State University, which has grown over the past few years and has become an active part of the BJC. Mr. Lieberman, a former agricultural



inspector. also works three fulltime jobs. He is a Christmas tree farmer. a rural mailman

An artist's rendering of the future home of the Boone Jewish Community.

and sells rhododendron shrubs and blueberries (if the deer don't get to them first).

There are about 135 families that make up the BJC and it's actually a three-part congregation -- the "regulars," about twenty families, the summer residents (the majority of the membership) and the Hillel students.

Recently, something amazing happened to the BJC. A prominent local family, not very religious but still wanting a place to worship as Jews, donated \$1 million plus the services of an architect for the BJC to find a piece of land and build a house of worship, a permanent home for the BJC. When I asked Mr. Lieberman how this all came about, he told me he had received a call from a member of this family and was asked to help with a Jewish funeral for their cat. It would appear they were happy with the service and decided to make a donation. It'll be interesting to see how that story gets told and morphed over the upcoming years. \Diamond

What's in a Sukkah?

by Joyce Peckman

believe The High Holy Days should be a very personal time for introspection and one-on-one praver with the Almighty. These days are very spiritual in nature. For me. Sukkot is a more family-oriented holiday. celebrated on a smaller scale. It focuses on the physical. Its spirituality is related to nature. outside in the open air. There is a reason Succot follows the High Holy Days. We spend Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in shul surrounded by other lews because it's the time of judgment, and we don't want to be judged solely on our own merits. Sukkot. however. after the contemplative Days of Awe, requires actual physical action in this world, eating in the Sukkah and "bentching" with the etrog and lulay. This is why I love this holiday and chose to focus on it in my article.

The first Sukkah lodged in my memory stood in the parking lot behind Temple Gates of Zion. Large enough for a hundred people, it was made of wood and canvas, and decorated with mobiles of fresh vegetables and fruit, which soon attracted minyans of bees.

> The sukkah behind Israel and Nissan Mayk's house in New Jersey. That's Nissan, center, with Bea and Joyce.



For most of us, a Sukkah is a synagogue construction, often crowded and noisy, where people go once during *Sukkot* to nosh on gefilte fish and cake.

After I married and moved to Brooklyn, an older business acquaintance invited this young couple (us) to his home one Sunday afternoon in October. There, beside his house, was a small wooden Sukkah decorated

with holiday cards, plastic fruit and Indian corn, with the artwork and paper chains of their grandchildren. The long table comfortably sat ten hungry people, and the food was delicious.

The following year, we, too, brought the holiday home, with a 10 x 6 pre-fab Sukkah made of blue and yellow canvas that hung by shower rings from iron poles,

screwed together with Allen keys and hex nuts, and topped by bamboo poles.

The whole thing fit perfectly on our little front porch in Canarsie. A few years later we moved to Long Island, and the Sukkah came with us. Our boys helped put it up and decorated it with posters, strung faux fruit and shiny garlands from the bamboo, and called in the neighbors. We were the only ones on the block with this little personal sanctuary. Our Italian friends, who invited us each December to help decorate their tree, came to dine in our Sukkah.

When we became part of a more religious community, we learned about groups of men who helped widows and elderly people construct and take down their huts, about complex scheduling of lunch and dinner visits, and about Sukkah-hopping -- going from one friend to the next for never-ending dessert.

This has been called the handyman's holiday, a chance to use creativity in construction. Some Sukkahs have plywood walls which bolt together on pre-drilled wooden frames, others use blue plastic tarps or light-



Joyce at Keith and Rebecca's sukkah, with Rebecca's mom Susan, at right.

weight canvas, hung from steel or aluminum frames. Now there are EZ-up constructions of fitted aluminum rods that one person can easily bang into place.

Branches from trimmed trees or shrubs add a nice touch to roof covers. Some years ago, we gathered lovely delicate reeds from the marsh to throw on top, but discovered the abundant insect life living in the plants.

Not to mention the seeds that dropped into the food.

Sukkot is a time when we can have a quiet breakfast outside, hearing the voice of the Almighty in the call of birds and rustling of branches, seeing the unfiltered light of the sun and moon through the open roof. It is a time of visits and visitors, and memories. A wayward bird who had to be ushered out, the construction and placement of yellow jack traps, a tropical wind that

blew off half of the roof poles, children in snow boots in a white-covered Sukkah in Denver.

My little canvas sukkah is now permanently stowed under the house in Key Largo; I have no need to miss it. In New Jersey, a 10 x 12 lightweight EZ- up, brightly decorated, brings smiles to a new family. And in Denver, a 10' x 20' wooden Sukkah, complete with rattan furniture and carpet, is decorated with the artwork of my grandchildren. \Diamond

The Joy of Sukkah-Fest

by Gloria Avner

L had heard the words "Jewish Renewal" before, but had only a glimmer of what the words meant. I knew joy was involved and so was music. So when my friend Chaim told me that he was going to this great Jewish retreat When's the last time you heard live music in a sukkah, or saw a sukkah this large?



center in Connecticut to celebrate Sukkot for two days (and I realized it was just a hop and skip out of the way of my usual route south to Florida and might coincide with the date I'd actually be leaving Maine), I opened to the possibility that my going to the "Sukkah-fest" might be meant to be--bashert.

I missed the beginning, but came, of course, at a perfect time, just as a parade of people holding *lulavs* and *etrogs* were parading down to water's edge, singing the *Hossanot*.

Though most of the hundred-plus attendees had come from the Northeast, there were people from all parts of the globe. Most of them were younger than I, some by a lot, but there was a goodly smattering of all ages. There were many rabbis, all inspiring. There were a number of women studying to be rabbis and cantors. There were orthodox people who held their own services in a red yurt across the pond. There were a zillion personal stories.

But there seemed to be one overriding, unifying goal, one intent, one *kavanah*. All wanted to be part of a community celebrating the earth and our connection to her, our trust in the creator, and all committed to celebrating Sukkot in song, dance, study, service, and creativity.

What an amazing experience, especially for someone who has researched and written about Sukkot but has limited experience with the actual services or immersion in Sukkot living. To talk about joy and to see, feel, live, and overflow with it are two different things. I have never been in the same space with so many committed, ecstatic, loving, open Jewish people. And I have never so appreciated my own tribe's teachings and appreciation of nature, the elements, the cycles and the mysteries of life.

Ooops, did I forget to say that the food was vegetarian and delicious? That there were five different tracks of workshops? Did I mention walks in the woods? Organic farming? A pond with kayaks and Canadian geese drifting in for landings at key punctuation points? Meals shared in the giant Sukkah? Chairs, tables, cushions, and mattresses under the Sukkah to cover all tastes in eating and seating styles? Did I forget to tell about the big concert the last night, or the small sweet one in the morning before we closed



the circle? I am especiallv interested in sharing what I learned about sacred music and how most of it. mavbe

Gloria with pal Chaim and two other happy renewers.

90 percent, is about listening.

I have to admit, I have the fantasy of returning next year, but with some of our KJCC *mishpocha*. I still do not know very much about Jewish Renewal, but I am impressed with the joy and openness and love for Judaism that I felt in the midst of this (very) assorted gathering of peace and social-justiceoriented people. Maybe it was the beautiful abandon with which the young people danced their prayers. Maybe it was the new insights, the good humor, the singing, or the exquisite colors of the gold and orange foliage around the pond. Whatever the reason, I know I came out of the experience refreshed, grateful, and eager to share. \Diamond

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Comments? Story ideas? Information or announcements? Let's hear it! Contact Chai-

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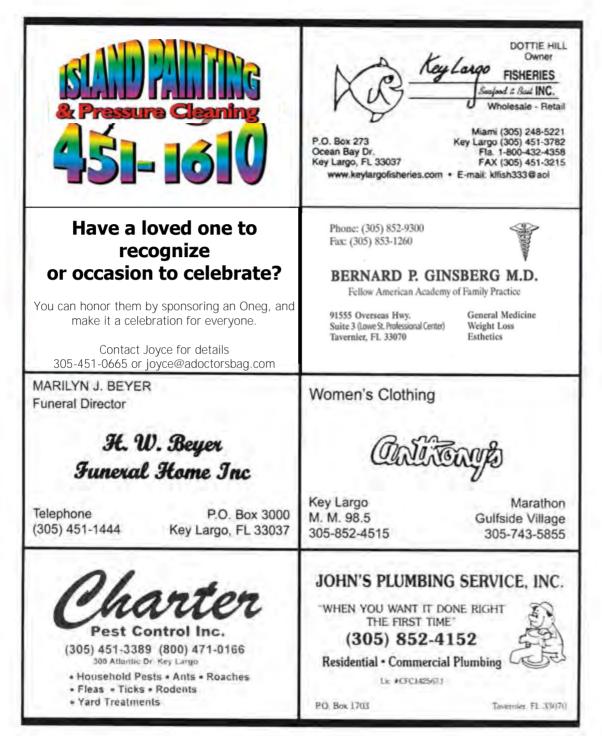
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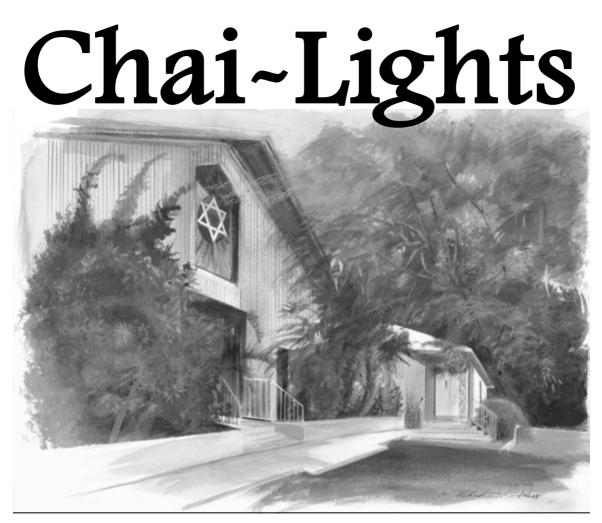
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December 2008

