

Chai~Lights



January 2010

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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Chai-Lights January 2010 |

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President's Message Alan Beth



I would like to wish you all a healthy and happy new year. It is truly incredible to realize how quickly this year has gone. Also, I realize how quickly this *decade* has gone. It seems like yesterday when we celebrated the year 2000! An old, distant friend contacted me recently. We were friends in Israel and then in London about 30 years ago. So we exchanged the usual question: "what have you been up to?" I found myself talking about the KJCC.

Our KJCC 30th anniversary will be celebrated in a few months. The board discussed whether we should charge for this event or not. Needless to say it was a controversial issue. The board felt that to exclude anyone from the celebration because they could not afford to come would be unjust. Yet to include everyone at no charge means the synagogue has to underwrite this event. Soon, you will receive personal invitations from Sisterhood. I am asking that you please consider this a fundraiser event and donate as much as you can afford.

How did you feel when you heard that the synagogue was recently vandalized? A lot of people were upset. The press was involved. I got calls from the

Anti-Defamation League and a few rabbis in south Florida expressing their concern. Sadly, it is when we feel targeted as Jews that we most feel the need to come together. Here's another reminder. So let's all come together now, participate more in the KJCC and make our small community closer and stronger.

We owe thanks to Gloria, Yardena and Susan for the wonderful Chanukah play, to Erica for piano accompaniment of the ShabbaTones and *Yiddishkeit*, and to Sisterhood—especially to Sofy Wasser, Joan Stark and Roberta McNew—for organizing the wonderful dinner on December 11th. A special thanks goes to Dave Feder, who applied his special magic to our sanctuary's sound system. You should come to services to hear how great it sounds now!

Regarding the Survey: so far we have 65 responses. One of the questions asked was *What I like most about coming to the KJCC*. Overwhelmingly your response to that was our *warmth and welcoming atmosphere*. We'll have a full report in next month's issue.

-Alan

January 2010

15 Tevet - 16 Shevat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></div>					1 Jim & Gloria <i>Amelia & Steve Kasinof</i>	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting 9 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Gloria & Sam	9
10 Board Meeting 9 a.m. Blood Drive	11	12	13 Fashion Show & Luncheon	14	15 Linda & Joel Pollack <i>Barry Alter Patricia & Henry Isenberg</i>	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Alan Beth <i>Carol & Steve Steinbock</i>	23
24 31	25 Yiddishkeit Night/ New Member Dinner 6:30 p.m.	26	27	28	29 Rabbi Danny Young 6:30 Service	30 Tu B'Shevat

Nosh

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Wall

I have discussed this with our teachers (Gloria and Yarden), Susan Gordon, and a few of the parents of past bar/bat mitzvahs at the KJCC: We would like to collect 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 framed pictures of the kids(adults too) at the time they were bar/bat mitzvah (hopefully in their *tallit* if you still have those).

We will then hang these pictures in a special place on a wall in our synagogue, recording this wonderful part of our KJCC history.

So, this is the initial request to please send us pictures—framed—from your bar/bat mitzvah at any time during the first thirty years of KJCC.

- Alan

A Unique Israeli Hospital

Whenever there are rocket attacks in the north of Israel, it is the Western Galilee Hospital that accepts the wounded, be they Jewish, Christian, Druze or Muslim. The hospital has a huge underground facility that enables it to operate during time of war or attack.

On Monday, January 25th, from 6-7 p.m. in the main conference room at Mariners Hospital in Tavernier, Judy Jochnowitz of the Western Galilee Hospital will discuss her hospital, how it works and how it is the pre-eminent example of emergency preparedness and functionality under often horrific conditions.

The talk is geared to health-care professionals, but Dr. Steve Smith has arranged admittance for any KJCC members who wish to attend. Attendance is free, but you must contact Jill Miranda Baker at Mariners to reserve a seat. Her phone is 305-434-1584, e-mail JillMb@baptisthealth.net.

New Members

We welcome new members Robert and Barbara Gintel of Key Largo and welcome back returning members Dr. Joseph and Susan Goldberg of Tavernier. Hope to see you soon and often.

Rabbi to lead KJCC services

Ritual/Religious chair Gloria Avner has arranged for the first in an occasional series of visiting rabbis to lead KJCC services, a program recently approved by the KJCC Board. Rabbi Danny Young will lead services on Friday, January 29th, which as the last Friday of the month will begin at 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Young was ordained at the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles in 2004, and now lives in Miami. In his note accepting the assignment, Rabbi Young wrote Gloria that "it is a very interesting Shabbat, as it happens to be Tu B'shevat AND Shabbat Shira (the Shabbat of song because the Torah portion includes the Song of the Sea)."

Only on rare occasions since its founding has KJCC had a rabbi lead services. We trust that the sanctuary will be filled that night.

Beth Kaminstein, Ceramic Artist

For those of you who don't know, KJCC's own Beth Kaminstein is a renowned ceramic artist, with her signature platters gracing the tables of hundreds of homes and restaurants as well as the HGTV Dream Home in Islamorada.

You'll have to hurry, but Beth's artistry will be shown until January 3rd at the Gallery Morada, MM 81.6 oceanside in Islamorada. Platters come in a variety of sizes, for entertaining or festive everyday use.

Oneg Sponsors for January 2010

January 1st—Amelia & Steve Kasinof in honor of their anniversary.

January 15th—Barry Alter for his birthday, and Patricia & Henry Isenberg for Henry's birthday.

January 22nd—Carol & Steve Steinbock for Carol's birthday.

Bloodmobile is Coming Back

The next KJCC blood drive will be held on January 10th, the same day as the Board Meeting. All members are encouraged to donate. Did you know it's also healthy to donate blood?

January Birthdays

1st.....	Jerry Olsen
1st.....	Justin Wade Gilson
1st.....	Laura Goodman
2nd.....	Sherrie Willner
4th.....	Howard Gilson
4th.....	Randi W. Freundlich
6th.....	Janice Gorson
6th.....	Stanley Margulies
8th.....	Matthew Barrett
8th.....	Michael Pearlson
8th.....	Roger Levy
9th.....	Cathy Rakov
9th.....	Sarah Kamely
11th.....	Michelle Zinner
12th.....	Alex Dutton
12th.....	Meredith A. Cline
13th.....	Amy Nobil
14th.....	Murray Cooper
15th.....	Charlie Horowitz
15th.....	Heather Gilson
15th.....	Jamie Goodman
15th.....	Jill Taksey
16th.....	Brieze Levy
16th.....	Donald Zinner
17th.....	Andrea Kluger
17th.....	Neal Rakov
17th.....	Suzi-Sarot Feder
18th.....	Barry Alter
18th.....	Henry Isenberg
19th.....	Benjamin Friedman
19th.....	Mark Kanarek
19th.....	Sandy Seder
20th.....	Mary Turner
22nd.....	Sheila Olsen
22nd.....	Sidney Samuels
24th.....	Randy Kominsky
24th.....	Stuart Grossman
26th.....	Carol Ann Steinbock
27th.....	Beth Hudson
27th.....	Pat VanArtsdalen
28th.....	Yardena Kamely
29th.....	Beth Kaminstein
29th.....	Jeffrey Boruszak
30th.....	Kristen M. Schur
30th.....	Mark Feinberg

Thanks, Dave

On behalf of KJCC, a very large shout-out goes to the inimitable Dave Feder. Our sanctuary's sound system has been deteriorating for some time. It also just so happens that Dave is the best sound engineer around. Jim asked Dave to look at the system. Dave doggedly spent two full days here, tearing out miles of old and mis-routed wiring, and testing and re-testing. Our sound system now sounds balanced and clear, the CD player is hooked to the main speakers, and there's even a new connection for Alan's iPod. A congregation's grateful ears thank you, Dave.

Yiddishkeit Night Part Two

Twenty-one people heeded the call, all of whom had either attended or heard about the first event and wanted "more." As billed, it was mostly about "practice" and people had a great old time paining up (or tabling up in the case of Bea Graham and company) and preparing Yiddish or Yiddish sprinkled conversations inspired by "situations." We lit Chanukah candles, practiced, schmoozed, reminisced about early Yiddish experiences with grandparents or Workman's Circle Schools, ate all the great "ibbergeblibbineh" food from our Chanukah/Shabbat dinner, and then laughed and applauded as people presented their conversations to the group. The best part of the evening for me was seeing the great pleasure on the faces of our elders, the divine Bea Graham and the two mothers brought by their daughters, Medina and Deborah. They couldn't have been happier to be there, and we couldn't have been happier to be there with them.

-Gloria

January Anniversaries

		Years
1st	Thomas & Leslie Dillon.....	13
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof.....	28
12th	George & Muriel Swartz.....	29
17th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg.....	16
26th	David & Pamela Marmar.....	24

Survey Results Coming Soon

Next month's issue will include Alan's summary of the survey sent out recently. In a statistical stunner, almost half of you have sent back your opinions and comments. Most are nice (Chai-Lights is rated very highly, and we thank you), but some are a little pithier. Alan is busy compiling the results, and our guess is he'll have a spreadsheet available for all who'd like to see it.

Board Meeting for January

Just a reminder that all KJCC members are entitled, and even encouraged, to attend our Board meetings. If you enjoy process, and lively discussion, this might show you just how much is actually done in service of KJCC. Plus we also serve coffee and, usually, bagels. The January meeting is scheduled for the 10th at 9:00 a.m. in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall.

Yiddishkeit Nights a Big Success

As Gloria mentions elsewhere in this issue, the second Yiddishkeit night was also a big success. But this month's third installment will also feature dinner (food!) and it's being joined to our annual membership drive. So if you know anyone who you think might want to be part of the world of KJCC, invite them to what should be another wonderful night of laughter and gustatory smiles. It will be on Monday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the Richardson Social Hall.

Reserve Seats Now for Second Seder

The Second Seder, believe it or not, is coming fast, at the end of March. It's never too early to reserve your seat. Tickets are \$45, with children under 12 free. Contact Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0833 for more information.

Ongoing Projects and Programs of KJCC

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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353.

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.

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If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.



Jewish Communities in the Diaspora: Iraq

Yardena's adult lecture series this season is "Jewish Communities in the Diaspora." Her first session, on December 6th, discussed the complex story of the Jews of Iraq, exploring their history, customs, traditions, texts, teachers and culture. Here's a brief recap and a taste of what's to come:

Iraq occupies a special place in the history of the Jewish people. According to tradition, Mesopotamia was the birthplace of Abraham, who traveled from Ur Kasdim, in southern Babylonia around 1800 B.C.E., to Canaan in the land of Israel. A millennium after his journey, Abraham's descendants came back to Iraq. In 722 B.C.E., the northern kingdom of Israel was defeated by Assyria, its Jews sent to what is now known as Iraq. A larger community was established there in 586 B.C.E., when the Babylonians conquered Judea and deported the elite of its Jews. These Jews distinguished themselves from Sephardim, referring to themselves as *Bavlim* (Babylonians). Iraqi Jews experienced numerous changes of empires and rulers of the region. They were able, somehow, to survive them all, and Babylonia had an unbroken Jewish presence for over 2,600 years.

The prophet Ezekiel, one of the exiled Jews during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian conqueror of Judea, began to preach to the Jewish community and conceived the synagogue, in Hebrew *Beit-Kneset*—house of gathering—as a place of worship for the Temple-deprived Jewish people. Thus, the first synagogue in history was established in Babylonia.

In later centuries, the region became the home to some of the world's most prominent Jewish scholars, who produced the *Babylonian Talmud* between 500 and 700 C.E. It is

estimated that one million Jews were living in Iraq at the time when Islam arose in the 8th century C.E.

Iraq became an independent state in 1932. Throughout this period, the authorities drew heavily on the talents of well-educated Jews. Iraq's first minister of finance, Yehezkel Sasson, was a Jew. In the 1936 Iraq Directory, the "Israelite community" is listed among the various other Iraqi communities, such as Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Muslims, Christians, Yazidis and Sabeans, and numbering at about 120,000. Hebrew is also listed as one of Iraq's six languages.

Yet, following the end of the British mandate, the 2,500-year-old Iraqi Jewish community suffered terrible persecution, particularly as the Zionist drive for a state intensified. In June 1941, the Mufti-inspired, pro-Nazi coup of Rashid Ali sparked rioting and a pogrom in Baghdad during the Jewish Feast of Shavuot. Armed Iraqi mobs, with the complicity of the police and the army, murdered 180 Jews and wounded more than 2,200 others, in what became known as the Farhud pogrom. After the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, Zionism became a capital crime.

From 1949 to 1951, 104,000 Jews were evacuated from Iraq by Israel in *Operations Ezra & Nehemiah* (named after the Jewish leaders who led their people back to Jerusalem from exile in Babylonia beginning in 597 B.C.E. and built the Second Temple); another 20,000 were smuggled out through Iran. After each war with Israel, Baghdad's persecution of its dwindled Jewish community became worse. Today, no Jews remain of the once glorious Iraqi Jewish community--2,600 years in the making, but dismantled in a few decades. ♦

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

Chai-Lights

Stuart and Lauren Sax

In Memory of

Dale Vinicur

Oneq Sponsors

Garrettson, Tom and Marsha in honor of Maxine Kaplan, Mother

General Fund

Ash, Mary

Baskin, Norm and Tamara

In Honor of

Jim Boruszak
for wedding ceremony

Gilderman, Larry and Stephanie

Goldfinger 50th anniversary

Graham, Bea

Gilderman, Larry and Stephanie to honor the Gilderman grandchildren: 2 occasions

Nobil, Jim and Lyn to honor the Nobil Family

Peckman, Joyce in honor of a Special Occasion

Rakov, Neal and Cathy to honor the Rakov Family: 3 occasions

Sax, Stuart and Lauren to honor their Anniversary

Schaffer, Marc and Sandra as a Thank you to the KJCC community for their welcoming kindness

Shabathai, Joseph and Katherine to honor their Anniversary

Smith, Steven and Barbara to honor the Birthdays of

Barbara, Steven, Rebecca, Brian, Carrie

Smith, Steven and Barbara for their Anniversary

Smith, Steven and Barbara in honor of the Anniversary of Brian and Carrie Smith

Veiner, Martin and Margaret Shearon as a Thank you to the KJCC community for their welcoming kindness

General Fund

Pollack, Joel and Linda

Pollack, Joel and Linda

Pollack, Joel and Linda

Sachs, Joseph and Susan

Sachs, Joseph and Susan

Steinbock, Stephen and Carol

Steinbock, Stephen and Carol

Temkin, Robert and Susan

Temkin, Robert and Susan

Temkin, Robert and Susan

In Memory of

Dale Friedman

Larry Novak

Frank Joyce

Morris Gordon

Elaine Hirsch

Elaine Hirsch

Dale Vinicur

Jerry Spero

Franne Alter

Elaine Hirsch

JNF Certificates Sent By

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Rutkin, Linda

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Hilda Nelinson

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Coltman, Barney and Ellen

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Lessner, Howard and Shaloma

Lessner, Howard and Shaloma

Lessner, Howard and Shaloma

Lessner, Howard and Shaloma

Schocket, Jeffrey and Patty

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Robert Coltman

Eva Levine

Edward Sandberg

Jeanne Schneider

Sylvia Grossman

Evelyn Stockser

Annette Foosaner

Samuel Lessner

Joseph L Shawmut

Sylvia Lessner

Seymour Schocket

Kenneth Temkin

30th Anniversary

Congregation

Goldberg, Joseph and Susan

Hayden, Elizabeth

Kamely, Michal

Plutzer, Arthur

Rakov, Neal and Cathy

Smith, Steven and Barbara

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



The lights of Chanukah have burned down, the menorahs have been stored until next year, and hopefully our digestive systems have returned to normal after all the latkes and other fried food. Our Chanukah potluck dinner was its usual success, with thanks due to Sofy Wasser, Joan Stark and Roberta McNew for a terrific job of organizing and decorating. Nettie Seder shopped for and assembled the gifts for our Sunday School children. The food that so many of you provided, as usual, was delicious. Chanukah celebrates the large and little miracles that can occur when people step forward bravely and tirelessly to do what is right. All who participated in this event, and in the other activities of our tiny community, continue the efforts that make little miracles happen. We are, remember, all partners in the work of creation.