4 Kislev - 4 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Bernie Ginsberg Joyce Peckman	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Ken Atlas Joan & Jim Boruszak Franne & Barry Alter	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Alan Beth Patty Silver & Jeffrey Schocket Chanukah Dinner Sponsored By Joel & Linda Pollack	20
21 First Day Of Winter	22 First Day of Chanukah	23 Second Day of Chanukah	24 Third Day of Chanukah	25 Fourth Day of Chanukah	26 Joyce Peckman 6:30 Service Shelby Strean	27 Sixth Day of Chanukah
28 Seventh Day of Chanukah	29 Eighth Day of Chanukah	30	31	Names de Italiciz	note leaders of Friday <i>ed</i> names are Oneg spo	services. onsors.

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly newsletter of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message

Steve Steinbock

We have been busy here at KJCC. It is a pleasure to see and welcome back many of our "snowbirds." We look forward to seeing the rest of you soon.

The KJCC Board approved a blood drive at our synagogue on Hanukkah, Sunday, December 21st. See the notice in "Nosh" to find out how you can donate much-needed blood.

The Board also approved a new Jewish Youth Enrichment Program that will give financial assistance to our children to attend summer camps and other Jewish educational programs. Dr. Neal Rakov and Susan Gordon should be contacted if you have any questions.

At the October board meeting, Yardena Kamely, in her Holocaust Committee report, informed us that the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht this year would be commemorated with lighting of synagogues around the world and suggested that the KICC join in remembering the night that marked the beginning of the Holocaust. Joan Boruszak and her committee organized the event. which was attended by some 100 people, both Jewish and Gentile, including individuals from as far away as Homestead and Marathon. The very moving event included a presentation on Kristallnacht and its aftermath by Dr.

Steve Smith, followed by illuminating the *Magen David* on the front entrance of the synagogue and prayers led by Yardena.

Sadly, we note the passing of Fanny Kluger and Linda Holbrook. But we will always remember how they enriched our lives.

I continue to work on a non-religious adult education program. On January 21st, Gloria Avner will conduct a two-hour Expressive Art class using ink and watercolor. The other "class" planned right now is a session on the importance of Powers of Attorney, Living Wills and Health Care Surrogate Designations, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday. February 4th, given by my wife, Carol. a former nurse who was a practicing attorney for almost twenty years before taking down her shingle to sell real estate. She continues to keep current on this important subject. Again, see "Nosh" for details.

Anyone with ideas on other subjects, please contact me by e-mail or phone me at (305) 394-0143.

Carol and I wish you all a very happy and healthy Hanukkah. We hope to see you all at Sisterhood's Shabbat dinner December 19th. -Steve



Nosh

An Evening of Expressive Art With Gloria

The first in the KJCC adult education series, will be held on Wednesday, January 21st, at 7:30 p.m. RSVP to Gloria at 305-619-0216.

"While you are being creative, you cannot be fearful or anxious or anywhere but here and now.

"Creativity heals and energizes. Those of us who made pottery at Beth's know how satisfying the process was and how good it is to interact with *mishpocha* in a creative context. We will live for at least these hours in the right sides of our brains, non-verbal, open, present.

"This is a 'no-fail' art class, perfect for people who, like all good artists, can't draw a straight line and wouldn't want to if they could. Come play. We will use line and color, ink, water, and paint. You will be the 'artist you.' Have fun. Be free. Go home with at least one little unexpected jewel, a perfect gift for a friend or an inspiration piece for your own wall (and a technique you can use again and again). We will do a piece in collaboration as well, to leave as a gift for the shul. I am eager to see and support and play with each of you."

-Love, Gloria

The Gift Shop is ready for Chanukah!

We have menorahs and candles, dreidels and wrapping paper, jewelry and toys. Please check it out. If you do not find what you want, we can probably get it for you! Call Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0833.

Shabbat Service With Rabbi Agler

Alan Beth, the religious chair , would like to announce that on Saturday, January 3rd, 2009, Rabbi Agler will be leading a Shabbat Service at the KJCC. The service will start at 10 a.m. This will be an educational, meaningful and guaranteed enjoyable experience, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

I I thJamie & Laura Goodman......3I I thArthur Lee & Johanna Willner......43I 4thBarry & Franne Alter......39I 4thDavid & Pat VanArtsdalen......27I 7thLarry & Stephanie Gilderman.....42

Adult Classes at the KJCC

5th

8th

President Steve Steinbock is starting a series of Adult Education classes at the KICC. In addition to the art class that will be offered by Gloria Avner in January, he is also planning a talk and question-and-answer session on Powers of Attorney, Living Wills and Health Care Surrogate Designations. The talk will be given by Carol Steinbock, a former nurse who was also a practicing attorney for almost 20 years in New York and the Keys. The class is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ruth Richardson Hall. If you have any questions, or ideas for future classes and subjects, you can contact Steve at 305-394-0143 or at president@keysjewishcenter.com.

KJCC Men's Club Road Trip

The Men's Club is planning a visit to Key West on Sunday, December 14 to visit the traveling replica of the National Vietnam Memorial Wall. The plan is to depart from KJCC at about noon following the monthly Board meeting. The trip may include a stop in Marathon for lunch on the way. We should return in time for the I.C.E. concert in Founder's Park that evening. For more info or to make a reservation, call Stuart Sax at 664-8445.

Anniversaries

Knitting/Crochet Classes

Nettie Seder would like to start a class (or club) of people who are interested in learning to Knit or Crochet . She hopes to include all who do it regularly, as an opportunity to share experience and just be social. A day and time will be set that meets most people's availability. Please contact Nettie at 305-852-7283 for more information or to sign up.

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

Allan Holbrook

on the death of

Linda Holbrook

A Note From The Kluger Family

During a difficult, emotional time in our family, the sincere thoughtfulness expressed by the KICC and its members was most appreciated. My mother wanted an Orthodox departure from life. Family members in the Northeast insured her wishes. Her total devotion to and belief in her religion was a basic foundation of her existence. Her 100 years of experience and the ability to remember every detail of it inspired us all. What an incredible run she had! When her life stopped giving her the level of excellence she was used to, it was time for her to leave us, but also to leave behind an example of living life to its fullest. The financial climate, politics, WORRY and her family were her life. I thank her for what she gave to us and thank you for remembering Fanny.

-Kurt Kluger

Ongoing Projects

General Donations – can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Call Linda Pollack 852-8575.

Gift Shop - We have many lovely gift and holiday items on hand and can special order for you as well. Contact Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

Jewish Youth Enrichment Program - will assist in involving our children in Jewish activities. Call Neal Rakov 852-9400.

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from the Center, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665. **KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yartzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates for Siddurim.** Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

JNF Trees in Israel - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214. **Chai-Lights Mitzvah** - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertisement in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for the low annual rates.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well.

December Birthdays

Bob Freundlich		
Paul Hudson	I	st
Jonathan Lang		
Joseph Burke Grossman		
Marshall A. Field		
Ashley Berk		
Cammie Berk		
Jackie LePree		
Rick McNew	3	rd
Tracy B. Nikolas		
Cody W. Blumenthal	4	th
Judith Klein	4	th
Geri Smith		
Joseph Beth		
Sheldon Weiss		
Stuart Sax	5	th
Gerald Hirsch	6	th
Haley Boruszak	6	th
Kevin Gershowitz		
Leslie Boruszak		
Neal A. Jacobson		
Elizabeth Turney		
Franklin Rose		
Alan Stocking		
Leslie Dillon		
George Swartz		
James Boruszak	9	th
Robert Jay Auston		
Harvey Robins	10)th
Susan Greenbaum	.10	th
Sara Rose Friedman	.11	th
Lilian Forbes	.12	th
Robin Margulies Juenger	.13	th
Sarah Boruszak	I 3	ßth
Susan Widrich		
Samuel Klimpl	16	th
Bruce Forman		
Jeffrey Schocket		
Robert Berman		
Emelyn Anne Juenger	.18	th
Jerome Horowitz		
Aaron Stuart		
Alan Schulberg	.20	th
Jennifer VanArtsdalen	20)th
Teresa Kwalick	20)th
Roberta McNew	.21	st
Stuart Smith		
Steven Smith	.26	th

December Birthdays

Steve Kasinof	27th
Elaine Schulberg	28th
Emily Sherman	28th
Michael Klimpl	
Joan Stark	29th
Michael Goldberg	29th
Ellen Bloom	30th
Elliot S. Schenker	3 st

Children's Book Drive

Sisterhood is sponsoring a Children's Book Drive for the Keys Domestic Abuse Shelter. Please donate any children's books, puzzles or games (NO TOYS) in new or good used condition. There is a donation box in the lobby. Drop-offs are suggested Friday evenings or Sunday during Hebrew School hours. Contact Joan Stark, joanstark@bellsouth.net or by phone at 394-2417.