Our next gastronomic extravaganza will be on Monday January 25th, as part of a *Yiddishkeit* night. This time we are opening up the evening to potential new members, as well as current KJCC members. Anyone who attended last month's delightful event will agree that it is an excellent way to introduce people to our spirited *mishpoche*. Once again, this event will be coordinated by Dr. Erica Garrett. It will include a kosher-style meat potluck, so please bring a meat or vegetable dish (no milk, butter or cheese), your sense of humor and something Yiddish. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. It is important to RSVP to Erica at 305-853-1003 or 393-1162 or at hippiejap@hotmail.com, so we can properly organize.

The annual fashion show is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th. Tickets are available

for \$25 from Joan Stark or from me. We always have an enjoyable lunch and the fun of seeing the latest fashions from Angelika. Lauren and Stuart always put on a wonderful show, and they manage to attract (at no fee!) the most beautiful models in the Keys.

We are also selling tickets to the fabulous "Miss Saigon" at the Actors' Playhouse in Miami for the March 7th Sunday matinee. It is always fun to go with a group. Some of us tag on lunch or dinner to the event - there is plenty of car-pooling as well. See Nancy Kluger or me with your check for \$40 to reserve your ticket.

Invitations for the March 14th Thirtieth Anniversary should be going out shortly. We've come a long way in thirty years, and have a lot to be proud of. This should be an unforgettable evening, thanks to the hard work of Gene Silverman and her committee. This event will be gratis to KJCC members in good standing, thanks to special donations by some of our members. In addition, we are asking anyone who wishes to help out by sending "Greetings and Congratulations" in a special advertising section of the March Chai-Lights to contact Linda Pollack.

The Sisterhood gift shop is open whenever the temple is open, stocked with cards, jewelry, candles and gifts. If you need anything special, Joan Boruszak will be happy to order it for you.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be on Sunday, January 3rd at 9:30, with coffee, as usual, at 9 a.m. We will be discussing the fashion show, the Purim party and Women's Seder, as well as some novel ideas to raise money and have fun. I hope to see you there. ♦

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Luncheon and Fashion Show



Styles by

Angelika



Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Time: 11:30 am

Place: To be announced

Contact: Joyce Peckman 305-240-1000

Donation: \$25

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



The Case of the 'Misplaced' *Hatikvah*

Organizers of an international fencing competition that took place in mid-November just outside of Vienna claim that they "misplaced" a recording of *Hatikvah*, the Israeli national anthem, when the event's winner, Israeli swordswoman Daria Streinikov, 14, took to the podium for the awards ceremony. Streinikov, along with bronze medal winner Alona Komarov and the rest of the Israeli team and coaching staff, sang the anthem *a cappella*. "I don't want to say it was anti-Semitism," said Yossi Harari, head of the Israel Fencing Association, "but it's not respectful." Harari, who pointed out that the exact same thing happened three years earlier during a competition in the same Vienna suburb, said he will send an official letter of protest to the European Fencing Confederation. Harari said that in any future tournaments the team will bring their own recording of *Hatikvah* (literally, "the hope"), guaranteeing that a third such incident would not occur. (*The Forward*, 11-18-09)

A Menorah in the White House

A rare menorah on loan from the Jewish Museum in Prague was lit during a special White House ceremony on December 16th, the sixth night of Chanukah. Five hundred guests were in attendance. First Lady Michelle Obama requested the loan when she visited the museum during President Obama's official visit to Prague in April. The menorah was created in 1873 by Viennese silversmith Cyril Schilberger. (www.jta.org, 12-1-09)

Bye, bye Kosher Pastrami

David Sax, author of *Save the Deli: In Search of Perfect Pastrami, Crusty Rye, and the Heart of the Jewish Delicatessen*, spent three years researching 150 delis in major

large American cities with a sizeable Jewish population. The book chronicles the demise of the unique restaurants that serve Ashkenazi cuisine originally imported by German immigrants to New York in the 1820s. According to Sax, in New York alone there were 2,000 Jewish delis in 1931. Today there are only 25. (*Dateline: World Jewry*, November 2009)

'Kick-a-Jew Day'

At least ten students at North Naples (Florida) Middle School assaulted or encouraged the assault of Jewish classmates in what was called "Kick a Jew Day," and it was not the first incident of its kind. One student told an NBC-TV correspondent that the phenomenon was "very widespread, happening all over school." The attackers received a one-day, in-school suspension (a mere slap on the wrist). In response to the incident, the school is now devoting the first twenty minutes of every day to discussing bullying prevention, respect, and kindness. One day after the Florida incident, a Los Angeles middle school student was attacked twice by over a dozen children for having red hair, inspired by what investigating officers said was a message on Facebook calling for "Kick a Ginger Day." It is thought that the idea originally came from *South Park*, the animated "adult" TV show. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-25-09)

The Wright Stuff

Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, the only synagogue ever designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is preparing to open a visitor center that will welcome outsiders three days a week. Opening the center to the public comes fifty years

after the building was first dedicated. The hope is to “allow a wider swath of the public to tour the building that’s infused with architectural and Judaic symbolism...and its significance to both American architecture and postwar Jewish life.” Two years ago the National Park Service declared the synagogue a National Historic Landmark, making it one of only four synagogues nationwide to be considered such an important national treasure. (www.jewishexponent.com, 11-5-09)

More Precious Than Gold

At the Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa, scientists are studying an innovative cancer treatment using nano-particles of gold and laser beams. The treatment is non-invasive, has no side effects and attacks only the cancerous cells without damaging the healthy cells that surround it. The treatment is somewhat related to an equally cutting-edge diagnostic test recently developed also by the Technion, in which a breath test is used to distinguish the breath of lung cancer patients from that of healthy individuals. The team is hoping to develop an inexpensive and non-invasive diagnostic test for lung cancer based on the study, which made headlines around the world after it was published this past August in the journal *Nature Nanotechnology*. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-15-09)

Athletic Record Restored After 73 Years

Germany has restored the high jump record to Gretel Bergmann (now known as Margaret Lambert) who was kicked off the 1936 German Olympic track and field team because she was Jewish despite matching the then women’s high jump record of 5 feet 3 inches. Lambert, now 95 and living in New York, fled Nazi Germany in 1937. The German track and field association said that restoring her record is “an act of justice and a symbolic gesture.” (www.jta.org, 11-24-09)

At Last, a “Magic Yad”

A traditional gift for every Bar or Bat Mitzvah has been a ceremonial *yad*, or Torah pointer, often made of sterling silver or intricately carved out of wood. Now a new technological device aimed at helping students learn their Torah and Haftorah portions has been unveiled. The Livescribe Pulse Smartpen, a grey metal stylus, features digital recording capabilities. When teamed with *Magic Yad* software, the device functions as a portable “hi-tech tutor” that records, stores and plays back 200 hours of chanting. “This is the only method that allows the student to point to exactly where he or she wants to study and practice recorded messages,” *Magic Yad* president and founder Alan Greenfield said. The Torah portions are printed in special booklets; when the *Magic Yad* touches a mark in the booklet, a cantor is heard chanting each individual phrase aloud in perfect pitch, eliminating the need for endless rewinding and fast-forwarding that is necessary when using a tape recorder. The Hebrew practice texts appear both with and without vowels and cantillation marks. Retail prices begin at \$170 plus \$100 for each Torah or Haftorah portion. (*The Forward*, 11-18-09)

Hebrew Planets

In honor of UNESCO's International Year of Astronomy, an internet vote was organized by the Hebrew Language Academy to allow Israelis to choose Hebrew names for the planets Uranus and Neptune.

Some of the names they chose from were: Oron (small light) and Shahak (skies) for Uranus, and Rahav (the ruler of the seas) or Tarshish (the name for sea in Jewish literature) for Neptune. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in December marking the end of the International Year of Astronomy. According to the report, the Hebrew names for Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are Hama (or Kochav), Noga, Ma'adim, Tzedek and Shabtai, respectively. Earth is Eretz. (www.jpost.com, 10-09)

Finalists Named

Five nonfiction authors are in the running as finalists for the 2010 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature. The finalists “represent important emerging voices in Jewish life and thought.” They are:

--Lila Corwin Berman, *Speaking of Jews: Rabbis, Intellectuals, and the Creation of an American Public Identity*.

--Ari Kelman, *Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio in the United States*.

--Kenneth Moss, *Jewish Renaissance in the Russian Revolution*.

--Danya Ruttenberg, *Surprised by God: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Religion*.

--Sarah Abrevaya Stein, *Plumes, Ostrich Feathers, Jews and a Lost World of Global Commerce*.

Established in 2006, The Sami Rohr Prize "honors the contribution of contemporary writers in the exploration and transmission of Jewish values." The winner, to be announced at the end of January, will receive \$100,000. (www.jta.org, 11-25-09)

R.I.P.

The Jewish world has recently lost several noteworthy individuals:

-- Count Otto Lambsdorff, 82, a former German industry minister and the chief negotiator of the German government for compensation to Nazi slave and forced laborers. Lambsdorff was instrumental in securing the historic agreement in 2001 which finally enabled compensation payments to millions of victims of the Nazis. Over five billion dollars was secured from businesses and the German state. More than 1.6 million former slave and forced laborers received payments. The remaining funds are being used to both support projects that aid the victims and also to keep alive the remembrance of Nazi injustice. (*World Jewish Congress*, 12-8-09)

--Seymour Fromer, 87, founder of the Magnes Museum in California, which holds one of the largest collections of Judaica in North America. Opened in 1962, the museum houses over 10,000 artifacts from around the world, in particular documents tracing the history of Jews in the American West. Fromer and his wife started the museum in response to what they saw as California's lack of knowledge of its Jewish heritage. The museum has grown to become the country's third-largest Jewish museum. (www.jta.org, 11-4-09)

--Sy Syms, 83, founder of the men's clothing store chain and a major philanthropist. Born Seymour Merinsky in Brooklyn, New York, Syms donated \$12 million in 1987 to establish the Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University. He also established The Sy Syms Foundation, which endowed numerous philanthropic institutions, among them The American Heart Association, Boys Town of Jerusalem, Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation, Friends of the Israel Philharmonic, Parkinson's Disease Foundation, and Public Television. Syms is well known for appearing in a commercial for his clothing store chain telling viewers, "An educated consumer is our best customer." (www.jta.org, 11-18-09)

--Mayer Kirshenblatt, 93, recorded the world of lost Jews in paintings and stories. Born in Opatow, Poland (known in Yiddish as Apt) he left Poland for Canada in 1934 and later taught himself to paint at the age of 73. Since 1967, his daughter, scholar Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, conducted interviews with her father on every facet of pre-war Jewish life in Apt. These recollections were published in 2007 along with nearly 200 of his paintings in a book titled *They Call Me Mayer July*, the title coming from Kirshenblatt's childhood nickname, slang at the time for "crazy Mayer." (www.jta.org, 11-26-09)

--Fred Silberstein, 80, an Auschwitz survivor whose testimony at the Nuremberg Trials in 1946 helped to convict Nazi leaders Hermann Goering and Rudolf Hess. Silberstein was 14 when he was taken to Auschwitz. He survived operations by Josef Mengele, and managed to stay alive by telling camp guards he was 15 and able to do manual labor. Silberstein moved to New Zealand in 1948 and spent much of his life educating people there about the horrors of the Holocaust and the dangers of racism. (*World Jewish Congress*, 11-30-09)

Update...

--On November 14th, Yuri Foreman, the Russian-born Israeli and future rabbi reported on in the October 2009 issue of Chai-Lights, is now a boxing champion. He defeated Daniel Santos in Las Vegas to win the World Boxing Association's Super Welterweight title. (*The Forward*, 11-17-09) ◇

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Yiddishkeit Night II & Membership Drive

Join our 'mishpocha' for another evening of fun, food, and yiddish folklore, as we welcome prospective new members to our synagogue.

On Monday January 25, at 6:30 pm, we will gather at the KJCC for a potluck traditional 'flayshik' dinner followed by a program including yiddish 101, yiddish 102, story telling, songs, and schnapps.....

Invite your friends who would like to become members to experience our 'fraylech' and 'haimish' community.

Please rsvp to Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com, or 305-393-1162 if you would like to participate in the program, and plan to attend.



Enter our 50/50 Raffle for Sisterhood



Eye On The Arts

Gloria Avner



It's that time again. Our "Snowbirds" have returned and the Mishpocha is at full strength. Cultural offerings abound and we want to take advantage of them, on the rock and off. Here are a few select offerings we will want to support and enjoy. (Send your recommendations for next month to Gloria-- geetavner@gmail.com)

**Miami / January 12th, Adrienne Arsht Center:
Itzhak Perlman:**

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. He has come to be recognized by audiences all over the world who respond not only to his flawless technique, but also to the irrepressible joy of making music he communicates. 8:00 p.m.

**Miami / January 16th-24th
13th Annual Miami Jewish Film Festival,**
presented by CAJE: For schedule and other info, check <http://www.caje-miami.org>.

I strongly recommend choosing a day with more than one interesting movie showing, and making plans for a mishpocha date outing (with some excellent eating out, of course, and car-pooling).

**Islamorada / January 16th
Art Under The Oaks:**

Fine Art & Original Crafts; San Pedro Church Gardens, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mile Marker 89.5 bayside on Plantation Key in Islamorada. Parking behind the church. Contact: 305-664-5574

**Miami Beach / Thursday, January 21st-, Sunday,
January 24th, 2010: The Original Miami Beach
Antiques Show:**

If you love antiques, art, and collectibles, whether it be fine glass, paintings, furniture or jewelry, and if you have good shoes, lots of stamina, or are willing to rent a motorized vehicle, there is nothing on earth as stimulating as wandering through this crème de la crème annual event at the Beach's Convention Center. 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 for all five days (but one may do you in).

**Miami / Friday, January 22nd - Sunday, January 24,
2010**

4th Annual International Chocolate Festival Featuring Coffee and Tea—Fairchild Tropical Gardens:

A number of us have been making annual pilgrimage to this entertaining, educational and delicious event and we highly recommend a group expedition.

Islamorada / January 23rd

Morada Palooza/Jam Fest—Kids Bands and Jam Bands: Founders Park, presented by ICE at TIB Amphitheater (www.keysice.com)

Islamorada / January 30th

Keys Community Concert Band presents: Time Capsule, Music Through The Ages:

Florida Keys Community Concert Band presents its 2010 season at Islamorada Founders Park, Bay-side, MM 87, Plantation Key. Performances are outdoors; no chairs provided. Starts at 4:00 p.m.; Admission free for all concerts. Contact: (305) 853-7294 Email: heinerdonna@yahoo.com

TBA: New York Children's Film Festival:

Presented by ICE at Founders Park, TIB Amphitheater, *Unique but intimate outdoor setting for wonderful films impossible to see elsewhere. Sit onstage and enjoy fresh popcorn with your neighbors, friends and kids.* Visit www.keysice.com for dates and program.

**Islamorada / February 6th
American Shakespeare Company's "Romeo and Juliet":**

This great, energetic and talented young touring company has brought us wonderful productions two years running. For details, see www.keysice.com.

Pigeon Key / February 6th-7th

16th Annual Pigeon Key Art Festival:

This is one of the highest quality art shows in the Keys. Definitely worth an arting/outing with friends. ♦

Photo Gallery



At top, scenes from another Gold Party to benefit Voices for

Florida Keys Children, Inc. That's Gene and Mort, of course, top right. The photos below are all from Havdalah at Carol and Steve Steinbock's house on November 21st. Gloria, our head of Ritual, officiated. If you've never attended, Havdalah is a sweet, short and engaging ceremony.





Saturday, December 5th was a special birthday for Joe Beth, his 21st. Parents Candy and Alan sponsored the Oneg on Friday. At left Yardena makes a point

during her first adult lecture of the season. The series will focus on Jews of the Diaspora. At bottom left, the KJCC Chayakers (that's CHayakers, as in Chanukah or Chozzer) pose before slipping into the water at Silver Shores on December 13th. Contact Dave Mont for details about participating. (They have extra kayaks.) Below right is a clearly happy scene from the Religious School Chanukah party on December 13th.



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Sunday, March 7, 2010

2:00 PM

Actors Playhouse, Coral Gables

A classic love story is brought up-to-date in one of the most stunning theatrical spectacles of all time. In Miss Saigon, Alain Boublil and Claude-Michael Schönberg, creators of last season's acclaimed hit, Les Misérables, along with Richard Maltby, Jr., bring Puccini's Madame Butterfly to the modern world in a moving testament to the human spirit and a scathing indictment of the tragedies of war. An international sensation, Miss Saigon is an epic, daring pop opera that is universal in its emotional power even as it deals with controversial, contemporary issues. In the turmoil of the Vietnam War, an American soldier and a Vietnamese girl fall in love, only to be separated during the fall of Saigon. Their struggle to find each other over the ensuing years creates an unparalleled drama and a must see musical theatrical experience.

Donation \$40
Contact Nancy Kluger
klugerkeys@bellsouth.net
305-393-2129



What is Eco-Kosher?

by Georgia Landau

The term “eco-kosher” was coined in the late 1970s by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, the founder of the *P’nai Or* Religious Fellowship. He’s an interesting guy. When he was a teenager in Vienna, Austria, he studied Orthodox Judaism by day and secular, socialist Zionism at night. He and his family were fortunate to flee Hitler, were interned in Vichy, France, and escaped to America. He studied for the rabbinate in a traditional *Lubavitcher* Chassidic yeshiva but stirred up everyone by finding spiritual meaning in the thoughts of Christian mystics like Thomas Merton, plus eastern yogis, Muslim Sufis (that religion’s mystics), Jungian psychologists, Gandhian social activists, and even women who were creating feminist spirituality practices. Needless to say, he left *Lubavitch* and came up with a new notion of Jewish mystical thought and practice. He was quoted as saying that the traditional prayer book was like a cookbook: a guide to eating, but not the food itself. Another observation of his is that while a Styrofoam cup might be useful to someone keeping kosher, it would not be a good choice for someone keeping eco-kosher. If you Google him, you’ll find out a lot more about him. He lives in Boulder, Colorado and is still actively mentoring his many students around the world.

Now, you might be wondering what all this has to do with keeping kosher. Well, we are entering a post-modern age, and modernity has greatly affected the eating habits of the Jewish people. Many people once adhered to the tradition of kosher food, but most Jews abandoned the practice as they left the ghettos and identified with secularism and universalism. In our own time, we have subjugated the earth and created pollution and destruction. The idea that food should be treated as sacred—that it grows by the

unseen hand of God and through that hand sustains and nurtures man, a belief common to many ancient religions--has almost disappeared.

Technology has transformed the relationship between earth and humans. Food used to be the great connection. We now have a new category of “food-like substances” that are manufactured with unpronounceable chemicals and weird ingredients. Today we have Jews embracing vegetarianism, macrobiotic diets, becoming “locovores” (people who only eat locally grown food), and some who still try to follow the rules of *kashrut*. It would seem that all these ways of eating would qualify as eco-kosher, but there are many other factors involved, as you’ll see in the next segment.

In 1990, a group of rabbis and Jewish teachers gathered to discuss the ethical dimensions of *kashrut* and to open a discussion about modern-day kosher living. The four streams of Jewish life were represented as well as Jews who were active in organizations that were concerned about the environment.

Eco-kosher is a much broader concept than just following the biblical laws of *kashrut*. Jews in this movement have been trying to reconnect the idea of *kashrut* with some broader values and obligations toward the earth that stem from Jewish tradition. Some of the traditional Jewish ethical categories about relationships between human beings and the rest of God’s creation were examined:

Tza’ar ba’alei chai’m—literally means concern for the distress of those who possess life; usually we’d think of it as respect for animals;

Bal tashchit—literally “not ruining” the earth;

Sh'mirat haguf—the protection of one's own body;

Tzedakah—the sharing of food with the poor;

B'rakhah and Kedushah—the traditional sense that those who eat must consciously affirm a sense of holiness and blessing. Interestingly, even secular participants thought it was important to heighten the attention we give to the Unity from which all food comes, whether we call it God or not.

Using the above principles, would it be possible to set new standards for what we actually consume, in other words set standards for an “ethical *kashrut*?” Because there would be many choices to weigh depending upon both individual and group values, it would be difficult to create a set of rigid rules. I think most of us would like to adhere to the above-mentioned categories in our daily lives. Every day we make many, many conscious decisions about our actions, and preserving our Jewish uniqueness can help to serve the needs of the earth and ourselves. Keeping kosher is about making choices, and eco-kosher is a new way of being uniquely Jewish and consciously adding in a new category of ethical choices.

If you would like to learn more about eco-Jewish organizations, there is an umbrella organization called *Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life*. They work on legislation, liturgical materials keyed to the Jewish calendar, guides to eco-sensitive living, and conferences of Jewish communal leaders, rabbis, and theologians, and annual training institutes for eco-activists. Their website is www.coejl.org.

The Shalom Center is developing theology and eco-kosher life practices to deal with the present ecological crisis; applying Jewish communal ethics to encourage corporations to act responsibly. They can be reached at www.shalomctr.org.

Teva Learning Center is concerned with teaching environmental ethics to young Jews by integrating direct outdoor experience with Torah.

Center for Tikkun Olam; e-mail at YHH@aol.com, is creating an ongoing guide to eco-kosher living.

***While a
Styrofoam cup
might be useful
to someone
keeping kosher,
it would not be
a good choice
for someone
keeping
eco-kosher.***

I have two books about this subject that I'd be glad to loan to anyone who's interested in reading more about eco-kosher.

· *Ecology and the Jewish Spirit*, by Ellen Bernstein. This book asks the question: what is our place in nature and what is nature's place in our spiritual lives? It offers a perspective grounded in nature, and explores the concepts of sacred space, sacred time, and community. It discusses the themes of nature that are throughout the biblical creation story, ancient texts, traditional law, the holiday cycles, prayer, and *mitzvot*.

· *Torah of the Earth*, by Arthur Waskow. This is one of a two-book set. Volume 1 discusses biblical Israel and Rabbinic Judaism. The second book has contributions from the Zionist movement and the Eco-Judaism movement. (I don't have the second book yet).

These books explore 4,000 years of ecology in Jewish thought. An excerpt from the introduction says: “The relationship between human beings and the earth is bound up in two words of Hebrew: *Adam* and *Adamah*. The first means “human being,” the second, “earth,” and they're clearly from the same root. The two words intertwine to teach us that the human and the earth are intertwined. In Hebrew no one is able to say the name of the earth or of humanity without hearing an echo of the other.

There is certainly much more to be said about this concept, which is rapidly evolving. I'll attempt to discuss more detail in future issues of Chai-Lights. ◇

-This Month in Jewish History-

January

1253 – Henry III of England orders that Jewish worship in synagogues must be held quietly so that Christians should not have to hear it when passing by. In addition Jews may not employ Christian nurses or maids.

1436 – In Aix-en-Provence, France, a riot ensues after a crowd feels that a Jew who insulted the Virgin Mary receives too light a sentence.

1492 – Granada, the last Moorish stronghold, is overrun by Ferdinand and Isabella. Under the terms of surrender, the Jewish inhabitants are promised protection. Within a few months, Ferdinand orders the razing of the Jewish quarter.

1569 – Phillip II of Spain issues the order to set up an Inquisition in the New World. Mexico will be the first five years later.

1639 – In an *auto da fe* at Lima, Peru, more than eighty New Christians (i.e. Jews) are burned, including Francisco Maldonna de Silva (Elia Nazareno), after the Inquisition discovers them holding regular Jewish services. De Silva spends twelve years in prison. In that time he manages to write two books using a chicken bone and charcoal. He succeeds in assembling a rope out of corn husks, but instead of using it to escape he visits other prisoners, urging them to believe in Judaism.

1668 – Pope Clement IX cancels humiliating forced races. Known as the *Palio*, near-naked Jews are forced to run through the streets of Rome during carnival time. In return for the revocation, the Jews of Rome have to pay a special cancellation tax of 200 ducats. This tax is paid for almost 200 years.

1837 – An earthquake in the Tzfat-Tiberias area of Israel kills an estimated four thousand

people, mostly Jews. Many monuments and archaeological sites are damaged.

1852 – New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, founded by a group of mostly German Jewish immigrants, becomes the first Jewish Hospital in the United States. One of its founders is Samson Simson, one of the first Jewish lawyers in New York City. Other contributors included Adolphus Simeon Solomons, who in 1881 helps Clara Barton found the Red Cross.

1895 – Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish French military officer, is charged with treason, publicly degraded and sent to Devil's Island. It is later proven that evidence was forged. Three years later, in 1898, Emile Zola, the most popular writer in France, publishes his famous "J'Accuse" letter condemning the French establishment, ultimately leading to a new trial.

1904 – Theodore Herzl meets Pope Pius X and tries to convince him to support the vision of Zionism, without any success. The pope totally rejects the idea that Jerusalem could be in Jewish hands.

1906 – Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design is founded in Jerusalem by Boris Schatz, painter and court sculptor to King Ferdinand of Bulgaria. The school is named after biblical artisan Bezalel, specifically selected in the Bible to build the desert Tabernacle.

1935 – The religious kibbutz movement, *Hakibbutz Hadati*, is founded. Its idea is to combine religious life and labor in a communal agricultural settlement, the first being *Tirat Tzvi*.

1945 – Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat, disappears in Budapest two days after it is liberated. Eyewitnesses last see him in the company of two Russian soldiers. ◇

KJCC Annual Second Passover Seder



Tuesday, March 30, 2010

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

Your check is your reservation. Checks must be received no later than March 20, 2010. Make checks payable to KJCC Sisterhood, c/o Leslie Dillon, PO Box 370736, Key Largo, FL 33037. Call Joan Boruszak at 852-0833 for information.

PASSOVER

Adults \$45

Children 12 and under are our guests.

TU B'SHVAT

DR. DOOLITTLE, VITAMIN J, AND THE BA'AL SHEM TOV

by Gloria Avner

I loved Dr. Doolittle books when I was young. Who wouldn't be drawn to a compassionate man who could understand and speak the language of birds and animals?

I was not surprised that it could happen. I certainly understood the desires and dislikes of my own pets over the years. And when I was a child, riding in the back seat of our car on endless Sunday drives through the country, I pretended (or knew) that the trees were all lined up on the side of the road to greet me. Egocentric? Oversensitive? I don't know. This is what I do know: All things in nature, all God's creations, take delight in communicating, with us and with God.

In our Shabbat prayer book, every Friday night, we read psalm after psalm in which the oddest things have a voice: Islands rejoice, trees clap hands in gladness, mountains thunder, waters lift up their voices in roaring. (See a wonderful book called *Pirkei Shira* for a full catalogue of nature speaking). When we are alone in nature, quiet and content, observant and not caught up in the niggling details of our daily lives, we too have the opportunity to communicate not just with birds and animals, but with everything that God has created. A joyous heart (joy being a greater vitamin—or pathway to radiant good health—than any capsule bottled in a pharmacy or health food store. Call it Vitamin J.) is the major prerequisite.

As we move closer to one of our favorite holidays, *Tu B'Shvat*, the New Year of the Trees, let's acknowledge that even though it is mostly associated with reclaiming land in Israel by planting thousands of trees, we are actually celebrating something so ancient it goes back to Temple times. As we prepare for our mystical seder and the blessing of the seven kinds of fruits found in Israel, let's look to one of Judaism's most legendary teachers, wonder workers, and storytellers, The Ba'al Shem Tov, for some insights into the holiday,

nature itself, and the ways in which we are taught and absorb lessons.

The Ba'al Shem Tov studied Torah in the *beit midrash*, but he also studied the natural world with the penetrating gaze of a mystic; he saw through the veil to the divinity within Nature. He saw God in all things and heard Him in all sounds. He heard the divine voice in the rustling of tree leaves, in the flowing sounds of the river, in the singing of birds. This mystic knowledge is the "language of the animals, the birds, and the trees." The Besht (a shortened version of Ba'al Shem Tov) loved the divine music emanating from every aspect of natural creation. Once, when he was sitting in a field with the Maggid of Mezritch—one of his greatest disciples—and they heard some cows lowing, the Besht taught him secrets of the Divine Chariot and the languages of the animals, birds, and trees. He also said, "If you listen carefully to the inner sound that's within the material sound that enters your ears, you'll hear the voice of God, which enlivens and brings into being, each moment, the sound that you hear."

Once, on *Tu B'Shvat*, the Ba'al Shem Tov was sitting with his closest disciples in Medzibuz. They were eating fruits in honor of the day, drinking *l'chayim* and discussing the importance of joy, *simcha*. During this conversation, the Baal Shem Tov said: "Joy is so great, because by joy a person can reach an exalted spiritual level so that he sees the *Shechinah*. After the verse: 'you shall be only joyful' (Deuteronomy 16:15), the Torah continues (v.16): 'Three times a year every man of you shall be seen [in the Temple] before the presence of the Lord your God.' When a Jew is happy, he is revealing that he is satisfied with the world that the Holy One, blessed be He, created, and also with the behavior of all the children of Israel, the people close to Him. He has no complaints against Heaven and no demands or grievances against any other Jew. Everything is good, upright, ac-

ceptable, fitting, and sweet; and this kind of joy, which brings a person to have a good eye, so that he looks on the Creator and His creatures lovingly, causes a revelation of the *Shechinah*. That is the secret of the teaching of our sages, who said about the person who goes to the Temple to 'be seen' by God: 'Just as he came to be seen, so does he come to see'-- that is, to see the Divine Presence."

After this conversation about joy, the Ba'al Shem Tov suggested to his Hasidim that they go out for a sleigh ride together in the snow-covered countryside and take along with them some wine, honeycake, whiskey, and fruits for *Tu B'Shvat*.

As they careened along in the sleigh, snow was falling and they were so joyful that they felt they were lifted up on a cloud of light. Remembering that it was *Tu B'Shvat*, they sang songs from the mystic Book of Song, *Pirkei Shira*, that tells how all creatures, both plants and animals, sing Torah verses praising their Creator. They sang: "The fig tree says: 'The one who tends the fig tree shall eat its fruit.' The pomegranate says: 'Your cheeks are like the halves of a pomegranate.' The palm tree says: 'A righteous person shall flourish like a palm tree.'"

The road entered the forest, and the horses galloped in pleasure, kicking up snow

all over. On the two sides of the road an ancient, dense forest stretched out, with trees whose branches leaned out, arching over the road, almost touching in the middle and nearly blocking out the light of the sun. But here and

there the sun peeked through the branches, lighting the travelers' path as they sped along in the sleigh. And as they went, they sang another verse from the Book of Song: "Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord. . .!"

Their singing grew stronger and stronger and flocks of birds flying above them began chirping so loudly that it seemed that they were singing along with the joyful travelers in the sleigh.

The Ba'al Shem Tov and his disciples knew the secret—that God is within the world and always with us. How could they not sing? I don't know if Dr. Doolittle was Jewish or even a spiritual man. But he just may have had inklings of that secret.

Come celebrate a *Tu B'Shvat* seder with our Sunday School children, drink four cups of wine representing the four seasons, bless and eat the seven types of fruit, dance with us around the fruit tree

we will plant. When we learn the secret, we too will sing and hear the songs of the trees and the birds praising God. May this *Tu B'Shvat* bring us all closer to that realization. ◇

Tu B'Shvat Tidbits

In the Hasidic community, some Jews pickle or candy the etrog (citron) from Sukkot and eat it on Tu B'Shvat. Then they pray that they will be worthy of a beautiful etrog on the following Sukkot.

In keeping with the idea of Tu B'Shvat marking the revival of nature symbolized by the budding of the almond tree, many of Israel's major institutions chose this day for their inauguration. The cornerstone-laying of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem took place on Tu B'Shvat 1918; the Technion in Haifa, on Tu B'Shvat 1925; and the Kneset on Tu B'Shvat 1949.

Throughout the world, religious Jews strive to eat foods on Tu B'Shvat that are distinctive to, or characteristic of, the land of Israel, specifically, the seven fruits and grains mentioned in Deuteronomy, chapter 8 verse 8. (When Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, encyclopedic author of all things Jewish, was a child, his father used to bring home an Israeli-grown carob, a fruit that is only sweet after just falling from the tree, with the decidedly un-Jewish name of St. John's bread. In Yiddish it was known as buxer.)

Nachmanides said: A Jew may not derive any benefit from the produce of a fruit tree for the first three years after it is planted. This rule applies even outside of Israel. Any fruit yielded by the tree in these three years is called orlah -- "blocked" (prohibited). In Temple times the fruit of the fourth year (or its value) was brought to Jerusalem and eaten there. The fruit of the fifth year (and on) were permitted for normal consumption.