YARTZEIT PLAQUE

In Memory of

Richard "Papa Dick" Jacob

By Linda and Joel Pollack

A Special Thanks

Sisterhood would like to thank our members who sponsored Onegs in November, without benefit of Chai-Lights publicity. The wine was just as sweet! Thanks go to Teresa Kwalick, Barbara and Paul Bernstein, Gloria Avner as well as an anonymous member.

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

the Kluger family

on the death of

Fanny Kluger

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of

FANNY KLUGER

By Linda and Joel Pollack

Jewish Youth Enrichment Program

The KJCC Board recently approved a new Jewish Youth Enrichment Program that will give financial assistance to our children under college age so that they may attend summer camps and other Jewish educational programs. Dr. Neal Rakov and Susan Gordon are in charge and should be contacted if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat ...

is a wonderful way to celebrate a special event or honor the memory of a loved one. Contact Joyce Peckman at 451-0665 for more information. Those who attend Friday night services and stay to enjoy the coffee, soda, dessert and company of friends, are truly appreciative of the sponsors.

The Pantry is Nearly Bare

Our neighbors at Burton United Methodist Church run a community food pantry, they are seeing a large increase in those coming to them for help. As a result, their pantry is running very low. Jim Boruszak will be placing a donation box in the lobby of the KJCC so that you may drop off your non-perishable food items.

Oneg Sponsors for December

December 5th—Joyce Peckman

December 12th—Jim and Joan Boruszak in honor of Jim's birthday, and Franne and Barry Alter in observance of their 39th Anniversary.

Dec. 19th—Patty and Jeffrey Schocket in honor of Jeff's birthday. Joel and Linda Pollack are sponsoring the Chanukah Dinner.

Dec 26th—Shelby Strean

Chanukah Blood Drive

The Community Blood Services of the Upper Keys will conduct a blood drive at our synagogue on Chanukah, Sunday, December 21st, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will be giving away dreidels and chocolate candy. To give the gift of life this Chanukah season you can sign up on the sheet in the Ruth Richardson Hall, you can e-mail president@keysjewishcenter.com or just show up on the day to donate much-needed blood.

Sisterhood Events Calendar

December 7	Sisterhood Meeting
December 19	Chanukkah Shabbat Dinner
January 4	Sisterhood Meeting
January 14	Fashion Show Luncheon
January 18	"Miami Bombshells"
January 23	Shabbat Dinner - Membership
	Drive

This is just the beginning of a busy new season! The November Sisterhood meeting had a great turn-out and we were able to get a lot accomplished . We discussed dates and venues for upcoming events, put together a team to work on the Fashion Show, planned the nosh for the Krystalnacht commemoration, set dates for the Shabbat dinners, discussed the Friday night Oneg shabbat sponsorships, the Childrens Book Drive, the Tikkun Olum fund and of course what to do for our annual fundraiser! The December Sisterhood meeting has a "bring a friend(member)" theme, so don't wait to be invited, just plan to join us! Breakfast treats will be served. 9:00am coffee and nosh / 9:30 meeting. The Chanukkah Shabbat dinner is always a joyous party. We eat well, of course, then are entertained by the Hebrew School play, followed by services and an Oneg. Speaking of Onegs, loyce is always busy organizing the Oneg Shabbats. Please call her if you would like to honor a special occassion.

Stay in touch, stay involved!

-Joan Stark



In Memoriam December 2008

In Memory OF

ALEX AVNER

By Gloria Avner

In Memory Of

ROSE BETH

By Alan Beth and Candace Stanlake

In Memory Of

STEVE CIMKOWSKI

By Stephen and Carol Steinbock

In Memory Of

BURTON V. BORUSZAK

By James and Joan Boruszak

In Memory Of

JULIUS KOHLENBRENER

By James and Joan Boruszak

In Memory Of

HARRIETTE T. CLINE

By Meredith A. Cline

In Memory Of

EDWARD SANDBERG

By Murray and Claire Cooper

In Memory Of

DAVID M. ORANS

By Alvan and Carol Field

In Memory Of

HARRY J. FRIEDMAN

By Stephan and Jane Friedman

In Memory Of

HARRY WOLFE

By Michael and Suzanne Gilson

In Memory Of

JEANNE SCHNEIDER

By Maryon Gould

In Memory Of

SYLVIA SARAH GROSSMAN

By Stuart Grossman

In Memory Of

HERBERT GONTAR

By Robert and Eileen Hermann

In Memory Of

DINAH LEVY

By Michal Kamely

In Memory Of

BARBARA K. SILVERBERG

By Erwin and Barbara Kantor

In Memory Of

ABRAHAM GOLDSTEIN

By Mario and Linda LaGrotte

In Memory Of

SYLVIA LESSNER

By Howard and Shaloma Lessner

In Memory Of

ANETTE FOOSANER

By Howard and Shaloma Lessner

In Memory Of

JOSEPH L. SHAWMUT

By Howard and Shaloma Lessner

In Memory Of

SAMUEL LESSNER

By Howard and Shaloma Lessner

In Memory Of

HANNAH OSER

By Marjorie Present

In Memoriam December 2008

In Memory Of In Memory Of RUTH GREENWALD **STEVE CIMKOWSKI** By Paul and Susan Roberts By Stephen and Carol Ann Steinbock In Memory Of In Memory Of RAYMOND MARTELL **CELIA STREAN** By Skip and Rene Rose By Shelby Strean In Memory Of In Memory Of **HYMAN SAMUELS DONALD WEISS** By Sid Samuels By Sheldon and Carole Weiss In Memory Of In Memory Of **RHONIE LEE KLIPPER IRIS WERTHAMER** By Robert and Heide Werthamer By Mary Lee Singer In Memory Of In Memory Of SYLVIA L. SINGER DANIEL BIRNBAUM By Norbert Birnbaum By Mary Lee Singer In Memory Of In Memory Of MURRAY BLINDER ALEX AVNER By Steven and Barbara Smith By Gloria Avner In Memory Of In Memory Of

PETER F. STEINBERG

By Richard and Sheila Steinberg

ROSE BETH

By Alan Beth and Candace Stanlake

Mishebeyrach List

For those of you who might not make it to services regularly, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. Our printed list is read, and then the leader asks if anyone in the congregation has names to add. If you can't be at services, and would like someone you care about to be included in the mishebeyrach prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KICC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.

VEDA VEPTORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Jewish Virtues: Hachnasat Orchim - Hospitality

The first explicit instance of hospitality in our tradition concerns Abraham. Often quoted and referred to later in Jewish literature, it is the foundation story for this virtue. Because God's presence is part of the greeting of guests, hospitality is lent an extra air of significance.

The story begins, in Genesis 18:22-24, with the arrival of three strangers at Abraham's home. Abraham rushes off to prepare a meal for them. One of the three — all angels disguised as men — announces that, in exactly one year, the barren Sarah, Abraham's wife, will give birth to a son.

The theme continues with two of the three disguised angels arriving in the doomed city of Sodom, where Abraham's nephew, Lot, extends his hospitality.

We learn a lot about hospitality from texts of rabbinic sources. For example, Rabbi Huna is extraordinary in his hospitality, at each meal inviting in the hungry. "When [Rabbi Huna] had a meal, he would open the door wide and declare, whoever is hungry let [that person] come and eat." (*Ta'anit 20b*). The record of his attitude became so inspirational as to be included in the *Pesach haggadah*: "Let all who are hungry come and eat"

Shabbat is a gift from God. When we welcome Shabbat, inviting this special time into our lives and homes, we are appreciative of God. On Shabbat, we make special efforts to heighten our awareness of God as we "invite in" the Sabbath Bride/Queen, an act of hospitality.

A surprising amount of attention is given *hachnasat orchim* in our tradition. It is actu-

ally a *mitzvah*, a commandment, an obligation. The root of *hachnasah* (ch-n-s) means "enter," but since the form is in a causative tense, *hachnasah* means to "bring in." In other words, there is a deeper nuance to the kind of hospitality we are supposed to offer. The virtue is not about standing at the door and welcoming those who choose to enter; rather; one is to go outside and *bring in* the guest or stranger. "Inviting" is a good thing, but "bringing in" is an even higher level of fulfilling this mandate. The *mitzvah* "to bring guests in" compels us to develop the *middah* (virtue) of hospitality.

Living a Jewish life requires community. A *minyan* (quorum) is needed for the recitation of certain prayers and for celebrating most life cycle events and holidays. It has been essential for Jews to depend on each other, to support each other, and to be united as a group. To maintain this standard requires inclusiveness, and inclusiveness means "inviting people in."

Hachnasat orchim, mentioned frequently in rabbinic literature, is rooted in the pre-Exodus experience of our people. Stories, prayers, commandments, ethics, and holidays remind us regularly that since "we were strangers in Egypt," we should know what it is like to be an outsider. Therefore, we have a special obligation to reach out to others.