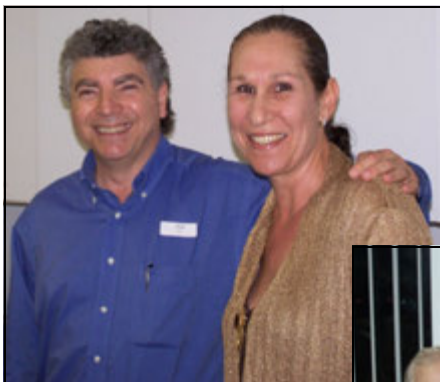
Chanukah 2009 At KJCC

text by Gloria Avner

What made this year's Chanukah celebration different from previous years?

More latkes than ever? The beat of the Native American drum unifying our KJCC student performers? The addition of pre- and post-play pieces sung with gusto by the adult

members of the ShabbaTones, accompanied by Erica at the piano? Whatever the cause, we had the biggest crowd in our sanctuary





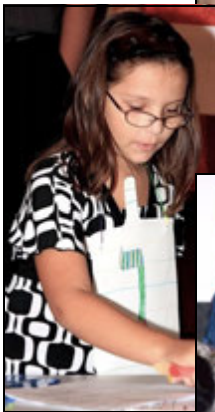
since the High Holidays (and the most children). The food prepared by Sisterhood and sponsored by Linda and Joel Pollack was not only delicious, but plentiful enough to nourish the next *Yiddishkeit* event.

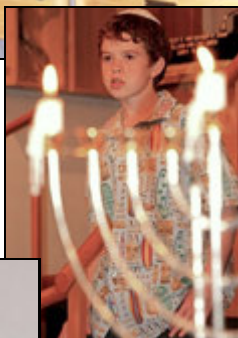


We ate, we sang, we watched an entertaining performance, and we embraced both Chanukah and Shabbat. We loved Natalie, our full-time spinning dreidel; Lili, our crazy King Antiochus; and Zach, our Alexander (The Great, no less).



Harry, Max, and Moira kept the narrative beat going strong and our tutors Hannah, Rachel, and Cory added depth and enthusiastic zest. It was a delight to have our post-Bar and Bat Mitzvah students choosing to take part with us. It's not just about the oil. We have our own KJCC miracles, too. ♦





above. Then, of course, there was services. It was all a bit much for Natalie Werthamer, captured below just as services were ending.



It was a busy, hectic day at KJCC on Friday, December 11th. First we had our annual Chanukah dinner, replete with many kinds of latkes (including Beth Kaminstein's with ginger and cardamom) and a healthy (so to speak) selection of kugels. Then there was the children's play, shown

Our deep appreciation to Richard Knowles for shooting some of the photos you see in this section.



Newport's Touro Synagogue

George Washington didn't sleep here, but he did send a famous letter.

by Beth Hayden

The Touro Synagogue is the oldest standing synagogue in the United States, the oldest surviving synagogue in North America and the only surviving synagogue dating from the colonial era. A synagogue dedicated in New Amsterdam in 1730 predated the Touro, but that building is no longer extant. The New Amsterdam Jews arrived in the New World in 1654; Newport's Jews were close behind, arriving in 1658. The first Jewish families who came to Newport were Sephardic Jews who arrived from the islands of Barbados, Suriname, Curacao and Jamaica in search of the same religious freedom their ancestors had sought. The Touro congregation called itself "Yeshuat Yisrael" (Salvation of Israel) and so it must have seemed to them as they began new lives in a colony promising freedom of belief for all.

Newport, unlike New Amsterdam, welcomed its Jews, and over the next one hundred years Newport's Jews prospered and increased their numbers. The Jewish Cemetery had already been purchased in 1677; in 1758 a Dutch Jew named Isaac Touro became the religious leader of the community and in 1759 the congregation purchased land in order to build a synagogue. The synagogue was formally dedicated in 1763. Peter Harrison, architect of this second synagogue to be built in the New World, was a Newport merchant and sea captain. A British-American who returned to England from 1743 until

1745 to study architecture, he is still remembered, not only for the Touro Synagogue but also for the design and construction of such buildings as Christ Church in Cambridge and King's Chapel in Boston. His buildings remain among the finest examples of Palladian architecture from colonial times.

Harrison, a non-Jew, had little experience to guide him in designing a synagogue and, in fact, from the outside there is little that

identifies the Palladian-style Touro as Jewish. The small interior, however, is quite striking. The women's balcony is supported by twelve ionic columns symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel; each column is carved from a single tree. The building itself is oriented to face east towards Jerusalem. The ark containing the Torah is on the

east wall with a mural above it, painted by the Newport artist Benjamin Howland, representing the Ten Commandments. The bimah is railed in and on the north side of the building are raised seats reserved for the synagogue president and guests.

Fittingly, the Yeshuat Yisrael congregation dedicated their new synagogue on December 2, 1763, as they celebrated Channukah, the Festival of Lights, which marks the restoration of freedom for Jews to worship as Jews. The Touro dedication was a regional celebration attended by other clergy and dignitaries from the community, including Ezra Stiles, who studied Hebrew with Isaac Touro and



who would later become the President of Yale University.

With the onset of the American Revolution, Newport was occupied by British troops. Many residents, including Jews, who supported the American Revolution left Newport. During the British occupation, the Touro was used by the British as a hospital for wounded British troops and as a public meeting place. The fact that this small building proved useful to the British miraculously saved it from the fate that met many other Newport buildings dismantled during the winters of occupation for firewood. In 1779 the British evacuated Newport and within a year or two many of the Jewish residents returned to pick up their lives and businesses. The Jewish Sephardic community, however, never regained its former position in numbers and wealth.

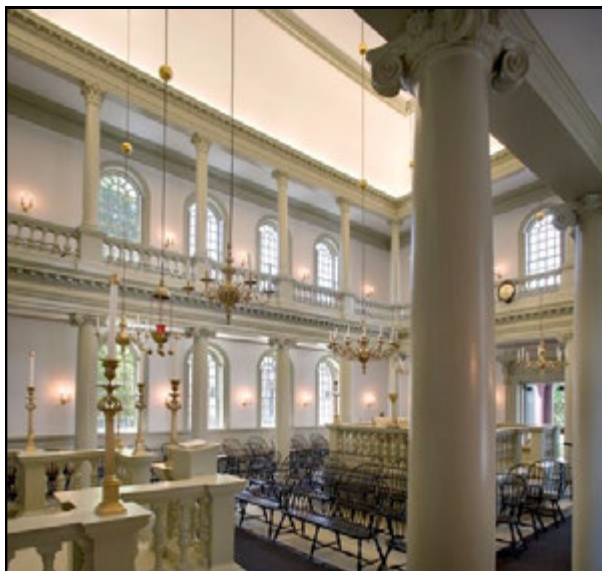
Following the Revolutionary War, Touro was used as a meeting place for the Rhode Island General Assembly, Rhode Island Supreme Court and the town of Newport. George Washington visited Newport in 1781 to plan the final battles of the Revolution. He met with his generals in the Touro Synagogue.

While one might think that Touro's place in Jewish and American history was now se-



cure, its place was ultimately won by Moses Mendes Seixas and George Washington. In August of 1790, following Rhode Island's ratification of the Constitution, George Washington chose to visit Newport in order to rally support for the Bill of Rights. As had happened so often throughout history, changes in governments, laws and policies even in the New World were spreading unease throughout the Newport Jewish community. Moses Mendes Seixas, President of Yeshuat Yisrael, had the courage to directly address the issue of "Liberty of conscience" with none other than the president of the newly created United States of America, George Washington (original spelling, punctuation and capitalization retained in letters on the following page) in a now-famous correspondence.

As an interesting footnote, Longfellow's poem (*The Jewish Cemetery at Newport*, Dec. 2009 Chai-Lights) inspired a response from Emma Lazarus (*In the Jewish Synagogue at Newport*) and, ultimately, a friendship developed between the two. Emma grew up as a member of Shearith Israel in New York to which the Newport synagogue's Torah scrolls and artworks had been sent for safeguarding. How appropriate that her words, the words of a descendent of Portuguese Jews who fled the Inquisition, are carved upon the Statue of Liberty's pedestal to welcome all who enter the United States of America in search of "Liberty of conscience" and a better life. ♦



To the President of the United States of America.
Sir:

Permit the children of the stock of Abraham to approach you with the most cordial affection and esteem for your person and merits — and to join with our fellow citizens in welcoming you to NewPort.

With pleasure we reflect on those days — those days of difficulty, and danger, when the God of Israel, who delivered David from the peril of the sword, — shielded Your head in the day of battle: — and we rejoice to think, that the same Spirit, who rested in the Bosom of the greatly beloved Daniel enabling him to preside over the Provinces of the Babylonish Empire, rests and ever will rest, upon you, enabling you to discharge the arduous duties of Chief Magistrate in these States.

Deprived as we heretofore have been of the invaluable rights of free Citizens, we now with a deep sense of gratitude to the Almighty disposer of all events behold a Government, erected by the Majesty of the People — a Government, which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance — but generously affording to all Liberty of conscience, and immunities of Citizenship: — deeming every one, of whatever Nation, tongue, or language equal parts of the great governmental Machine: — This so ample and extensive Federal Union whose basis is Philanthropy, Mutual confidence and Public Virtue, we cannot but acknowledge to be the work of the Great God, who ruleth in the Armies of Heaven, and among the Inhabitants of the Earth, doing whatever seemeth him good.

For all these Blessings of civil and religious liberty which we enjoy under an equal benign administration, we desire to send up our thanks to the Ancient of Days, the great preserver of Men — beseeching him, that the Angel who conducted our forefathers through the wilderness into the promised Land, may graciously conduct you through all the difficulties and dangers of this mortal life: — And, when, like Joshua full of days and full of honour, you are gathered to your Fathers, may you be admitted into the Heavenly Paradise to partake of the water of life, and the tree of immortality.

Done and Signed by order of the Hebrew Congregation in NewPort, Rhode Island August 17th 1790.

Moses Seixas, Warden

Below is George Washington's reply:

To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport Rhode Island.

Gentlemen,

While I receive, with much satisfaction, your Address replete with expressions of affection and esteem; I rejoice in the opportunity of assuring you, that I shall always retain a grateful remembrance of the cordial welcome I experienced in my visit to Newport, from all classes of Citizens.

The reflection on the days of difficulty and danger which are past is rendered the more sweet, from a consciousness that they are succeeded by days of uncommon prosperity and security. If we have wisdom to make the best use of the advantages with which we are now favored, we cannot fail, under the just administration of a good Government, to become a great and happy people.

The Citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy: a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent national gifts. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

It would be inconsistent with the frankness of my character not to avow that I am pleased with your favorable opinion of my Administration, and fervent wishes for my felicity. May the children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy.

G. Washington

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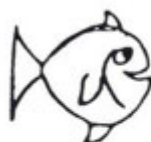
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Chai~Lights



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President's Message Alan Beth



As I write this message it is very cold outside, but I feel the warmth coming from our community. I would like to thank you all for your nice words, your cards, your e-mails and general good wishes you sent to my family and me after the passing of my father.

February is the time when we say goodbye to the existing KJCC Board of Directors and officers and welcome the new Board. By now you should have received a letter from Steve Steinbock representing the nominating committee. It states that the general election will be held in the KJCC sanctuary on February 14th at 10:30 a.m. I encourage you to attend. I will present a short overview of our accomplishments the past year and share the results of our survey. Also, the Board is recommending an important change to the KJCC bylaws. This change requires your approval at the upcoming general meeting. Thanks to Stuart and Stan for working on those changes. We should thank the outgoing Board and the officers for their hard work and dedication to the running of our KJCC.

A few new committees have been formed and are currently starting to make progress: The meditation garden committee, led by

Steve Steinbock, is investigating allocating space on our property for a place to honor those that have passed away and to find a quiet area to relax. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Picture project, led by Susan, has begun requesting pictures of all the children (and adults).

Next time you come to our synagogue be sure to look for a beautiful work of art created by Rosie Biskar, located at the entrance doors to the Sanctuary. Thank you, Rosie, for your most generous donation to the KJCC.

Thanks also to Bill and Freda Ferns for graciously opening up their new home to us last month. We enjoyed a wonderful end to Shabbat there, celebrating dinner and a *Havdalah* service with Bill and Freda and their family from Canada.

KJCC congratulates our own Dr. Steve Smith for winning the prestigious Country Doctor of the Year Award. (See the full story on page 23.)

I promised last month that I would give a review here of the survey results. That will have to wait till next month. As I noted, though, I will give a summary at the general election meeting.

Wishing you all warm and healthy days.

-Alan

February 2010 17 Shevat - 14 Adar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Joyce Peckman <i>Barbara & Steve Smith</i>	6
7 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m.	8	9	10	11	12 Alan Beth <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	13
14 Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. KJCC General Meeting 10:30 a.m.	15	16	17	18	19 Jim Boruszak & Gloria Avner	20
21	22	23	24	25 Ta'anit Fast of Esther	26 Stuart & Lauren Sax 6:30 Service <i>Rita & Jim Williams</i> <i>Kathy & Joe Shabathai</i>	27
28 Purim Megillah & Brunch 10:30 a.m.				<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></div>		

Nosh

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

Alan, Candy and Joe

on the death of Alan's father

Laurie Beth

The KJCC General Meeting

Will be held Sunday, February 14th at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Lunch will be served afterwards. Alan will present a brief review of the year and an overview summary of the survey. Several votes are pending, such as amending the by-laws, that must be made by the full membership.

BOOK PLATE

**In memory of
Laurie Beth**

By Joel and Linda Pollack

Kvelling over Cory

Cory Wasser recently returned from a Florida Bandmaster's Association Statewide Performance and Critique event. Part of the Coral Shores High School Marching Band, Cory's Color Guard performance, to the music of John Williams, won the highest of five possible ratings-- Superior. Mazel tov to Cory and the whole Wasser family.

Ongoing Projects and Programs of KJCC

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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353.

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.

February Birthdays

1st.....	Roy Pollack
2nd.....	Linda Rutkin
3rd.....	Caeleigh Stuart
3rd.....	Dick Bromwich
5th.....	Rebecca Smith
5th.....	Robin Kantor
6th.....	Martin Field
7th.....	Erica Lieberman-Garrett
7th.....	Larry Jacobs
9th.....	Deborah Kaplan
9th.....	Ron Garrett
10th.....	Shirley Burnett
11th.....	Justin Solomon
12th.....	Johnny Knowles
12th.....	Paul Roberts
14th.....	Debbie Madnick
14th.....	Steven B. Sanders
15th.....	Judith Weber
18th.....	Beth Hayden
21st.....	David J. Marmar
21st.....	Marshall Gorson
22nd.....	Harry J.C. Friedman
24th.....	Emily Caryn Gershowitz
24th.....	Muriel Swartz
24th.....	Suzie Greenman
25th.....	Rita Conklin
26th.....	Jim Williams
26th.....	John D. Schur
26th.....	Renee Green
28th.....	Arlene Line

BOOK PLATE

**In memory of
Robert Bakst**

by Harvey and Susan Schwaid

It's Scholarship Application Time

Anyone wanting a KJCC scholarship application, please contact Kurt Kluger at 394-7571 or e-mail kurtkluger@bellsouth.net.

February Anniversaries

	Years
9th Uri & Liliam Kamely.....	17
11th Joel & Linda Pollack	47
20th Bill & Susan Gordon.....	22
21st Murray & Claire Cooper	61

Help for Haiti and Fernel

KJCC is attempting to do its small part in helping the ravaged nation of Haiti. Linda is accepting cash donations; please mark any checks "Tzedakah for Haiti." Candy has also placed a box in the KJCC lobby to collect clothes and non-perishable food items. As of this writing, Fernel (one of Jim's favorites), who keeps KJCC's building clean, has not been able to contact any of his family in Haiti.

Oneg Sponsors for February 2010

February 5th—Steve & Barbara Smith in honor of Rebecca's birthday.

February 12th—Joyce Peckman to celebrate visiting family.

February 26th—Rita & Jim Williams in honor of Jim's birthday. Kathy & Joe Shabathai in honor of their 24th anniversary. They will be bringing food! (She advised us to come hungry.)