Hachnasat orchim involves risk. When we bring in guests, we open ourselves to encounter something new, which can at once be exciting and intimidating. Yet, we grow and learn by our exposure to such new experiences. According to Jewish virtues, hospitable personality accompanied by acts of hospitality – that is the ideal. ◊



World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Jewish Family Records Now Online

The world's largest online collection of Jewish family history records is now available at *Ancestry.com*, a genealogy website. Partnering with "JewishGen," an affiliate of New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the collection features 26 million documents, many of which are online for the first time. Included are photographs, immigration data and other historic Jewish records including Schindler's List and a record of people who perished in the Nazi concentration camps.

(World Jewish Congress, 10-30-08)

The New American Congress

The 111th United States Congress now has 46 Jewish members, a new record, with three newcomers elected to the House of Representatives on November 4th. Both men running for senator of Minnesota, Norm Coleman (R) and former comedian Al Franken (D)--at press time still in a recount-are both Jewish.

(World Jewish Congress, 11-6-08)

Rahm Emanuel

President-elect Barack Obama has selected Rep. Rahm Emanuel, the Jewish congressman from Chicago, and former policy adviser to President Clinton, to be his White House Chief of Staff. Emanuel has a notable family. He is the son of Jerusalem-born Dr. Benjamin Emanuel, a pediatrician who was a member of the underground Zionist military organization, the Irgun, in the 1940s. His mother, Martha Smulevitz, was a civil rights activist; his older brother, Ezekiel, is a prominent bioethicist and oncologist; his other brother Ari, a Hollywood agent, is the inspiration for the main character Ari Gold on the HBO series

"Entourage." Rahm himself was said to be the inspiration for the character of Josh Lyman on the TV series, "The West Wing." In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, Rahm was a civilian volunteer on an army base in Israel where his job was rust-proofing brakes. Emanuel is actively Jewish. His children attend a conservative Jewish day school in Chicago, the same one he attended as a child, and the family belongs to *Anshe Shalom*, a modern Orthodox congregation. During Rosh Hashanah, he asked his rabbi if he could take a conference call regarding the financial crisis bailout package. (His rabbi said yes.) (*The Forward, 11-7-08, and other sources*)

Fighting AIDS in Africa

Last year, the United Nations announced that circumcision could reduce the rate of HIV transmission by up to 60 percent. So now, in a clinic in Swaziland, Israeli doctors have been training their counterparts in the ancient procedure. It was kind of by accident that Israel had to develop the expertise to perform adult male circumcision on a wide scale. With the mass wave of immigration from the former Soviet Union. scores of men requested the procedure. To meet the demand, Israeli hospitals set up circumcision clinics in five hospitals throughout the country. Dr. Inon Schenker, a director of "Operation Abraham." the consortium that sent the doctors to Swaziland, said, "They [Swaziland] recognize the expertise and experience gained in Israel over the past decade, where close to 100,000 male circumcisions have been conducted." These doctors of "Operation Abraham" - Jews, Muslims and Christians - have now had requests to do similar training programs in five other African

countries, among them Uganda, Kenya and South Africa. Nearly 30 percent of the world's men are circumcised, but the practice is rare in many southern African countries where AIDS has become a pandemic. Swaziland has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world; the life expectancy there has dropped to 31 years. (www.jta.org, 11-10-08)

The Two Best Academic Workplaces

According to readers of *The Scientist* magazine, Israel's Weizman Institute of Science and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem are ranked #1 and #2, respectively, as the best places to work in academia internationally in 2008. Both are newcomers to the list. Overall, analysis showed Australia as the best country in which to do research, with Israel as the first runner-up. (*www.marketwatch.com, 11-3-08*)

Paul Krugman

Paul Krugman, professor of economics at Princeton University, has won the Nobel Prize for economics for his analysis of international trade patterns. Krugman, who is Jewish, also writes a regular column for *The New York Times*. He was one of the first economists to anticipate the U.S. housing debacle and the resulting effects on international markets. (*www.jta.org, 10-13-08*)

Student Outs a War Criminal

As a result of work done on his university project, where he was researching the massacres of lews in the Austrian region of Burgenland, Andreas Forster, an Austrian student at Vienna University, has tracked down one of the world's most-wanted Nazi war criminals. Forster, in his final year of studies. located the fugitive. an 89-year-old former member of the SS, living in Germany. He is suspected of being involved in the massacre of 60 lewish slave-laborers in 1945 in the Austrian town of Deutsch Schutzen, where a mass grave was discovered 13 years ago. Forster's instructor conducted several hours of an interview with the former Nazi in which the man first admitted

his crimes but then denied it and withdrew his confessions. German authorities have started an investigation. (World Jewish Congress, 10-23-08)

Dead Sea Scrolls on the Internet

In late August, six specialists digitally photographed every one of the thousands of fragments of the 2.000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls, with the goal of eventually making the entire file available to anyone on the Internet, Using state-of-the-art equipment. the scientists and technicians have uncovered previously illegible sections of the scrolls. Found in the 1940s in caves east of lerusalem by an Arab shepherd boy, access to the scrolls was for many years restricted to a small circle of scholars. Finally, in 2001, they were published in their entirety. The scrolls contain the earliest known copies of every book of the Hebrew Bible (except the Book of Esther), as well as Apocryphal texts and descriptions of rituals of a lewish sect at the time of Jesus. Most of the text is written on parchment and dates from the 3rd century B.C.E. to the 1st century C.E.

The Israel Antiquities Authority is the custodian of the scrolls. The project of digitalization began "as a conservation necessity," said Pnina Shor, head of the Authority's conservation department. "We needed to take precise photographs [to monitor the deterioration of the scrolls] and that's when we decided to do a comprehensive set of photos.... We realized that we could make the entire set of pictures available online to everyone..." The entire process will probably take a few years before it is available online. Greg Bearman, retired from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, heads the project. (*New York Times, 8-27-08*

New Head of the Rabbinical Assembly

Julie Schonfeld has been named the new executive vice president of Conservative Judaism's Rabbinical Assembly, the first time a female rabbi has been selected to head one of the three major Jewish denominations. Schonfeld is a graduate of Yale University and was ordained a rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1997. She will succeed Rabbi Joel Meyers, who will step down after twenty years of service. (*The Forward, 10-30-08*)

Art Stolen By Nazis Returned

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts has returned the painting Smoke Over Rooftops by Fernand Leger to the heirs of Alphonse Kann, a collector in pre-war France.

The quest to have the picture returned to its rightful owner began in 1997, when the museum received a letter from The Kann Association requesting its return. Alphonse Kann had been a legendary French art collector with a massive collection, including works by Picasso and Braque, among others. The story of the loss of his paintings inspired the 1964 movie "The Train" starring Burt Lancaster, about a trainload of art that the Nazis tried to keep from the Allies.

The Institute had received the painting as a gift 47 years ago from a patron who had purchased it from a French art dealer. (*Minnesota Public Radio 10/30/09*) This story suggested by Harvey Schwaid.

2,000 Yr. Old Jewel Found In Jerusalem

A luxurious gold, pearl and emerald earring was found beneath a parking lot next to the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. It dates to the Roman period between the second and fourth centuries C.E. The earring was found in a destroyed Byzantine home built centuries after the piece itself was made, indicating that it had been passed down through generations. Archaeologists are excited by the find, not just because of its Roman origin but also because precious items are rarely found in Jerusalem.

The Israel Antiquities Authority said the earring appeared to have been made using a technique similar to that depicted in portraits from Roman-era Egypt. Finds from the Roman period are rare in Jerusalem because the city was destroyed by the Romans in the first century C.E. (Yahoo /AP news 11/10/08)

Auschwitz Blueprints Found

The original construction plans for the Auschwitz death camp have been found in a

Berlin flat. The yellowing blueprints include rooms marked as gas chambers, crematoriums and *Leichenkeller* (corpse cellar), as well as the building that would become Auschwitz's main gate.

The plans were published in Germany's *Bild* newspaper ahead of the 70th anniversary of *Kristallnacht* and offer "authentic evidence of the systematically planned genocide of the European Jews," said Hans-Dieter Kreikamp, head of the federal archives in Berlin.

The decision to kill Europe's 11 million Jews was made at the Wannsee Conference in January of 1942. The newly found blueprints are dated October 23, 1941 and offer even earlier evidence that the Nazis planned to kill Jews on a mass scale, Bild said. "These documents reveal that everyone who had even anything remotely to do with the planning and construction of the concentration camp must have known that people were to be gassed to death in assembly-line fashion. The documents refute once and for all claims by those who deny the Holocaust took place," he added. (Yahoo/AP News 11/10/08)

Did You Know...

Donald Trump's 27-year-old daughter Ivanka has begun the process of converting to Judaism at Kehilath Jeshurun, an Orthodox synagogue in Manhattan. Ivanka, a former model and now vice president of real estate development & acquisitions for the Trump Organization, is engaged to Jared Kushner, a Jewish businessman. (www.jta.org, 11-4-08)

"Waltz with Bashir," an animated documentary about the Lebanon War, won best film at Israel's Ophir Awards in late September. It will be Israel's entry in the best foreign film category at the next Academy Awards. (www.jta.org, 9-24-08)

For the third time in its history, New Zealand has elected a Jewish prime minister, John Key, 47, the leader of the conservative National Party. His mother is a Jewish immigrant from Austria and is an active member of New Zealand's Jewish community of about 5,000 members.

(World Jewish Congress, 11-13-08) ◊

Photo Gallery



The Sunday night of November 9th was very special

at the KJCC. About one hundred people joined us to commemorate the dreadful night of November 9, 1938, *Kristallnacht*, the

"night of broken glass." It was seventy vears ago when a seventeen-yearold Jewish student in Paris decided to avenge the deportation and suffering of his family and killed a Nazi embassv official. This



act of one distraught and impassioned teenager became the pretext for an orchestrated, violent rampage throughout Germany that destroyed thousands of Jewish businesses, synagogues and homes. Hundreds of Jews were injured or killed. New laws were immediately passed restricting the civil rights of Jews in Nazi Germany. Many historians consider *Kristallnacht* the true beginning of the Holocaust.



Dr. Steve Smith developed and narrated a

PowerPoint program, which vividly brought us back to the horrors of that night

night and the even worse









Scenes, on this page and the following, from the November 9th KJCC commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of Kristallnacht. Top and top left, Steve Smith, whose presentation began the evening. Above, the event's organizer Joan Boruszak.



held in the sanctuary.

After the program, everyone gathered outside before KJCC's front entrance. In a coordinated effort with synagogues and Jewish buildings in Israel and all across the diaspora, all the lights--including a



Along with synagogues around the world, the exterior of KJCC was brightly lit. Just before lighting, Yardena led all assembled in chanting the Shema. Joyce, in the center, has that smile because her granddaughter had just been born earlier in the evening.



presentation, to Eric Grace for bringing and operating the spotlight, and to all our members and guests who honored the victims of *Kristallnacht* by attending. -loan Boruszak



synagogues that were burned down that night. Our own dear teacher, Yardena Kamely, led us all in chanting the *Shema*. We then all re-

spotlight--were turned on and bathed the synagogue with light, to symbolize the

turned to the social hall for refreshments. The committee offers its deepest thanks to Dr. Smith for his powerful





The first-ever "Keys to Peace and Wellness Expo" was held Sunday, November 16th at the Treasure Village Montessori School. Many KJCC members joined others interested in natural healing, massage, yoga, energy healing and a variety of health and holistic workshops. The organizer was KJCC's own Dr. Erica Garrett, shown below at the welcome table (a loan from KJCC). The photo to the left is of Gloria Avner's art booth.

Keith and Rebecca Peckman, below, have a beautiful new daughter, Libby (Hebrew for "my heart") Eden. Keith is Joyce's youngest son.



The photo at right is from a memorial service at Mt. Nebo Memorial Gardens conducted on Veteran's Day by the Jewish War Veterans. Each Veteran's Day flags are placed on the graves of Jewish veterans there and around the country. I visited the KJCC section of Mt. Nebo and placed flags at the gravesites of Marty Graham, Herb Uram, the fathers of Yardena Kamely and Roberta McNew, and many others. The memorial service is held at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in remembrance of Armistice Day (from World War I), which was later re-named Veteran's Day. -Stuart Sax



A Samuraí for Chanukah

How a Chanukah Celebration Helped Lead to the Rescue of Polish Jews in Lithuania.

In 1900, a boy named Chiune Sugihara was born to a samurai family in rural lapan. Although his father was a doctor who expected his son to follow in his footsteps. Sugihara had other hopes and dreams. He wanted to travel the world and experience other cultures. So he put himself through school to attain a degree in English literature. After graduation, he was recruited by the lapanese Foreign Ministry and got his chance to travel the world. Along the way he became fluent in Russian and German. and converted to Greek Orthodox Christianity. He met and married a like-minded young Japanese girl named Yukiko, and together they had four sons. He was amazingly successful in realizing his dreams and reaching goals he set for himself. even the outlandish ones.

In 1939 Sugihara became vice-consul of



the lapanese Consulate in Kaunas. Lithuania. He was a oneman consulate. charged with reporting on Soviet and

playing in town. Having given away all his own money. he went to his aunt's aourmet food shop to ask to borrow a lit (a Lithuanian dollar) for the show. Japanese Consul Chiune Sugihara also happened to be in the shop that afternoon. and overheard Solly asking his aunt for movie money. Once he



heard the rest of Yukiko Sugihara

German plans at this tense time, in this small country caught between two military powers. Understandably, Japan had an interest in what these two powers, enemies a generation before, were planning to do.

Kaunas in 1939 was also home to an eleven-year-old Jewish boy named Solly Ganor. Solly was the son of a *Menshevik* refugee—the losing side in the Communist power struggle in the early 1920s after the Russian revolution. His family had moved to Kaunas and had prospered in the textile import and export business. Even at his young age, Solly was concerned about the plight of the Polish Jewish refugees entering Kaunas and gave all of his allowance money to the Jewish refugee boards. But he was also an eleven-year-old boy. On one particular afternoon he wanted badly to see the new Laurel and Hardy movie

Chiune Sugihara

the story, Sugihara gave the selfless young boy two lit of his own money.

Solly invited the kind Japanese man to his family's celebration of the first night of Chanukah in that year of 1939. Always curious about different cultures and practices, Sugihara gladly accepted, and he and wife Yukiko attended their first Chanukah celebration. Mr. Sugihara was impressed by the closeness of the Jewish family, and of the similarities of the Chanukah celebration to the festivals he had known in Japan.

Unfortunately, Sugihara's enjoyment of his post and blossoming career was to be shortlived. After Hitler invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, the wave of Jewish refugees streaming into Lithuania became even more intense. They arrived with nothing but tales of the atrocities being committed in Poland. Although the Jewish community in Lithuania was very welcoming and helped in any way they could, no one could quite believe the horror stories they were hearing. The Lithuanian Jews continued living normally in what they believed to be an enclave of peace and prosperity for Jews.

They weren't prepared when in June of 1940 the Soviets invaded Lithuania. The Soviets would allow Polish Jews to continue their emigration through the Soviet Union—now including Soviet-controlled Lithuania—only if they intended to continue beyond Russia and could obtain travel documents to a destination country. Some enterprising Polish refu-



Polish refugees at the gate of the Japanese Consulate in Kaunas, Lithuania, July 1940.

Chiune and Yukiko Sugihara woke to find a crowd of Polish Jews gathered in front of the consulate.

gees found a loophole that could offer one last chance. Two Dutch colonial islands in the Caribbean, Curaçao and Dutch Guiana (now Suriname), did not require formal entrance documents, and the honorary Dutch consul of Kaunas, Jan Zwartendijk, had been given permission to stamp passports with entrance permits.

But to get to these islands, for complex geopolitical reasons of the time, Jewish refugees would have to pass through the Soviet Union. The Soviet consul, who was sympathetic to the plight of the Jewish refugees, agreed to let them pass if they could also get a transit visa from the Japanese, as they would have to travel through Japan on their way to the Dutch-held islands. Sugihara began asking for permission to issue transit visas to the Jewish refugees, but the authorities in Japan refused.

One short month later, in July of 1940, the Soviet authorities ordered all foreign embassies to leave Kaunas. Chiune Sugihara applied

for and received special permission to stay an additional twenty days. Now he and Jan Zwartendijk were the only foreign consuls left in Lithuania's second-largest city. They had a lot of work to do.

In late July of 1940, Chiune and Yukiko Sugihara woke to find a crowd of Polish Jews gathered in front of the consulate. Sugihara knew he could help by issuing them Japanese transit visas, but he had been denied permission to do so by his government three separate times in the last month. Going against his government would mean the end of his career, and likely the endangerment of himself and his

family. However, Sugihara had been raised a

samurai, the old warrior aristocracy of Japan, with a strict code of ethics: *oya koko* (love of family), *kodomo no tamene* (for the sake of the children), having *gidi* and *on* (duty and responsibility, or the obligation to repay debt) and *haji no kakete* (do not bring shame on your family.) His family took the samurai code of ethics seriously, and he saw the chance to honor each of these codes in helping the Jews. When asked about it later, Sugihara said that standing and looking out at all the refugees begging for his help, one other

samurai maxim kept coming to him: "Even a hunter cannot kill a bird which flies to him for refuge."

Sugihara and Yukiko knew that they had to help. When asked why he risked all, Sugihara said, "I may have to disobey my government, but if I don't I would be disobeying God." The family made the decision together: the visas would be signed.

For the next 29 days, from July 31st to August 28th of 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Sugihara sat for hour upon hour, writing and signing hundreds of visas by hand. They wrote over 300 visas per day during this time, which would normally be a month's worth of work for a consul. Sugihara did not

even stop to eat. He said that he knew that every minute he wasted might mean another life. Yukiko helped write and register the visas. The hundreds waiting in front of the consulate became thousands. They waited outside day and night. The Sugiharas worked furiously, without stopping, writing as many visas as they could. On September 1st, they were forced to leave the consulate and board a train for Berlin due to the pending Nazi invasion of Russia. Sugihara continued writing, signing and stamping documents, handing them out the train window to waiting refugees. When the train began to pull out of the station, he tossed his consul visa stamp to a refugee who was able to use it to fabricate more documents for additional lews.