Adult Ed Lecture Series to Continue

Yardena's fascinating lecture series, "Jews of the Diaspora," continues in February with the fifth installment, the Jews of China, on Sunday evening, February 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the David Kamely classroom at KJCC. Previous lectures have been on the Jews of Babylonia (Iraq), Persia (Iran), Afghanistan (if you weren't there, "stan" as a suffix means "territory of"), and India.

Book Club, the Sequel

The informal book club will be meeting again, this time Wednesday, Feb 3rd, 2:30 at Bea Graham's house. RSVP to Bea at 852-0214 or to Joyce at 451-0665.

In Memoriam February 2010

Lou Roazen

Remembered By
Sylvia Berman



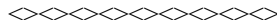
Sunnie Bernstein

Remembered By
Paul & Barbara Bernstein



Kitty Nyman

Remembered By
Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



Ted Nyman

Remembered By
Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



Max Boxer

Remembered By
Shirley Boxer



Ida Boxer

Remembered By
Shirley Boxer



J.L. Fierberg

Remembered By
Shirley Boxer



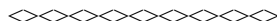
Sarah P. Zalk

Remembered By
Meredith A. Cline



Reuben L. Zalk

Remembered By
Meredith A. Cline



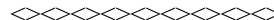
Robert Kinney

Remembered By
Frank & Gerri Emkey



William Feinberg

Remembered By
Arthur Feinberg & Patrice Gerard



Louis Geller

Remembered By
Milton & Claire Geller



Elsie Gilderman

Remembered By
Larry & Stephanie Gilderman



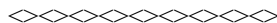
Rose Gilson

Remembered By
Michael & Suzanne Gilson



Charles Gilson

Remembered By
Michael & Suzanne Gilson



Joseph Gorson

Remembered By
Janice Gorson



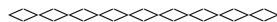
A. James Weiss

Remembered By
Janice Gorson



Nicholas Goldenberg

Remembered By
Bea Graham



Robert Greenbaum

Remembered By
Marilyn Greenbaum



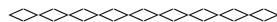
Ilona Ban

Remembered By
Franklin & Judy Greenman



Fred H. Hermann

Remembered By
Robert & Eileen Hermann



In Memoriam February 2010

Ida Ratchik

Remembered By
Ron & Dorothy Horn



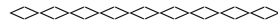
Fannie Phillips

Remembered By
Henry & Patricia Isenberg



Isaac Jacobson

Remembered By
Melvin Jacobson



Pinchas Kamely

Remembered By
Michal Kamely



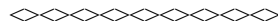
Irving Stockser

Remembered By
Frank & Sandy Kaplan



Sylvia Kay

Remembered By
Harvey & Joan Kay



Joseph Krissel

Remembered By
Michael Krissel



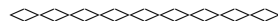
M. Teresa Astray-Caneda

Remembered By
Teresa Kwalick



Samuel Marmar

Remembered By
David & Pamela Marmar



Sara J. Cohen

Remembered By
Jim & Lynn Nobil



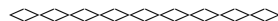
Irene Nobil

Remembered By
Jim & Lynn Nobil



William Pollack

Remembered By
Joel & Linda Pollack



Malka Frank

Remembered By
Joel & Linda Pollack



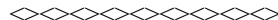
Ida O. Present

Remembered By
Marjorie Present



Amos M. Present

Remembered By
Marjorie Present



Russ Wayne Rolnick

Remembered By
Marilyn Rapp



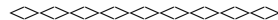
Shirley Horowitz

Remembered By
Pauline Roller



Al Roller

Remembered By
Pauline Roller



Sophie Samuels

Remembered By
Sid Samuels



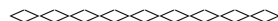
Irving Sanders

Remembered By
Steven B. Sanders



John A. Schur

Remembered By
Lee Schur



In Memoriam February 2010

Miriam Blinder

Remembered By
Steven & Barbara Smith



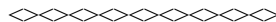
Morris Estrin

Remembered By
Ralph & Lillian Tallent



Paul Buchman

Remembered By
Mel Taks



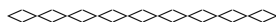
Ann R. Kapulskey

Remembered By
George & Muriel Swartz



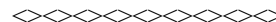
Morris Feinberg

Remembered By
Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



Sarah Felder

Remembered By
Stuart & Geri Smith



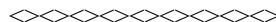
Minnie Berger

Remembered By
Mark & Sofy Wasser



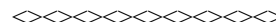
Sara J. Cohen

Remembered By
Richard & Sheila Steinberg



David C. Willner

Remembered By
Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner



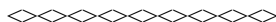
Samuel Wolfe

Remembered By
Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



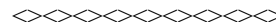
Kitty Nyman

Remembered By
Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



Ted Nyman

Remembered By
Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



KJCC GIFT SHOP

COME TO THE KJCC GIFT SHOP FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS!

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

HOUSE GIFTS

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH GIFTS AND CARDS

WEDDING GIFTS AND CARDS

Yes, we have yahrzeit candles - traditional or electric!

plus JEWELRY, MEZUZAHs, SEDER PLATES, MATZOH SWEEPERS,

CHALLAH PLATES, CHALLAH KNIVES AND MORE

If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.



KJCC Annual Second Passover Seder



Tuesday, March 30, 2010

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

Your check is your reservation. Checks must be received no later than March 20, 2010.

Make checks payable to KJCC Sisterhood, c/o Leslie Dillon, PO Box 370736, Key Largo, FL 33037. Call Joan Boruszak at 852-0833 for information.

PASSOVER

Adults \$45

Children 12 and under are our guests.

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Death In Haiti, a Personal Story

This month's article for my YEDA and TORASHA column was intended to be about Purim and the figure of Esther. I wanted to write about a type of woman who knows how to behave in a patriarchal society, but is not timid, who dares to defy the rules when necessary, is strong and resolute in mind and is prepared to take risks.

But before I started to write, a terrible human tragedy occurred in Haiti, the disaster of the earthquake that has killed so many people. This horrible disaster affected my family personally. My son, Andy Loi, his sister and brother—the whole Loi family—suffered the loss of a very close relative. Their cousin, Andrea Loi, was found dead under the collapsed U.N. building, after a desperate search of four long days.

I heard the sad news while teaching our Sunday School children at the KJCC. I was very moved by the reaction of our students to their teacher's grief, the support they gave, the empathy and solidarity they showed in those difficult moments. They gave me the opportunity to share with them the tragic story of Andrea's death, and also the story of a remarkable young woman.

I told the children that Andrea was the granddaughter of Holocaust survivor Sally Loi, who escaped from Rumania, the only survivor of her family. Andrea's grandmother and family now live in Chile, where Andrea grew up and became a lawyer. She dedicated her professional life to defend human rights in any troubled country in the world. That's how she came to work at the U.N. in Haiti for many years. She was very strong and resolute

in mind, like Esther in the story of Purim, and courageous, defending the poor and underprivileged under very harsh circumstances.

When we heard that Andrea was missing after the earthquake, we tried desperately to find help. Her two brothers flew to Haiti from Chile, finding themselves caught in a situation of total chaos. They needed professional help; that was the moment when we contacted and asked the specialized Israeli rescue team that had arrived in Haiti to help us with the search. Their response was immediate. I explained to the children that the mission of the Israelis is to rescue the life of any people in distress, and that according to Jewish solidarity, *Klal Yisrael*, they consider it a privilege to rescue the life of their Jewish brothers and sisters from another country.

All during our conversation, the children were very attentive and showed concern and empathy for me, their teacher. They learned about the customs, *minhagim*, of mourning, and how the whole community helps and supports a family who is in mourning and sitting the *Shiva* (a religious ritual of seven days). And with the participation of Marc Bloom, Jane Friedman, and tutor Rachel Bloom, the children conducted a symbolic ceremony in class, singing "*Hine Ma Tov U'ma Na'im Shevet Achim Gam Yachad*," reciting the Mourner's Kaddish, and reading "Meditation Before Kaddish" from the *Siddur*.

To have had the company of my students and KJCC *mishpoche*, and be part of this small ceremony, was very significant for me. My sincere thanks to all of you. ◇

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

Book Plates

Pollack, Joel and Linda
Schwaid, Harvey and Susan

In Memory of

Laurie Beth
Robert Bakst

JNF Certificates Sent By

Boruszak, Jim and Joan

In Memory of

Laurie Beth

Chai-Lights

Kirschenbaum, Bianka

In Honor of

Medina Roy

Oneg Fund Sponsors

Cohn, Nancy Anniversary of David Cohn's passing
Mahjonggettes
Weihl, Alfred and Sue Ann

In Honor of

General Fund

Begam, Delores
Davidson, Foster and Carol Laskin
Emkey, Gerri
Frank, Marian
Hirsch, Gerald
Matlins, Stuart
Roberts, Paul and Susan

In Honor of

Bea Graham's recovery

Yahrzeit Contributions

Steinberg, Richard and Sheila
Olsen, Jerry and Sheila
Present, Marjorie
Conklin, Wes and Rita
Terner, Salomon and Mary
Isenberg, Henry and Patricia
Taramona, Hermine

In Memory of

Peter Steinberg
Betty Weinstein
A. Savage
Yetta Hitzig

General Fund

Avner, Gloria
Peckman, Joyce
Schur, Lee

In Memory of

Laurie Beth
Laurie Beth
Laurie Beth

30th Anniversary

Avner, Gloria
Swartz, George and Muriel

Ernest Isenberg
Norma Robinson

Did You Know ???

...that you can place an advertisement in Chai-Lights for an *entire year* for only \$120?

... that you can remember a loved one with a *yahrzeit* plaque? A candle will be lit on the *memoriam* date and at *Yizkor* services four times a year including *Yom Kippur*.

Contact Linda Pollack at 852-8575 for more information .

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



On the theme of Purim, unexpected and unfortunate events can produce good results. Let's hope that is the case with our Fashion Show, which did not take place in January due to the financial difficulties of the restaurant where it was supposed to be held. As it turned out, the date chosen (and abandoned) would have coincided with cruises and trips, keeping some of our favorite models and patrons from attending. Instead, we now have a new, hopefully better date, at the recently remodeled Snooks. So mark Thursday, March 4th on your calendar for an 11:30 luncheon and fashion show, when you will get the first chance to preview Angelika's newest spring and summer fashions.

I hope you all had a wonderful time at Yiddishkeit night. I know the food was delicious. Three cheers to our brave actors – Bernie Ginsberg, Georgia Landau, Dave Mont, Gene and Mort Silverman, Linda and Joel Pollack, Gerry Oshinsky, Gloria Avner, Steve Friedman and Jules Seder. Thanks also go to Bea Graham, Pauline Roller, Elaine Solas, Erica's friend Hindy Zeifman and Alan Beth the technical wizard for all their help.

For the literary among us, we are starting our Guernsey-type literary society again. We'll meet on Wednesday, Feb 3rd, 2:30 at Bea Graham's house, with whatever book we've all read lately that we'd like to talk about. It's not the traditional book club, but it brings up topics and authors that might not normally be discussed, and broadens everyone's outlook. It's also become a bit of an informal lending library. You can RSVP to Bea (852-0214 or martyandbea@gmail.com), or me (451-0665 or joyce@adoctorsbag.com). You'll even be welcome if you just show up.

Purim comes early this year, falling out on Sunday, February 28th. Instead of a Friday evening dinner, we will celebrate this happiest of holidays with a costume brunch (mimosas anyone?) on that day. Megillah reading and

children's presentation begins at 10:30 a.m., potluck brunch at 11:30. RSVP to Erica Garrett, food coordinator extraordinaire, at hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-393-1162.

Tickets for *Miss Saigon*, on March 7th at Actors' Playhouse in Coral Gables, are \$40 each. Reserve your seat with me or you can contact Nancy Kluger at 393-2129 or klugerkeys@bellsouth.net. You don't want to miss this one. If you haven't seen it and aren't sure what you'd be signing up for, see Linda's promotional ad on page 22 of this issue. I'll give you a clue: it's the old Madame Butterfly story transposed to Vietnam at the end of our fighting there. If you haven't already received the invitation to KJCC's Gala 30th Anniversary celebration, it's coming! Save March 14th for this special event. Let Gene Silverman know if you want to spend that night at Hawk's Cay. You can reach Gene at 664-3316 or gsilverman122@gmail.com. Or contact Beth Kaminstein at 664-2875 or bethkam@bellsouth.net for carpool information. Please note that the reply card needs to be returned no later than March 1st.

And finally, now is the time to begin thinking about Passover(!) Let Joan Boruszak know if you need anything special from the gift shop. You can reach her at 852-0833 or joanborus@aol.com. Contact Leslie Dillon at 853-2693 to reserve your place at the Second Seder, to be held Tuesday, March 30th. Your \$45 check will hold your place. (Dependents aged 12 and under are gratis, but you need to tell us they're coming.) The Women's Seder has been scheduled for Monday, March 22nd. Watch for information about pottery sessions led by Beth. In past years we've made goblets, soup bowls, seder plates...what's next? ♦



PURIM

**The whole Megillah--
The real Megillah--
The KJCC Megillah--**

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Wear a costume - Bring a dish!

10:30 Megillah Reading and Purim presentation

11:30 Brunch - Potluck

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

**Contact Erica Garrett, (305) 393-1162,
hippiejap@hotmail.com, to coordinate
your dish.**

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



How about an even dozen?

According to Israel's Rabbinical Court Administration, a 50-year-old Jerusalem man has divorced for the 11th time, setting a new Israeli record for Jews. The divorces were granted both in Israel and abroad and were all in accordance with *halacha* (Jewish law). The man said his custom is "to divorce every two years and look for a new bride immediately after." From all his marriages, the man has only one child (He regrets having divorced his first wife because "it set into motion a never-ending search for the next 'experience.'") The previous Jewish Israeli record for divorces by a single person was six. (*Jerusalem Post*, 12-28-09)

Baseball's Jewish MVPs

In late December, Ryan Braun, 26, left-fielder for the Milwaukee Brewers and Scott Feldman, 26, pitcher for the Texas Rangers, were named the Most Valuable Jewish Players of the Year by Jewish Major Leaguers, an organization dedicated to honoring Jews in baseball. Braun was selected player of the year and Feldman was recognized as pitcher of the year. To be selected, players are required to identify themselves as Jewish and have a Jewish parent or they must be converts. Feldman has achieved more victories than any other Jewish starter since 1980. There are currently 14 Jewish pros. (*The Forward*, 12-30-09)

A new "Hatikva" (The Hope)

The longing to find considerable amounts of oil in Israel may come to fruition. In an announcement made on December 24th, Givat Olam (Hebrew for "hill of the world") Exploration Company found "significant quantities" of oil in a well in Rosh HaAyin, a city located

east of Tel Aviv on the western edge of Samaria. Although the commercial potential of the oil field will not be known until calculations on production and processing can be completed, it is hoped that this discovery, plus the huge gas field discovered off the Mediterranean coast early in 2009, will further Israel's longtime wish to be energy independent and could happen in as little as three years. After the announcement was made, the company's stock more than doubled.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 12-24-09)

Another blow for Holocaust survivors

In the November issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, a study conducted by Haifa University's School of Public Health revealed that Holocaust survivors are at a higher risk of getting cancer later in life than other Jews. The study compared the cancer rates of more than 315,000 European Jews who immigrated to British-ruled Palestine before or during World War II with the rates of those who arrived after the war. Men born between 1940 and 1945 who remained in Europe throughout the war years developed cancer at three to five times the rate of men the same age who went to Palestine during the war. Women born during the same time period who stayed had a risk as much as 2.3 times greater. The incidents of breast and colorectal cancer were especially high among those who spent the war years in Nazi-occupied Europe. The study also concluded that the risk was highest for the youngest survivors. (*The Forward*, 1-6-10)

The first increase in a decade

For the first time in ten years, the number

of immigrants to Israel rose in 2009. This according to Jewish Agency chairman Natan Sharansky and Immigrant Minister Sofa Landver. The number of people who immigrated was 16,244, a 17 percent jump over 2008 figures. Sixty percent of the new Israeli citizens were under the age of 36. The largest number of new immigrants still comes from the former Soviet Union, where the number increased by 21 percent. In addition, dozens of Jews fled to the Jewish state from Muslim countries such as Yemen, Morocco, Tunis and Lebanon. Sharansky and Landver attributed the climb to the Jewish Agency's "Red Carpet" program, which guides *olim* (new arrivals) by offering them assistance with details like opening bank accounts, finding health care providers, etc. (www.haaretz.com, 12-28-09)

Jimmy Carter's *Al Chet*

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter wants the Jewish community to forgive him for "any offense he may have caused when criticizing Israel." In a letter he wrote in December to the JTA, a wire service for Jewish newspapers, Carter sent greetings of the season and included wishes for peace between Israel and her neighbors. The letter concluded with Carter offering an *al chet*, referring to the Yom Kippur prayer of forgiveness. (In modern day Hebrew, *al chet* refers to any plea for forgiveness.) In recent years, the former president has angered many Jews with his declarations placing the burden of peacemaking on Israel and with statements linking Israel's settlement policies to apartheid. Ed Koch, former New York City mayor, responded by saying that if Mr. Carter is asking the Jewish community for forgiveness then, among other things, he needs to list what he believes he has done that requires forgiveness. To read Koch's full article—"Carter's *Al Chet*: How Would One Know You Are Really Sorry?"—go to the Yiddish blog www.vosizneias.com/45771 (*World Jewish Congress*, 12-22-09)

A plea for help

Monika Krawczyk, president of the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, has issued a warning that "hundreds

of important Jewish historical and religious sites are in danger of deterioration and possible collapse." The Foundation is facing a dire need to raise funds to repair and refurbish "cemeteries, synagogues and other structures of inestimable Jewish historical and cultural value." The Warsaw-based foundation was established in 2002 with the aim of reclaiming and managing communal properties that have been returned to the Jewish community under a state law passed in 1997. "There are about 1,200 Jewish cemeteries and 200 synagogues in Poland that survived the war," Krawczyk said. "But now many are in a terrible state of disrepair and are literally falling apart. If we don't act now to save these sites, in another 10 or 20 years there will be nothing left to see." Krawczyk is calling on Jews worldwide, especially those with a family or historical connection to Poland, to get involved. (*Jerusalem Post*, 1-1-10)

In Memoriam

Once again, the Jewish world has recently lost several noteworthy individuals. They are: --Percy E. Sutton, 89, one of the nation's most prominent black political and business leaders. For more than a decade, Sutton was the highest-ranking black elected official in New York City. As a young lawyer, he represented Malcolm X. A passionate civil rights activist, Sutton was arrested as a Freedom Rider in Mississippi and Alabama in the 1960s. A staunch advocate for the state of Israel, he was also one of the first and most consistently outspoken leaders on behalf of the struggle for freedom for Soviet Jews. He led the Black Coalition for Soviet Jews and was a delegate to the World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels in 1976. It is said that Sutton's motives were not political; they came from a deep commitment to the struggle for the human and civil rights of the Jews of the Soviet Union. (www.jta.org, 12-29-09) --Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, 77, considered "the leading Jewish historian in the post-Holocaust age." Yerushalmi was first recognized in the early 1970s for his groundbreaking work on the Conversos, Jews who outwardly converted to Catholicism during the

Spanish Inquisition but practiced some Jewish rituals in secret. But it was his 1982 book, *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory*, that put him on the map for scholars in other fields as well. Yerushalmi mentored a new generation of students at Harvard and then at Columbia University. They include many of the foremost figures in Jewish studies today. (*The Forward*, 12-16-09)

--Edward Sanders, 87, a national Jewish leader who played a key role in the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty. He was a senior Middle East advisor to President Jimmy Carter and served as the leader of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He worked closely with Stuart Eizenstat, President Carter's chief domestic policy adviser on issues of Soviet Jewry, Holocaust reparations and economic aid to Israel. (www.jta.org, 12-8-09)

-- Freya von Moltke, 98, a member of the Kreisau Circle, Germany's anti-Nazi resistance group that backed the failed attempt to kill Hitler during World War II. The group was led by her husband, Helmuth. The two opposed the Hitler regime from the start and assisted Jews and other victims of Nazism through Helmuth's law firm in Berlin. Helmuth was executed by the Nazis for treason in 1945. After the war, Freya and her two sons moved to South Africa where she worked as a social worker. She returned to Germany in 1956 because she rejected South Africa's system of apartheid and began publicizing the work of the Kreisau Circle. She later settled in the United States and became a citizen at the age of 75. (*World Jewish Congress*, 1-6-10)

--Miep Gies, 100, the Dutch woman who helped hide Anne Frank and her family from the Nazis and the one who saved the girl's diary. Gies was a secretary working for Anne's father, Otto. She was the last living member of the group who helped the Frank family and four other people survive for two years while hiding in a secret attic annex in Amsterdam. Constantly putting her own life at risk, Gies supplied the Frank family with food and other essentials. In 1944 the Franks were discovered and deported to

Auschwitz, where the family became separated. Otto was the only survivor. When he returned, Gies handed him Anne's diary, believing it had value. (*World Jewish Congress*, 1-12-10)

Well, is it safe or unsafe?

According to the U.S. State Department's updated guide for the American tourist, aggressive driving is a serious problem in Israel because Israelis don't obey traffic laws, keep a safe driving distance or signal before changing lanes or turning (www.ynetnews.com, 12-28-09). Yet 2009 marked the safest year on Israeli roads since 1974, when traffic deaths numbered 706 people. Traffic fatalities in 2009 were 346 – a drop of over 22 percent from 2008. Israel is still number one in the industrial world in child victims of traffic accidents and third in pedestrian victims. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 1-1-10)

Did you know...

-Twelve of the top 25 Christmas songs were either written or co-written by Jews. (*The Forward*, 12-22-09)

-On December 14th, Boris Gelfand of Israel became the 2009 Chess World Cup champion, beating Ruslan Ponomarev of the Ukraine. Gelfand was the number one seed in the event and, at 41, he was also one of the oldest. (*The New York Times*, 12-12-09)

-Romania and Israel have jointly issued a postage stamp honoring the world's first Yiddish theater. The stamp, which commemorates the theatre founded by Avram Goldfaden in the northeast Romanian city of Iasi in 1876, was issued at the end of November at an event at Bucharest's Jewish State Theatre. (www.jta.org, 11-29-09)

-Noam was the most popular name for Israeli babies born in 2008. The name was given to 1,970 boys and 515 girls. Some 156,000 babies were born in Israel in 2008. The information comes from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics. (www.jta.org, 11-18-09) ♦



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

THE PRODUCERS

Sunday, April 25, 2010

2:00 pm

Murray E Nelson Cultural Center

Key Largo

MM 102 Bayside

A shady Broadway producer and his nerdy accountant concoct a scheme to overfinance a huge flop and pocket the excess budget, but the show unexpectedly becomes a smash.

This show has taken its place as one of the all-time great comedies.

Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan

Music by Mel Brooks

Lyrics by Mel Brooks

Directed by Debra Ginsberg

Original Choreography Recreated by

Gerri Caruncho & Serena Salva

Musical Director: Randy Lichtman

Produced by the Miami Acting Company

Contact: Linda Pollack to reserve your ticket

lindap4000@earthlink.net

Donation: \$25

Eye On The Arts

Gloria Avner



One of the joys of winter in the tropics, living on this string of beautiful islands, is our ability to enjoy cultural activities and exhibits outdoors as well as in. Here are some events for strolling as well as sitting, nearby and far enough away that you might like to invite co-participants to share the ride and the fun. (A mini-review from last month: Steve, Carol, Joyce and I spent a great evening listening to Itzhak Perlman at the Arsht Center. It was an easy drive—thanks to Steve—and the encores alone made it a truly stellar event: Perlman playing Heifetz playing Gershwin's "It Ain't Necessarily So." Aaaaah.)

Key Largo / February (dates to be announced): **Our community theater troupe, The Keys Players, present "Dearly Beloved,"** a comedy, on successive weekends at the Lion's Club. MM 100. Info at (305) 453-0997; www.thekeyplayers.org, (time and price to be announced).

Islamorada / February 6th, Saturday at 8 p.m.: **I.C.E. presents American Shakespeare Center's "Romeo and Juliet."** Depending on weather, this exciting young company will perform at the amphitheater in Founders Park or at the Coral Shores PAC. They have given us amazing performances at both venues for the past three years. *An event not to be missed.* www.keysice.com

Marathon / February 6-7:
16th Annual Pigeon Key Art Festival. Marathon Community Park, MM 49, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; a great combination of local and Florida fine artists and craftspeople, a well-juried show. *A number of us went last year and enjoyed it.* 305-289-9555.

Ft. Lauderdale / February 15th
Joshua Bell, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m. Joshua Bell has captured the public's attention like no other classical violinist of his time. Playing a 1713 Gibson ex Huberman Stradivarius, Bell's acclaimed recordings in the past year include *Vivaldi: The Four Seasons* and film soundtracks *Defiance* and *Angels & Demons*. Tickets: \$35-\$75.

Marathon / February 15th

Middle Keys Concerts presents Miami String Quartet, with Jodi di Salvo. Praised as having rich, precisely balanced sound, a broad colorful palette, and unflagging energy, the Miami String Quartet is among the most widely respected quartets in America. 8 p.m., San Pablo Catholic Church, 550 122nd Street. Tickets: Lynda 305-743-4687,

Key Largo / Friday, February 26th

Annual Garden Walk: From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. we can stroll among and view native plants and lush landscaping, while getting ideas for tropical gardening, during this annual Garden Walk presented by the Upper Keys Garden Club. 305-332-0535 or dbarreto@bellsouth.net

Tavernier / February 26th and 27th

I.C.E. Presents The New York Children's Film Festival. Last year's films were amazing, many of them a delight to behold by grownups too. The event moves indoors this year. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 90 Oceanside. Info www.keysice.com (times and schedule *t.b.a.*)

Islamorada / Sunday, February 27th

"LOVE IS IN THE AIR." The Keys Community Concert Band performs at Islamorada Founders Park, Bayside, MM 87, Plantation Key. Bring your chairs and blankets. The entire family will enjoy the experience of listening to traditional concert band music in a lovely Keys setting. *Admission to all concerts is free.* 4:00 p.m. For more information e-mail keyscommunityconcertband@yahoo.com.

Islamorada / February 27th

Islamorada Street Fair and Sidewalk Art Show. Food, fun and safety exhibits are to complement local artists' booths and displays. The event is to help commemorate the history of Red Cross houses and community recovery during the 1935 hurricane. Located at the Hurricane Monument, mile marker 81.6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Contact:** 305-852-9612 E-mail: HuntJB@usa.redcross.org. ☐

Photo Gallery

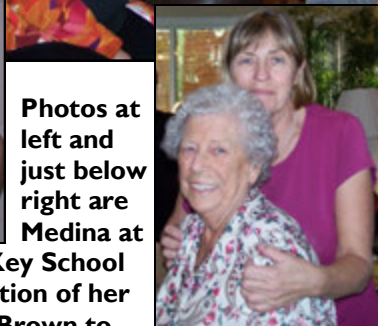


Havdalah on December 19th at Ocean Pointe was, to put it gently, a bit brisk. It was hard to get the candle lit , but it extinguished easily. But Gloria still led the service with aplomb.

Middle left, at Yarden's December 20th lecture on the Jews of Persia. It was still cold, as you can see from the clothes. Lower left is the Sunday School celebrating the 6th birthday of Natalie Werthamer. The photo lower right is from another happy Sunday at Camp KJCC.



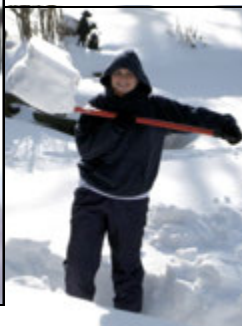
The top five photos are from the annual Christmas Day open house of Carol and Steve Steinbock. In the photo at right we have a relatively rare Beth Hayden sighting.



Photos at left and just below right are Medina at

Plantation Key School at the invitation of her friend Pam Brown to

Discuss Judaism. The two left winter photos are from Alan and Candy's house in Medora, Michigan, after several feet of snow. It's hard to see the thermometer, but it reads 0. (As in degrees.) The two photos lower right depict the mid-Atlantic storm at Nissan Mayk's house in New Jersey. Nissan is explaining things to the goats, while Shyella shows us just how much snow fell.



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Luncheon and Fashion Show



Styles by

Angelika



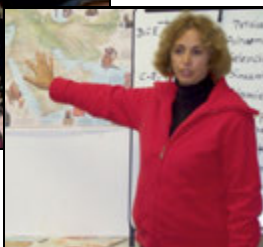
Date: Thursday, March 4, 2010

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Snooks - MM 97.5 Bayside

Contact: Joyce Peckman 305-240-1000

Donation: \$25



On Saturday, December 26, Bill and Freda Ferns invited all of KJCC to dinner and Havdalah at their home in Key Largo. Freda's brother Moshe, visiting from Montreal, led the service. The food? As usual, it was delicious. The two lower left photos are from Yardenah's January 10th lecture on the Jews of Afghanistan.

At bottom is a photo of the "Bach to the Future" concert held Saturday, January 16th at the Coral Shores PAC. This was the first in the renewed Upper Keys Concert Series, managed by Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman and Mary Lee Singer of KJCC.

Gloria wanted to express her gratitude to "all the donors, volunteers and attendees from KJCC, our community's cultural backbone."

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Sunday, March 7, 2010

2:00 PM

Actors Playhouse, Coral Gables

A classic love story is brought up-to-date in one of the most stunning theatrical spectacles of all time. In *Miss Saigon*, Alain Boublil and Claude-Michael Schönberg, creators of last season's acclaimed hit, *Les Misérables*, along with Richard Maltby, Jr., bring Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* to the modern world in a moving testament to the human spirit and a scathing indictment of the tragedies of war. An international sensation, *Miss Saigon* is an epic, daring pop opera that is universal in its emotional power even as it deals with controversial, contemporary issues. In the turmoil of the Vietnam War, an American soldier and a Vietnamese girl fall in love, only to be separated during the fall of Saigon. Their struggle to find each other over the ensuing years creates an unparalleled drama and a must see musical theatrical experience.

Donation \$40
Contact Nancy Kluger
klugerkeys@bellsouth.net
305-393-2129



One of KJCC's Own Gets National Recognition:

Steve Smith is selected Country Doctor of the Year for 2009.

Almost everyone at KJCC has a Steve Smith story. To Jim Boruszak he's the one who often called before a Board Meeting to ask: "do you need me to pick up some bagels on the way?" To Pauline Roller he's the dear friend who takes her along on rare family vacations, and who not long ago ran back early from Massachusetts to care for her when it seemed as though she'd need surgery. (She did.) To Steve Steinbock he's the doctor who didn't want him to have to wait too long for care for a potentially dicey situation, and showed up at Mariners at 11:00 at night to see him.

To KJCC members and the Upper Keys public Steve Smith is the one who wrote, produced and presented a memorable PowerPoint presentation on Kristallnacht last year on its 70th anniversary. Those who value the lessons and meaning of *Yom HaShoah* can point to another PowerPoint show Steve produced about his father's role (also a surgeon, by the way) in the liberation of Dachau. To his fellow members of the KJCC Board of Directors he's a thoughtful and respected voice.

Those who know Steve Smith well have long marveled at his commitment to his profession. He's often on call at night, or working the emergency room at Fishermen's Hospital in Marathon. By his own admission, he's up at 5:30 each morning and quickly on his way to surgery or E.R. or to make hospital rounds. Each afternoon, and often well into

the evening, he sees general practice patients, up to fifty in a day. He's done whenever the last patient leaves his office. He

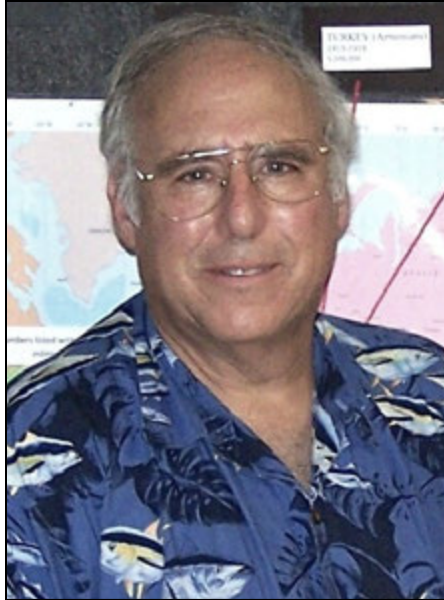
even—get this—still makes house calls. And he's kept up this pace for over 30 years, since he wrote letters from a residency at Tulane in New Orleans asking about openings in the Keys.