Thousands of Polish Jews carried Sugihara

I may have to disobey my government, but if I don't I would be disobeying God.

visas. They boarded trains for Moscow, then traveled on to Kobe, Japan. They had become The Sugihara Survivors.

Among the Jews who received Sugihara visas were the eleven-year-old Solly Ganor, who in a simpler world had been given movie money by Chiune Sugihara, and his family. Unfortunately, because they were still Soviet citizens, they were unable to use them. Solly and his father spent two years in the Kaunas ghetto before being deported to the Landsberg-Kaufering outer camp of Dachau in

> 1944. Ironically, in May of 1945, they were liberated by Japanese-American soldiers of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, men who had been interned after Pearl Harbor as security risks by their own country.

> It is estimated that the numbers of Jews who Sugihara and Yukiko saved would be second in number only to those saved by Raoul Wallenberg. Now, more than 60 years later, it is estimated that as many as 40,000 Jews are descendants of the Sugihara Survivors. Even so, Mr. Sugihara never mentioned his deeds after the war. For his disobedience, he had been dismissed from diplomatic service.

and lived out his days modestly, working as a translator and interpreter. It wasn't until one of the Sugihara Survivors was able to track him down, in 1969, that his astounding acts of humanity became public knowledge. Soon, hundreds of others also came forward to tell of his acts of bravery and courage.

Yad Vashem recognized Chiune and Yukiko Sugihara as "Righteous Among the Nations" in 1985. A tree was planted in Chiune Sugihara's name at Yad Vashem, and a park in Jerusalem was named in his honor. Chiune Sugihara passed away in 1986 at the age of 86. Yukiko Sugihara died in October of this year at the age of 94. \Diamond

Our thanks to Gloria Avner for suggesting this story.







AT THE ANNUAL WASSER SCAREFEST...

KJCC members were once again the guests of Mark and Sofy Wasser at the 2008 version of their world-famous Key Largo Halloween party. You'll also see assorted Wasser family

members in the photos. First prize







Illuminating the Festival of Lights..



Chanukah is a time of gift-giving, yes, but it's also full of symbolism, history, wonderful

snippets of information and memories. And that 's all before we even start on the latkes...

Hidden in the Candles of Chanukah...

Or, Long Days' Journey into Light

by Gloria Avner

As an avocational ethnologist, I study world religions. As a practicing, enthusiastic Jew I look for answers to life's big questions in my own tribal heritage. Every early religion found powerful teachings and created ceremonies of hope, appeasement, and gratitude in the time of shortest, darkest days. How could life go on if the sun did not return to warm the earth? I have read words from contemporary rabbis linking Chanukah to Solstice, saying that in our earliest days, sacrifices were made for eight days both before and after the shortest day of the year. Whether bonfires or candles, it is all about light.

"Light " is a big concept. As an artist I am in love with light and the act of creation. My father, whose personal light went out ten years ago on the eighth day of Chanukah, gifted me with light through his name. "NER" means both candle and light. Every synagogue in the world has its *ner tamid*, the everlasting light. ("Av," of course, is Hebrew for father.) The light of *Yiddishkeit* nearly went out when the temple was laid to ruin by the Greeks, whose goal was to assimilate if not annihilate us. The Maccabees recaptured the temple, cleansed, restored it, and rededicated it, but to complete the dedication they/we needed an additional seven days in which to replace the consecrated oil that had been defiled by the Greeks. With only one "kosher" vial left, enough oil for just one day, we needed a miracle, the exact length of time of the creation.

We all know the history of the "Great Thing that Happened There," and more of the history is told elsewhere in these pages. But where is the deeper meaning of the miracle? This is Judaism. We know there is always more.

Anyone who has ever prepared a Friday night "parshah" knows how many stories lie within each Torah portion and that within each story there are as many layers and meanings as we have time and energy to discover. It does not surprise me, as I look for hidden meanings in the light of Chanukah, that I am thrown back to B'reishit, the beginning, the creation of primordial light:

When Adam and Eve came into being in the Garden on the sixth day of creation, light stepped beyond its bounds. There were thirty-six hours of intense limitless light, says the teaching, and Adam could see from one end of the world to the other. Adam and Eve failed to do their *mitzvot* and were punished. The brilliant light that was visible for such a long, uninterrupted time and distance was withdrawn, hidden away, saved for the righteous in the world to come. We weren't ready for it.

How does this primordial light relate to Chanukah? Let's count the candles. Not the shamashim with which we light the candles. but the candles themselves. One plus two plus three plus four plus five plus six plus seven plus eight makes thirty-six. The twelfth century Kabbalist, Rabbi Eliezer of Worms, says that "The 36 candles on the menorah correspond to the 36 hours when Adam and Eve were bathed in The Primordial Light of creation." Today, as we kindle our own lights, in our own homes, he suggests we are calling forth a remembrance if not a revelation of that intense, now hidden light. The light was ours before the *mitzvot* were disobeyed.

The mysterious expansion of light came to lews who were rededicating themselves and their temple to the practice of ludaism. They did not succumb to a culture that did not want them to worship their one God in their own way. The myriad meanings of the number 36 could fill reams, and range from double "chai" to equivalence of the names of God to the amount of years it took Jacob to transform himself on his journey to the number of righteous souls in every generation who keep alive that spark of primordial light. We talk about Chanukah as a minor holiday, and yet there is an understanding that when the messiah comes the only holidays that will still be celebrated will be Chanukah and Purim.

Rabbi Ozair puts it in terms of Earth school. We are here to learn, "training ourselves to reach higher levels of consciousness. The Chanukah lights serve as antennae for holiness, drawing down the energy of the 36. With every day of Chanukah that passes, the light gets increasingly stronger. We place our lit candles in the window as a beacon to all passersby to remind the world that darkness can indeed be dispelled, obscurity can be illuminated, and that it is God's Light which will prevail."

In the dark of winter, we are encouraged to look within, make our own light shine, reconnect with the bright light of creation by correcting behavior, observing *mitzvot*, rededicating our inner sanctuaries, and shining our light on all around us. It is not surprising that Chanukah is the favorite holiday of children and mystics. May we all happily give and receive both presents and Presence. ◊

Little Known Factoids About Hanukkah (Or Hanukkah Kleinekeiten)...

Every year we like to deepen our understanding of the Holidays we know and love and feel as familiar with as comfortable old shoes. It is good to get new insights, see that our ways of celebrating are not the only ways, and add to our grasp of the layers of rich meaning inherent in all things Jewish:

Effigies in Kurdistan: The custom of Jewish children in Kurdistan is to make effigies of Antiochus and carry them around asking for Chanukah *gelt*. At the end of the day the dolls would be ignited to the cries of "Antiochus, Antiochus."

Candles in Turkey: In Turkey it was the custom to make the Hanukkah candles from the flax fibers used to wrap the *etrog for Sukkot*. From the remains of the Hanukkah candles another candle was made which was used to search for leavened bread at Passover time. These customs provided a beautiful continuity to the holidays.

Hannukah Gelt: In 1958 the Bank of Israel initiated a program of striking commemorative coins for use as Hanukkah *gelt*. The first Hanukkah coin portrayed exactly the same menorah that had appeared on the last Maccabean coins some 2000 years earlier. In 1976, the year of America's two hundredth year of independence, the Hanukkah coin featured a colonial American menorah.

Halley's Comet Hanukkah Connection: According to a recent astrological theory, Hal-

ley's comet came very close to the earth's atmosphere during the time of the Hanukkah story in 165 BCE. The comet's tail could be seen as a wondrous great light in the sky, and was likely seen by the Jews after the victory of the Maccabees. One recent theory has it that because of this phenomenon, Hanukkah has come to be known as *Chag HaUrim*, the Festival of Lights. \Diamond

-Gloria

The Maccabees: History, Not Myth...

In 334 B.C.E., Alexander the Great crossed the narrow Dardanelles, then called the Hellespont, into modern-day Turkey to continue a war against the Persians-Greece's fellow Aryans-that had been ongoing for over 150 vears. He had 32.000 infantrymen. Persia had access to millions of soldiers. The Persian forces were annihilated at the Battle of Issus. Alexander demanded unconditional surrender of Darius III, the Persian King. The great Persian Empire, which had crushed the Babylonians who had defeated ludah in 586 B.C.E. and destroyed the first Temple, ceased to exist. All of its territory, which included Judea and all the rest of the Middle East, passed into Greek hands.

Alexander lived but two more years, dying of fever in 332 B.C.E., at the age of 32, after cruising the sewage-laden Euphrates in Babylon. We can't know how Jewish history would have changed had Alexander lived, but we do know that conqueror and conquered quickly established an odd rapport. Though they'd willingly fought everyone else who sought (or seized) their vassalage, they didn't take arms against Alexander. He, in turn, granted them full internal political and religious freedom. But his successors were lesser men, and after his death his empire was split (or rent) into three pieces, each controlled by one of Alexander's former generals: Greece went to Antigonus; Ptolemy (whose descendants included Cleopatra) took Egypt and Palestine; and Seleucus took Asia Minor and Syria, establishing the Seleucid Empire. It was with the Seleucids, a century and a half later, that the Maccabees would have their little tiff.