As many of you now know, Steve Smith has recently earned national recognition for his years of dedication and excellence. He has been named Country Doctor of the year for 2009. (Let that sink in for a moment; this is a national award. Steve Smith has been voted Country Doctor of the year *for the entire United States.*) This award has been given each year since 1992 to doctors of special and ongoing merit

who practice in communities of 20,000 or less, by Staff Care, the leading temporary physician staffing firm in the United States. Until this year all recipients have been family practitioners. Steve Smith is the first winner who is board certified in general surgery.

So what, exactly, does he win? Well, there's the engraved stethoscope, the monogrammed lab coat and the plaque featuring a country doctor making his rounds with a horse and buggy. But he's also provided with two weeks off, with a temporary physician to fill in for him. Steve Smith, meet leisure time.

KJCC offers its warmest congratulations, Steve. We're very proud of you. We can only imagine how proud your father would be. ♦



Keys Jewish Community Center

7th Annual Women's Seder

Monday

March 22, 2010

5:30 PM @ KJCC

Homemade Seder Dinner
w/Wine

Limited seating - Contacts:

Beth (305) 393-4013

bethkam@bellsouth.net

Erica (305) 393-1162

hippiejap@hotmail.com

Dinner-Chai Donation \$18

Additional Tzedakah
donations will be welcome.

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



RON AND BETH'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE



Beth made good use of the hammock on their bamboo porch, right. Below, Judy waves from the dinner lodge at Sapibenega.



Whenever she has a significant birthday, Beth Kaminstein's mom Judy likes to celebrate by taking the family on a unique vacation. This year, for her 80th, they all went to the San Blas Islands in the Caribbean off Panama. We thought you'd all like to see the album. Beth agreed.



Beth shopping for a great love--molas--far right. The family piles into a launch for a day's excursion, right. Below, Ron at the restaurant, where fresh veggies and seafood were the fab and fresh fare.



The building below housed the kids, with Brieze and Stellar on the right.



-This Month in Jewish History-

February

682 – King Erwig of Visigothic Spain presses for the "utter extirpation of the pest of the Jews," and makes it illegal to practice any Jewish rites.

1095 – Henry IV of Germany issues a charter to the Jews and a decree against forced baptism. He attempts to protect the Jews even during the Crusades. He also permits forcibly baptized Jews to return to Judaism. The Church criticizes his actions.

1201 – In Worms—an important medieval German city for Jews on the Rhine—the Jews take up arms to fight alongside the city's non-Jewish residents against an attack. At this time, Jews are still permitted to bear arms in various cities in Germany, although this privilege is soon to be abolished.

1258 – Baghdad falls, and under Genghis Khan the Mongol dynasty replaces the Abbasid Moslems in Persia. The Mongols are for the most part tolerant of Judaism. An Arab writer reports 36,000 Jews and 16 synagogues in Baghdad on the eve of the Mongolian invasion. Most of the city is destroyed during the siege. Some 800,000 civilians are slaughtered.

1336 – Alfonso X of Castille is persuaded by the apostate Alfonso of Valladolid to ban the prayer *Alenu*. Alfonso alleges that the prayer is anti-Christian. As a result, many Jewish communities excise a sentence from the prayer, which has only begun to be printed again in recent years.

1349 – In Strasbourg, France, a riot begins after corn prices fall. The Jews are accused, despite protests by the city council, of a conspiracy. The entire Jewish population (2,000) is dragged to the cemetery and burned to death. Only those who accept Christianity are allowed to live. A new council is elected,

which decrees that Jews cannot return for 100 years; their property and possessions are divided among the burghers. Twenty years later, the Jews are readmitted.

1481 – In Seville, Spain, the first *auto da fe* (which translates as "acts of faith," but which were in reality merely bonfires) is staged. Six Marrano men and six women are burned for allegedly practicing Judaism, practices which could include not eating pig, washing hands before prayer, and changing clothes on the Sabbath.

1807 – In Paris, Napoleon convenes the first Grand Sanhedrin since Biblical times, under the leadership of The Assembly of Jewish Notables. The Court is presented by Napoleon with twelve questions on the positions of Jewry regarding polygamy, divorce, usury, other faiths, and, most important, whether they consider France to be their Fatherland.

1860 – Uriah P. Levy is appointed Commodore of the U.S. Eastern Mediterranean fleet. Levy, the first Jewish officer in the U.S. Navy, surmounts many anti-Semitic obstacles in his career, including seven courts-martial. Also responsible for the abolition of flogging in the U.S. Navy, Levy becomes fascinated by the story of Thomas Jefferson, then saves and restores Monticello, which by the 1840s is virtually in ruins.

1886 – Ha-Yom ("Today"), the first daily newspaper published in Hebrew, begins publication in St. Petersburg, Russia.

1928 – Russia attempts to set up a Jewish district in Birobijan in Eastern Siberia and to transfer all its Jews there. Ultimately, for many reasons, the project is a failure, in part because most of Birobijan's 14,200 square miles are uninhabitable due to floods and also not arable. ◇

Home for the Holidays

The Myriad of Riches That Were Available Just by Staying in the Keys.

by Gloria Avner

Over the last few years, I have mostly chosen to “go away” for winter holidays. I traveled for celebration and adventure. Once I went to Orlando to spend time with a teacher/friend visiting from India. More often, I would fly to Mexico to paint and collect indigenous art for my summer gallery in Maine. Three years ago, I traveled to Southeast Asia to bring medical and art supplies to an orphanage in Cambodia and celebrate full moon with a small town in Vietnam. This year was different—and maybe the most meaningful of all.

This year, for the first time in my thirty years as a Keys resident, I was here—home—for the fall holidays, the High Holidays. It was an auspicious beginning. I also stayed home for the winter school holidays and had two deep experiences--adventures in *not* “going away.” I have to thank you for it. If I had not been asked to represent us, the KJCC *mishpocha*, I might not have gone to either event.

Carol Steinbock put out the call for the first one. When I heard that it was taking place on the morning of December 25th, I confess that my mind fleetingly flashed “not our holiday.” But this was not about Christmas.

This was about remembering the unremembered, about honoring the dead. This was *Yizkor* for the truly disenfranchised, the Florida Keys homeless who had left us in 2009.

On this bright and chilly December morning, wind whipping around us so fiercely that the 54 candles representing the departed could not be lit, I stood with Carol and four local ministers on the raised cement platform of the gazebo at Friendship Park, just behind Sunshine Market in Tavernier. Thirteen people stood on the grass facing us, backed by a clear blue sky. After each name of a departed

was read, a short prayer was said by one of the ministers. Carol passed out *Yizkor* books and led us in a beautiful poem. I recited the *Kaddish*, joined by Carol, Nettie, Jules, and my dear friend David Gitin. Other words were spoken, including exhortations to get involved. But everyone present was already involved. It hurt to hear that two

of those who had died were children, one an infant, one a ten-year-old. It is my hope that more people will attend and be supportive next year. Just being there, with good KJCC friends, acquaintances, clergy, and caring

strangers, I felt our community and the perception of us by the larger community expanding. I could see all of us, all of the Keys, its

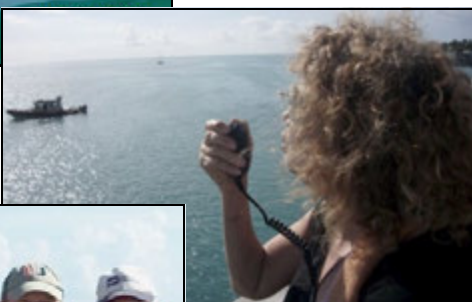


Gloria and David stand on Whale Harbor bridge on a crisp New Year's Day morning.





Steve, Carol and Sarah aboard their new cat. Gloria with the ministers, below.



caregivers and its care-needers, enfolded and sheltered under our big metaphorical KJCC “tallis,” at least for this one day.

Such are the pleasures of being “home,” even when the event is sad.

When the event is joyous, like the annual New Year’s Day “Blessing of the Fleet” in Islamorada, the magnification is almost beyond words. If you were present, bathed in sunlight on the water or standing high above it in the middle of Whale Harbor Bridge, you have the memory. If you were not, enjoy the photos and use your imagination.

See and hear the giant spotted ray showing off beneath the bridge, flinging him (or herself; who among us can tell?) out of the water, catching our attention with thunderous

belly flops. See the myriad boats of all description—from huge commercial fishing and charter vessels to modest pleasure craft to a one-man paddler with its, well, paddler standing balanced on his board—all lining up for the blessing of the fleet.

There were five of us offering the blessings, four ministers and me. George Swartz should have been there. He’s been among

the blessers for years. But George had asked me to join him this year as another representative of the Jewish Community. Though I had intended only to be understudy, George needed unexpected hospital care (he is fine as of this writing, *baruch ha-shem*) and I

was suddenly thrust from the wings onto the stage, weak knees and all.

Everything worked. George was home recovering, the line of boats kept expanding, and the blessings began. It was wonderful to be speaking Hebrew words out loud in the



sunshine (thanks to Jim Boruszak for the reminder to turn up the volume). It turns out that I was the first female blesser in the long history of the event.

Being in Key Largo for the New Year, both religious and secular, I am suddenly present, rediscovering unbounded home, from shul to community and back again. Sometimes gratitude finds us, sometimes we have to find it. ♦

Purim

Purim is generally regarded as the most joyous of Jewish holidays. But the Megillah is far from all there is to the story.

Original art by Gloria Avner

The Holiday of Hidden Miracles

by Joyce Peckman

This Purim we at KJCC will celebrate with a costume party brunch. But why costumes? Didn't we do our costume thing in October? (Meaning Halloween, of course.) Actually, the costumes and motives behind them are very different for these two holidays. Our costumes on Purim are not meant to frighten demons, spirits or the neighbors, or extort candy. The custom is instead based upon the two themes of Purim – hidden miracles, and the joy of celebration.

The Rabbis asked: "Where does the Torah allude to Esther?" They pointed to Dvarim 31 : V'*Anochi haster astir panai...* (And I will surely hide My face). *Haster*—"to hide"—and "Esther" are phonetically alike. From this it is taken that hiding one's face is proper on Purim. Hence masks, and costumes.

Purim is known as the Holiday of the "*nes nistar*," the "hidden miracle." The root of the Hebrew word *ester* is *saiter*, meaning "concealment." Concealed motives and identities run through this story. Esther kept her Jewish identity a secret from the time she entered the palace in Shushan until the moment she confronted Haman. A secret plot to assassinate the king played a key role in the twisted outcome of this story: Because Mordechai waited anonymously beside the palace gates each day, seeking somehow to protect Esther, he was able to overhear the plot and report it, thwarting the murder. Then there is

Haman, who outwardly appeared to the world as a courtly advisor, but was really (according to later rabbis) the evil incarnation of Amalek, representing all of those who talk smoothly, try to disguise themselves in garments which are not theirs and pretend to be pious and just, while inwardly harboring only evil, deception and cunning.

Most importantly, in *Megillat Esther*, G-d is the hidden character. As the events were

played out in real time, few were able to see His hidden presence behind the coincidences that created this dramatic story of despair and ultimate victory. It was rather the way that events were tied together – the fall (literally) of Vashti, the choice of Esther over hundreds of others, overheard conversations, the pride of a tyrant that "went before his fall," the sleeplessness of a King, the wisdom and bravery of the uncle and his beautiful niece.

The small miracles of Persian history are hidden, and G-d's Name doesn't appear here even once. The salvation of the Jewish people seemed to be accomplished simply through the actions of men and women. The theme of Purim is that G-d no longer shows power through large miracles as in the time of Exodus, but rather through the hidden miracles that occur in the lives of men and nations.

So we dress up as Queen Esther, Vashti, King Ahasueros or Haman (or, like my grandchildren - ballerina, Spiderman and ladybug) and have a joyous day, celebrating the often unnoticed miracles of life. ◇



Ani Purim!! Ani Purim!!

by Gloria Avner

Here come the children--crowns, beards, masks, and three-cornered hats slightly askew, princess dresses twirling, makeup and glitter over the top, and sometimes all over. Voices rise, in varied states of fidelity to the actual tune:

*"Ani Purim, Ani Purim, Sameach oo m'vadeyach
Ha lo rok pa-am b'shanah, Avo l'hitareach"*

*"I am Purim! I am Purim! Glad to entertain you.
I visit you but once a year. My story will regale you."*



The *Megillah* reading from the scroll of Esther is about to begin, the children's song a perfect introduction. It hides as much below its simple surface as the masks that cover the children's faces. As with so many Jewish teachings, it is a story beneath the story. What (and who) is Purim anyway (besides the happiest of Jewish holidays)?

On the surface, we see an anti-Semitic plot in ancient Persia go awry. We see masks and disguises, a world where nothing is as it seems, where coincidence and fate and timing rule the day. *Megillat Esther* shows the hand of God in every scene and yet never once mentions God's name. Around this story of a selfish king, a megalomaniacal villain, a wise man, and a brave, righteous woman has arisen a rich tradition of ritual and performance, special foods and special customs that imbue Purim with a raucous, joyous nature unlike any other Jewish holiday.

We laugh at our enemies and we laugh at ourselves. We get drunk as skunks and have trouble telling friend from foe. Most important, we make enough noise to drown out the evil villain's name. From wearing outrageous masks (*tachposot*) and parading in costumes (*adloyada*) to "drinking till we drop," telling

tall tales, singing funny songs, and eating the "ears" (*oznei Haman*) of the anti-Semite, Purim is about making the best of an imperfect world. It is about finding higher meaning and even inspiration in difficult times. Most of all, it celebrates the inevitable downfall of evil to the forces of good, with the help of God.

So be a part of the parade, even if you never have before. Wear a costume, mask, or funny hat. Be other than you are. Consider it a *mitzvah* to join the fun and our children in reading, singing, stomping, groggering, and acting out *Megillat Esther*. Then we can all sit down to a delightful meal, our costume brunch, drink our fill and eat so many Haman's ears (boo! hiss!) that even he will not be able to hear his dreadful name. Then we can each, not just our children, say "Ani Purim!" and

mean it.

(We are celebrating Purim at KJCC, and reading the Megillah, a little differently this year than in years past. Please see the details on page 12 of this issue. – Ed.) ◇

Purim Tidbits

Like all the Bible stories, there's the actual story—the text—and then there's the commentary. Usually the commentary is longer and more complex than the original. (Remember how most discussions go: first there's "on one hand," which is followed up by "and on the other hand..." We should be grateful we weren't created as octopi.) We've compiled a few of the interesting small things that appear in the Book of Esther commentary.

- The book of Esther is unusual in that it is the only book of the Bible that does not contain the name of G-d.

- Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar, which is usually in March. The 13th of

Adar is the day that Haman chose for the extermination of the Jews, and the day that the Jews battled their enemies for their lives. On the day afterwards, the 14th, they celebrated their survival. In cities that were walled in the time of Joshua, Purim is celebrated on the 15th of the month, because the book of Esther says that in Shushan (a walled city), deliverance from the massacre was not complete until the next day. The 15th is referred to as Shushan Purim.

- The word "Purim" means "lots" and refers to the lottery that Haman (Boo! Hiss! Twirl Grogger!) used to choose the date for the planned massacre of the Jews.

- The book of Esther is commonly known as the *Megillah*, which means "scroll." Although there are five books of Jewish scripture that are properly referred to as *megillahs* (Esther, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations), this is the one people usually mean when they speak of *The Megillah*.

- A common treat at this time of year is *hamantaschen* (literally Haman's pockets). These triangular fruit-filled cookies are supposed to represent Haman's three-cornered hat.

- Esther's name probably is derived from Ishtar, a Babylonian goddess, and Mordecai's name from Marduk, a Babylonian god. Equivalent names today might well be Mary and Christopher. (In other words, they weren't Jewish names at the time.) But some rabbis of the Talmud see the name Esther as derived from the Hebrew word Hester, which means hidden. In Persian, Esther means "star."

- Esther's Jewish name is Hadassah, which translated means "myrtle."

- We are told in the following Talmudic passage (from *Megillah* 7A) that Esther needed to lobby the sages in order to have her story included in Jewish memory. Rav Shmuel Bar Yehuda said: Esther sent a mes-

sage to the sages: Place me in Jewish memory for all generations!

Sages: Your story would incite the nations against us.

Esther: [It's too late for that.] My story is already recorded in the chronicles of Medean and Persian kings.