Alexander's aims had been much more than territorial: he wanted to export Hellenic culture all over the world. Even in death he almost succeeded, at least with the Jews. Jerusalem soon began taking on the look of a Greek city. A gymnasium was built very near to the Holy Temple, on Mount Moriah, supposedly where Abraham had once felt commanded to sacrifice his son Isaac. Suddenly Jewish youth were wrestling nude in public, and hurling javelins, and competing in races as far away as the Mediterranean city of Tyre, once the realm of the Phoenicians. Economically, the Jews thrived under Seleucid rule. But Hellenism was also having a seductive

and corrosive social effect. Because they had to, the Jews learned to speak Greek. But commerce and communication often lead to social interaction, and it certainly did here. First it was business at the bazaars, then after-hours at the theaters and gymnasiums. Jewish life was austere. Greek life was much more

fun. lewish practices



Mattathias slays the idolator.

began to be discarded. More ominously, though, the Greek philosophers began to seriously affect Jewish thought. Behavior was one thing, but ideas were another. Whole new concepts, alluring and stimulating and eye-opening, began to frighten the orthodox Jewish thinkers, who feared, probably with very good reason, elegant new concepts like Epicureanism, which taught that there is no morality, only pleasure, and that pleasure, not strict adherence to a complex and demanding code of conduct, is the highest possible state of being.

But the Mosaic law still had power, and adherents. They coalesced into an anti-Hellenistic party known as the Pietists. Their ranks grew, and with increased popularity began to thunder publicly against not just licentiousness but all things Greek.

Spurred by fear of their God's retribution against those who broke the covenant, the Pietists began to attack and kill the lewish Hellenizers. A lewish civil war had broken out, and the moderate center was rapidly disappearing. Antiochus Epiphanes, who succeeded his more moderate father as King in 176 B.C.E., chose this explosive time to put into effect two grandiose ideas: he wanted to complete the Hellenization of all his kingdom, even including that stubborn little corner in Palestine, and he wanted to reestablish Alexander's empire. So he increased the pressure to impose Greek culture in every aspect of daily life throughout his empire. It worked everywhere but Judea. With the confidence gained from his other successes, he attacked Eqvpt in 170 B.C.E.

Hearing a rumor Antiochus had been killed in Egypt, the Pietists attacked in Jerusalem, hurling both Hellenists and their statues over the walls of the Temple, killed every Hellenizer they could find in the countryside, and took over the country.

Rebuffed by Egypt but very much alive, Antiochus turned his army and fury on Jerusalem, slaughtering some 10,000 of every persuasion. He then re-installed Greek statues in the Temple and invited pagans from throughout his realm to come settle in Jerusalem in order to dilute the Jewish presence.

But he didn't stop there. Sensing all-out rebellion, Antiochus also outlawed the Sabbath and any adherence to the Torah. The penalty for disobedience was death. And the Jews' response? They flocked to the Pietists, whose ranks swelled. An uprising seemed inevitable.

It didn't take long. In the small village of Modin, just east of Lod, an old Hasmonean priest named Mattathias came upon a Seleucid official trying to force a Jew to make a sacrifice to Zeus. Some stories say Mattathias killed the official, some say he killed the other Jew, but either way the spark had been lit. Antiochus ordered reprisals, and the entire Jewish population rose in defense of Mattathias, who, along with his five sons, took over leadership of the rebellion. They became known as the Maccabees.

Untrained and poorly armed, the Maccabees stunned the Greeks with victory after victory, in part because the Seleucids couldn't really believe these Jews were serious. Still, they fought, according to the historian Max Dimont, "...a new kind of war, the world's first religious war, fought with grim determination, heedless of cost and sacrifice."

Antiochus first sent a small but crack force against the Maccabees. It was destroyed. So he assembled a full army and marched toward Jerusalem at its head, even bringing along auctioneers to handle the disposition of slaves he expected to soon be selling. But the Maccabees smashed his army, in 164 B.C.E., and re-conquered Jerusalem. The Temple was rededicated and purged of all idols. The annual event that celebrates this impossible success, Chanukah, was the first festival not sanctioned by Biblical law.

Was that the end? No, not even close. The Jewish rebellion against the Seleucids lasted *twenty-five years*. At some point they were offered full religious freedom but turned it down and fought on for complete independence, and somehow kept winning. In 143 B.C.E., Simon, the last surviving son of Mattathias, signed a peace treaty with the weary Seleucids assuring full independence. The kingdom of Judah had been fully restored. The Hasmonean Dynasty was about to take its turn in Jewish history. The Seleucids were about to disappear. \Diamond

The Dreidel: An International Journey... A Game or a Miracle?

by Yardena Kamely

The Ancient Connection

Some people maintain that the dreidel game goes back to the time of the Greek-

Syrians, and thus is integrally connected to the Hanukkah holiday. Since the Greek-Syrians prohibited the Jews from studying Torah, the Jews needed a way to hide their Torah learning. They used the dreidel as a decoy. When they saw the Greek-Syrians coming, the Jews would hide their books, take out their dreidels, and trick the Syrians into thinking they were just playing a game.

The European Connection

While the above story is a wonderful way to link the holiday's history to its modern celebration, the true source of the game is probably European. In Europe, a gambling game with a spinning top has been played for centuries by various people in various languages. In England and Ireland, the game of totum or teetotum, first mentioned in approximately 1500 C.E., was especially popular at Christmastime. The Germans also liked to play a gambling game with a spinning top.

It is believed that the Jewish game of dreidel is a Judaicized version of the German gambling game. The Yiddish word *dreidel* derived from the German word *drehen*, which means "to spin."



The letters on the faces of the gambling toy, which were mnemonic for the rules of the game, varied in each nation. The letters on the English spinning top were: T for Take, H for Half, P for Put, and N for None. In the German game, the

letters were: N for Nichts (nothing), G for Ganz (all), H for Halb (half), S for Stell (put). The Hebrew letters on the dreidel seem to have come directly from the German gambling toy: Nun for Nichts (nothing), Gimel for Ganz (all), Hay for Halb (half), Shin for Stell (put).

In an effort to link the game to the celebration of Hanukkah, the Hebrew letters nun, gimel, hay and shin were said to stand for the phrase *Nes Gadol Haya Sham*, which means "a great miracle happened there."

The Israeli Connection

With the birth of Israel and the revival of the Hebrew language, Israelis called the dreidel a *sivivon*. *Sivivon* comes from the Hebrew word *sovev*, which means "to turn."

Furthermore, Israelis changed the letter shin on the dreidel to the letter pay. Thus, the letters nun, gimel, hay and pay would stand for the phrase Nes Gadol Haya Po, which means "a great miracle happened here." ◊

And my favorite gift was...

Once again, we asked KJCC members to share with us special memories of a holiday, this time about Chanukah. As an extra special treat, we also have responses for you from our Sunday School students. Our question? The best gift you ever received, or the most satisfying gift you ever gave.

The very best Hanukkah gift I ever received was the yearly gift from my grandmother. She made latkes. I LOVE Latkes! Making latkes for our children, and now grandchildren, I think is, in reality, a continuance of my grandmother's "gift" to me. *-Elinor Grossman*

Seeing our grandsons spinning down the aisle of the KJCC in our homemade *dreidel* costumes. We look back on that with much joy now that they are large football types. *-David Goldfinger*

1977 was one of those unusual years when the Jewish calendar placed Hannukah at the very beginning of December, and the year when I got and received my best gift of all time - an 8 lb.10 oz. baby boy, who we named Keith, and who has just given me my third grandchild, named Libby ("my heart" in Hebrew) Eden.

-Joyce Peckman

I did not bear children. I helped raise some, but for the most part I proceeded directly to grandmotherhood. As often happens these days, none of my grandchildren are lewish. Some of them have visited the KICC over the years, one has participated in the Seder by the Sea. and the one who lives down here, Kyia, comes regularly to our Chanukah parties. They all have lit Chanukah candles with me and have shared Shabbat dinners. Still, they are primarily a product of the Christmas culture. I like to call my gifts to them "Solstice" presents, and they usually give me something in exchange, sometime during the Chanukah period. Four years ago. though, I was surprised by Kyia, then eight vears old, when she came with her mother to see me on the first day of Chanukah. She was grinning ear to ear. In her small hands was a large bag, and inside the bag were eight wrapped presents. She had chosen and purchased them herself. And her young active mind and jiggly body could not wait to see me open them. That eagerness, that giddy, giggly joy of generosity, was a present that stayed with me long past the gifts inside the wrapping paper.

-Gloria Avner

This story isn't exactly on target of "best gift," unless you count love, understanding, tolerance, and curiosity about "others," as gifts. I do. And at this momentous time in our political history, when our hopes and dreams are resting on the shoulders of an African-American, this story seems relevant.

Our youngest daughter, Jocelyn, moved to Yogyacarta, Indonesia, four years ago. As a "do-gooder," she had taken a job with the largest non-profit in Indonesia. As a practicing Jew she had found a Seder in Beijing and High Holy Days services in Singapore. So when Chanukah came around in Indonesia and she didn't have time to get to Singapore, she planned a Chanukah party and invited all of the people in her office and all the others she had met along the way in town (including her Tae Kwan Do team and her motorcycle gang!) and just about everybody came. Dozens squeezed into her tiny little house and she made latkes with imported applesauce for them, lit her menorah, said the prayers and then told the story. It was a bit of a challenge to get the story out in Indonesian, but she said you could have heard a pin drop. Everybody loved it. And then asked dozens of questions about the Jewish religion.

All these people were Muslims (Indonesia is 95 percent Muslim) and she never felt more welcome anywhere as a Jew. She lived in Yogyakarta for three years, and each year the people who had been there the first time begged for another party so they could hear the story again.

Love, tolerance, and understanding are built one person at a time and now I've been given the gift of feeling proud of my country once again.

P.S. Jocelyn now lives in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and is planning her first Chanukah party there. And we will be fortunate enough to be with her.

-Susan Roberts

When I was about five years old, before the U.S. entered the Second World War, we went to my father's brother's apartment in the Bronx for Hanukkah. My uncle and aunt, both immigrants, had two sons, one older than me, and one younger. As the candles were lit, my uncle gave each of us a dime. It seemed like a fortune to me, because it could buy two Mello Roll ice creams, or two bottles of soda, or five toy balsa airplanes with rubber bands, or a pack of Crayola crayons with ten colors! Uncle Irving suffered a long unemployment as a garment center presser and they were very poor.

After the candle lighting, we sat down to a dinner which consisted of borscht, bread, sliced herring and boiled potatoes followed by tea and a few cookies. What five-year-old eats herring? But I had some borscht and a cookie. The war came. Uncle Irving was called back to work on military gaments. The war ended and poverty returned. He found a few survivors from the *Shoah*, borrowed money, and brought them to live in his small apartment on beds in the living room. They

grew up, married, and had children. His sons grew up and supported their parents.

Years later. New York State began a Lottery. The prizes were small compared to the present. Uncle Irving, never a spendthrift, however, would buy a one-dollar ticket every week. It was around Hanukkah time again. He, my aunt and his older son went out for supper in the local diner. His son went upstairs to visit for a while. My uncle turned on his black-and-white television to hear the lotto numbers. He announced that he won. His son asked to see the ticket. "But. dad. this is last week's ticket." "So what. I always used the same numbers." There were seven winners. Uncle Irving was eighty years old when he won One Point One Million Dollars! He put the winning ticket under his pillow that night and told me that it was the first night in his life that he slept soundly, even though it came a little late.

He gave his children their Hanukkah gelt, a fine share, and said that now he could give his grandchildren Hanukkah gifts and birthday gifts as well. He, my aunt, the older son and his wife, took an escorted trip to Israel. Uncle Irving died three years later, a month before Hanukkah.

-Elaine Solas

The best Hanukkah gift I ever received and the most well-received gift Steve ever gave is one and the same. On Hanukkah/ Christmas, Steve gave me a beautiful diamond pendant and asked me to marry him. I was surprised and overwhelmed. We had been dating for quite some time and I had pretty much given up on him. We went to my parents' home and told them. My mother was very happy but apparently had one concern. She took Steve into the kitchen and said: I hope it doesn't take you as long to get married as it did to get engaged. It didn't. We were married six months later—twice. -Carol Steinbock

And here are the responses from our Sunday School class, unedited:

I like being in the Chanukah plays. I also like presents from my parens. I think the maccabes were really brave.

-Lili

What I like the most about Chanukah is being with my family. What I don't like about Chanukah is that two of my family members died on the 3rd and 5th nights of Chanukah. My favorite holiday is Chanukah. I love how all of my family gathers around the menorah and we light the candles. -Hannah

My favorit part of Chanukah is the challah bread. Thay had only 7 drops left. But it lit for 8 days. I like being with my family. I like eating the food.

-Jeri

My strongest Chanukah memory is when I was given an 88 key electric piano. It was given to me when I was about 8. I was really excited because I had only had a 48 key piano. Another one of my stronger memories was when I was about to light the candles in the menorah. It was the first time I ever used a match.

-Joshua

What I like about Chanukah is you get presents. I also like that I get to bring in potato lacas to my class. But what I love the most is that the hole family comes down.

-Мах

The favorite thing I like about Chanukah is all the songs. We get to sing. The other thing I like about Chanukah is all the presents I get every year. The other thing I like about Chanukah is I get to see my family. -Zach

Chanukah reminds me when I got my ripstick. Also Chanuka is my second favorite holiday because there were eight candles that burned for eight days.

And on Chanuka you get eight presents for eight days.

-Harry ◊

It's Not Just About the Potatoes...

by Joyce Peckman

Like most Jewish holidays, Hanukkah comes with its own special food traditions and recipes. Every Hanukkah, the food processor and grater are dragged from the closet, and knuckles get scraped in the spirit of the holiday. No celebration would be complete without latkes or livivot (potato pancakes). And for Sephardim, Israelis and those who

Keys Jewish Community Other

Based on the best selling book "Dish and Tell" written by 6 high powered Miami women, Miami Bombshells celebrates its World Premier at the Actors Playhouse. The musical, like the book, is a compilation of vignettes based on the stories of how the women juggled their personal and professional lives, which will leave the audience nodding in understanding, winting in complicity, and howing with laughter. Set to an original pop score, Miami Bombshells provides a look at the roller coaster that is life. Some of the stories are funny, some are full of raw emotions; others are outragous. Every woman will see a bit of bersent stage, and both men and women will be moved, touched and entertained by this brand new musical.

Actors Playhouse+ Coral Gables Donation \$36 Call Bea Graham for tickets Mand Information 852-0214

have lived in Israel, Sufganiot (sweet deepfried donuts) are also a must. It's not the potatoes or pastry we celebrate – it's the hot oil. Fried food reminds us of the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days when the Maccabees purified and rededicated the holy Temple in Jerusalem. Thus, the potato pancakes (latkes in Yiddish, *Livivot* in Hebrew, and *fasputshes* or *pontshkes* by the Ashkenazim) and donuts (*soofganiot* in Hebrew) are traditional Hanukkah treats.

Some rabbis have taken the explanation of why we eat fried food on Hanukkah one step

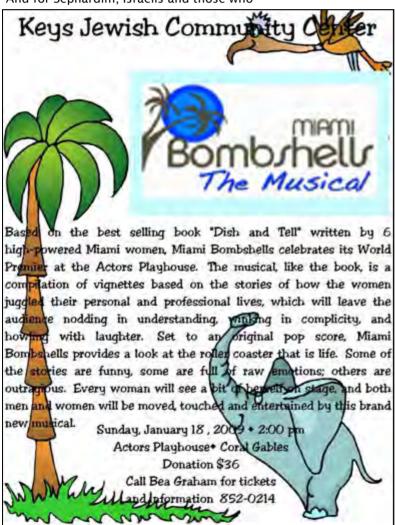
further. They say that oil is like studying Torah in two wavs. First. oil is not a food we eat by itself. like bread. and is not necessary for our existence. It simply adds pleasure to our food and life. as does the study of Torah. And secondly, oil has the potential to illuminate. If vou stand in a dark room you can light oil to see the room around you. Likewise, the study of Torah can illuminate the world around vou.

So, on Hanukkah, even the most health-conscious cook drags out the frying pan. But if deep-fried potatoes aren't included in your diet, remember, it's the oil, not the potatoes that make the holiday. so feel free to experiment with your latke recipe. You could try vegetable latkes. Replace the potatoes with a mixture of zucchini, carrots and parsnips. Add seasonings of your choice such as oregano, garlic and basil. Or maybe try sweet potato latkes. Substitute sweet potatoes for the regular potatoes, and add brown sugar, cinnamon and ginger to taste. ◊

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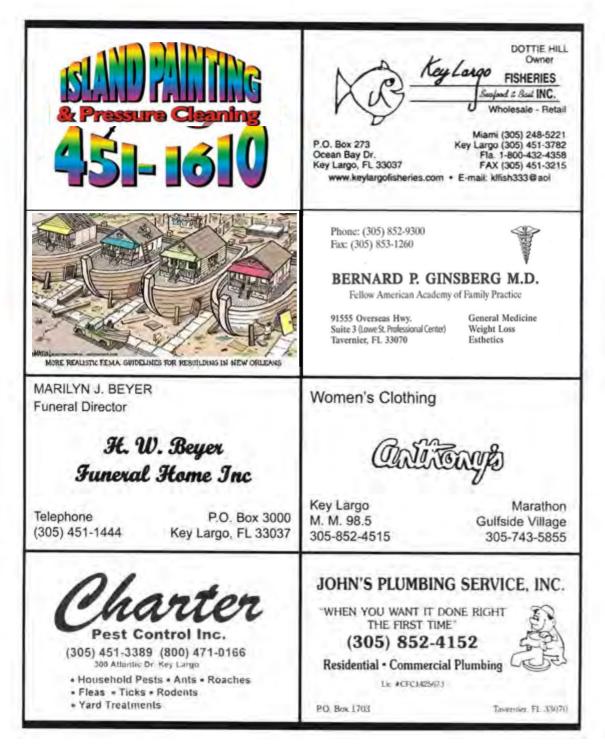
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