If this is true, why were the sages so unsage-like as to not recognize the full, enduring significance of this event?

- All the letters of the Hebrew alphabet are found in the Book of Esther, chapter 3, verse 13.

***The Talmud
instructs that on
Purim one should
drink until he
knows not the
difference between
"Blessed be
Mordechai" and
"Cursed be
Haman."***

- The Hebrew word *Mishteh*, meaning banquet, occurs 20 times in the Book of Esther (which is equal to the total of ALL the other times it is found in the rest of the Bible).

- The longest verse in the Bible appears in the Book of Esther. It has 43 words in Hebrew (and approximately 90 words in English). It appears in chapter 8, verse 9.

- The Talmud instructs that on Purim one should drink until he knows not the difference between "Blessed be Mordecai" and "Cursed be Haman." Interestingly, the numerical value of the Hebrew letters in each of the phrases amounts to a total

of 502.

- The drinking of wine is significant, because several key events of Purim happened through wine. Ahasuerus got drunk and killed Vashti, paving the way for Esther to be made queen. Esther gave wine to King Ahasuerus and lowered his defenses, which resulted in his killing Haman. Thus the *Megillah* tells us that we should celebrate by "feasting." The Hebrew words for "feasting" mean bread, cooked food, and drinking wine. The Talmud therefore tells us to drink on Purim "more wine than we usually do."

- Esther and Mordechai together were said to have composed the Book of Esther, which therefore becomes the only full Book in *Tanach* (the Jewish Bible) directly composed

by a woman. (Several women are quoted, such as the Prophetess Deborah in Judges, but she did not compose the Book of Judges itself. The song she composed comprises only one chapter in the Book of Judges.)

•Shushan, the city of the Book of Esther, is the Susa of Greek and Roman writers, once the capital of Elam. It lay in the uplands of

Susiana, on the east of the Tigris, very near the modern border of Iraq (ancient Mesopotamia and Babylon), about 150 miles to the north of the head of the Persian Gulf. It is the modern Shush, on the northwest of Shuster.

Once a magnificent city, it is now an immense mass of ruins. Here Daniel saw one of his visions (Dan. 8); and here also Nehemiah (Neh. 1) began his public life. ◇

Purim and Persia: A Brief History

In one of the momentous dates in Jewish history, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered—and proceeded to virtually destroy—the Kingdom of Judea in 586 B.C.E. Many of the elite Jews were deported, or exiled, to Babylon. They went in shackles but very soon thrived in Babylonian life. The poor and unimportant were left behind, what was left of them. This obscure little nation on the periphery of mighty Babylon had not had the grace to succumb quietly; they waged armed resistance three times, once defeating a full Babylonian army and forcing Nebuchadnezzar himself to come to quell the disturbance. Finally, the Temple was looted and destroyed and the entire city of Jerusalem

was reduced to mere rubble.

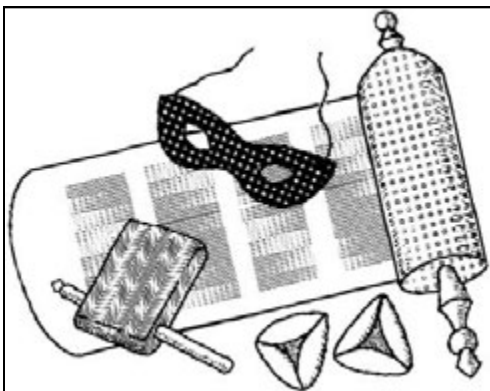
Empires, though, however vast and powerful, never sleep easily. Less than fifty years later, the surprising Persian dominance of the known world began. Cyrus, one of the few historical figures truly worthy of the title “The Great,” had struck out from Media, a small kingdom south of the Caspian Sea (which is actually not a sea at all but the world’s largest lake) and quickly conquered Babylon in 538 B.C.E. Within ten years the world was ruled by Persia.

But Cyrus died in 529. After a brief interregnum, Darius I seized power, and to help legitimize his rule married Atossa, the daughter of Cyrus the Great. Darius was skilled and able, and as with many great empire consolidators built energetically. He had several capital cities, among which was Susa, or Shushan, in western Persia.

Darius’ designated successor was his son by Atossa, Xerxes I (pronounced *Zerk-sees*). Xerxes became king in 486 B.C.E., and ruled for 21 years, until 465, when he was murdered. His father Darius had been defeated by the Greeks at the famed battle of Marathon. After having quelled rebellions in Egypt and Babylon, Xerxes formed a huge army and navy, crossed the Hellespont (today’s Dardanelles) and attacked Greece. He defeated the Spartans at Thermopylae and pillaged Athens, but the Persian navy was clumsy and suffered defeat. His army was then defeated at the battle of Plataea, in 479. After that he withdrew to Persia and a life of the court and harem intrigue.

“Xerxes” is the Greek version of the king’s actual Persian name, which to us would be unpronounceable. The Hebrew version of his name, however, was Ahasueros, or Ahash-verosh. He is the king in the Purim story, the husband of Queen Esther.

Seven years after Xerxes’ murder, in 458 B.C.E., the new king, Artaxerxes I, the son of Xerxes and stepson of Queen Esther, sent Ezra the Scribe back to Jerusalem with full authorization to re-populate the city and rebuild the Temple. ◇



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President's Message Alan Beth



We welcome the new officers and board who were sworn in at our annual KJCC meeting on Valentine's Day. (Also, thank you, I think, for electing me again for a second term as your president.) Those that attended the meeting witnessed KJCC democracy in action, when Elinor Grossman was nominated from the floor. Thanks to Carol Steinbock for helping us with the secret ballot procedure and tabulating the results. Carol also officiated the swearing-in, as she has the last couple of years.

The running of the synagogue depends on all of us to chip in and assist in any way we can: serve on a committee or help Sisterhood, every action counts. As an example, one of our members, Dave Mont, helps every single day by checking the KJCC answering machine for messages. There's Marc Bloom, who is always ready to make coffee for any event at KJCC. (Imagine how meetings would be without Marc's coffee.) Participate as much as you can – every little bit helps and it all adds up.

Last month saw a wonderful membership drive on a Monday night. The Yiddishkeit play—a musical event written, arranged and produced by Erica Garrett—was unforgettable. Last month also saw our first visiting rabbi for 2010. Many of you

had requested this when responding to our survey. Thanks to our Ritual chair, Gloria Avner, who worked with the Rabbi, and thanks also to Stuart and Lauren Sax for introducing Rabbi Young, from Temple Judea in Miami, to our synagogue. We got a lot of positive feedback for his service. I was particularly proud of how welcomed we made him feel. I enjoyed his sermon, about recognizing the miracles of life in little, everyday things.

By now, you should all have received your invitations to the KJCC 30th anniversary celebration. (Thanks, Gene. They are beautiful.) Many of you have noticed that the event is free to members. We wanted to be able to celebrate our anniversary with as many members as possible, not worry who could afford to come or not. The truth is that this event will cost a lot, though far less than it might have due to Gene's negotiating skills. We do not, of course, want the synagogue to lose money. We encourage all to donate as much as you can to help defray our costs.

In closing, I would like to thank the officers and the board for all their efforts. We've had a wonderfully successful year, and I eagerly look forward to another.

-Alan

March 2010

15 Adar - 16 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Fashion Show 11:30 a.m. at Snook's	5 Bernie Ginsberg & Yardena Kamely <i>Carol & Steve Steinbock</i>	6
7 Sisterhood Meeting Theater Outing: "Miss Saigon"	8	9	10	11	12 Jim Boruszak & Gloria Avner <i>Patricia & Henry Isenberg</i>	13
14 KJCC 30th Anniversary Gala Bloodmobile at KJCC	15	16	17	18	19 George Swartz <i>Mah Jonggettes</i>	20 First Day of Spring
21	22 Women's Seder 5:30 p.m. at KJCC	23	24	25	26 Steve Friedman 6:30 Service	27
28	29 Erev Pesach	30 First Day of Passover KJCC 2nd Seder	31 Second Day of Passover	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></div>		

Nosh

A Welcome to our Newest Members

KJCC is very pleased to welcome several new members this month: Ken and Jerri Grossman of Key Largo, Gladly Roberts of Key Largo, and Stephan and Eva Gabor Ban of Marathon. Actually it's a welcome back to Stephan Ban, who was a founding KJCC member and is the father of longtime member Judy Greenman. We look forward to seeing you all and hope you'll become regular fixtures at services and our many events.

Book Club is Underway

Several KJCC women gathered together at Bea Graham's home for an afternoon of book reviews and insightful discussion of recently read books, some new and some not-so-new. It was both interesting and enjoyable. Try these: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer -- Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout -- Out of Egypt by Andre Aciman -- Small Miracles by Halberstam and Leventhal (set of six). Look for the date of our next meeting in Chai-Lights and *join us*.

-Bea

Carpooling to the 30th Gala

Anyone wanting to carpool to the 30th Anniversary Gala on Duck Key Sunday, March 14th should contact Beth Kaminstein, 664-2875 or bethkam@bellsouth.net; Beth will be matching up cars and riders. Gene Silverman has also arranged a special group rate of \$129 per room for anyone wanting to stay over at Hawk's Cay (a lovely resort) on Sunday night after the party. Contact Gene at 664-3316 or gsilverman122@gmail.com.

BOOK PLATE

IN HONOR OF CAROL STEINBOCK

With Many Thanks
By Pauline Roller

BOOK PLATE

TO HONOR DR. STEVE SMITH

Country Doctor of the Year
2009

From Rene and Skip Rose

Oneg Sponsors for March 2010

March 5th—Carol & Steve Steinbock for Steve's birthday.

March 12th—Patricia & Henry Isenberg in honor of their anniversary.

March 19th—Mah Jonggettes

TREE OF LIFE

To honor Dr. Gerri Emkey

By Joel and Linda Pollack
2009

Steve Steinbock

to Honor 70 Years of a Good Life
With Love, Carol

Happy 70th Birthday to Steve Steinbock

2010

From Joel and Linda Pollack

In honor of my Dad, Irving Rosen

by Joan and Harvey Kay

In honor of my Aunt, Herta Schapira

by Joan and Harvey Kay

Congratulations Dr. Steve Smith

2009 Country Doctor of the Year

From Jim and Joan Boruszak

To honor Dr. Steve Smith

For the 2009 Country Doctor of the Year award
From Joel and Linda Pollack

March Birthdays

1st.....	Melvin L. Jacobson
1st.....	Sasha Dutton
2nd.....	Barbara Kantor
3rd.....	Stephanie Gilderman
3rd.....	Stephen Steinbock
4th.....	Benjamin K. Kwalick
6th.....	Bea Graham
6th.....	Bill Gordon
7th.....	Hannah Feig
7th.....	Toby Goldfinger
8th.....	Allen Holbrook
9th.....	Pearl Jacobs
10th.....	Kate Horowitz
10th.....	Laurence Green
11th.....	Alvin J. Gottlieb
11th.....	Bryan Schur
12th.....	Heath Greenbaum
13th.....	Carl Roy
13th.....	Eileen Hermann
14th.....	Jenna Lane
14th.....	Seth Horowitz
15th.....	Allan Boruszak
15th.....	Johanna Willner
16th.....	Steven Nobil
17th.....	Benjamin Schwaid
17th.....	Daniel E. Friedman
18th.....	Eric Grace
19th.....	Michelle Palacino
20th.....	Janet Palacino
20th.....	Susan Sachs
21st.....	Barbara A. Calev
21st.....	Erwin Kantor
21st.....	James Jr. Nobil
21st.....	Joseph Palacino
21st.....	Lois S. Kaufman
24th.....	Doug Graham
24th.....	Gloria Auston
25th.....	Sylvia Berman
27th.....	Michelle E. Denker
28th.....	Roger Vorcheimer
29th.....	Joel Pollack
30th.....	Anthony A. Gutierrez
30th.....	David VanArtsdalen
30th.....	Lee Schur
31st.....	Eva Faust
31st.....	Jane S. Friedman
31st.....	Robert Gintel
31st.....	Sari Eliz. Goldstein

It's Scholarship Application Time

Anyone wanting a KJCC scholarship application, please contact Kurt Kluger at 394-7571 or e-mail kurtkluger@bellsouth.net.

BOOK PLATE

IN HONOR OF STEVE STEINBOCK

Always Helpful
By Pauline Roller

March Anniversaries

		Years
1st	Jerry & Sheila Olsen.....	51
4th	Robert Jay & Gloria Auston.....	28
7th	Joseph & Susan Sachs.....	45
14th	Henry & Patricia Isenberg.....	40
18th	Alvan & Carol Field.....	22
22nd	David & Patti Gross.....	13
24th	Morris & Sherrie Willner.....	41
25th	Joseph & Susan Goldberg.....	17

BOOK PLATE

IN HONOR OF GERRI EMKEY

from Joan and Jim Boruszak

YAHREZEIT PLAQUE

Our Beloved

David M. Cohn

4/6/1933--1/15/2009

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of

STEVEN J. SMITH M.D.

Awarded

Country Doctor of the Year 2009

Congratulations!

From Muriel and George Swartz

KJCC GIFT SHOP

COME TO THE KJCC GIFT SHOP FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS!

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

HOUSE GIFTS

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH GIFTS AND CARDS

WEDDING GIFTS AND CARDS

Yes, we have yahrzeit candles - traditional or electric!

plus JEWELRY, MEZUZAHs, SEDER PLATES, MATZOH SWEEPERS,

CHALLAH PLATES, CHALLAH KNIVES AND MORE

If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.



Ongoing Projects and Programs of KJCC

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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353.

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.

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

Book Plates

Boruszak, Jim and Joan
Roller, Pauline
Roller, Pauline
Rose, Skip and Rene
Swartz, George and Muriel

General Fund

Begam, Delores
Emkey, Gerri
Shiloch, Chanoch and Jan

General Fund

Sax, Stuart and Lauren
Duquesnel, James and Janice

JNF Certificates Sent By

Graham, Bea
Kluger, Kurt and Nancy
Rose, Skip and Rene
Hayden, Beth

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves

Boruszak, Jim and Joan
Kay, Harvey and Joan
Kay, Harvey and Joan
Pollack, Joel and Linda
Pollack, Joel and Linda
Pollack, Joel and Linda
Steinbock, Carol

Oneg Fund Sponsors

Kay, Harvey and Joan

In Honor of

Dr. Gerri Emkey
Carol Steinbock
Steve Steinbock
Dr. Steve Smith
Dr. Steve Smith

In Honor of

Cathy Urbo
Bob Kinney

In Memory of

Laurie Beth
Laurie Beth

In Memory of

Laurie Beth
Laurie Beth
Laurie Beth
Laurie Beth

In Honor of

Dr. Steve Smith
Irving Rosen
Herta Schapira
Dr. Gerri Emkey
Dr. Steve Smith
Steve Steinbock
Steve Steinbock

In Memory of

Cele Rosen

Yartzeit Contributions

Feinberg, Arthur
Friedman, Max and Ingrid Dr. Max and Flora Rosenthal
Graham, Bea
Horn, Ronald and Dorothy
Isenberg, Henry and Patricia
Krissel, Michael
Kwalick, Teresa
Marmar, David and Pameka
Nason, Stanley
Roller, Pauline
Steinberg, Richard and Sheila
Tallent, Ralph and Lillian
Wolfe, Larry and Dorothy
Wolfe, Larry and Dorothy

Yartzeit Memorial Plaques

Cohn, Nancy

30th Anniversary

Conklin, Wes and Rita
Cooper, Alan and Susan
Friedman, Stephan and Jane
Gould, Maryon
Gross, David and Patti
Grossman, Herb and Elinor
Hartz, Steve and Jan
Kluger, Kurt and Nancy
Kwalick, Teresa
Margulies, Stan and Jenny
Pollack, Joel and Linda
Silverman, Morton and Gene
Wasser, Mark and Sofy
Weihl, Alfred and Sue Ann

In Memory of

William Feinberg
Max and Flora Rosenthal
Nicholas Goldenberg
Ida Ratchik
Fannie Phillips
Joseph Krissel
M. Astray-Caneda
Samuel Marmar
Gloria Nason
Al Roller
Sara Cohen
Morris Estrin
Samuel Wolfe
Morris Feinberg

In Memory of

David Cohn

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Customs Of Jewish Communities Around The World

Exploring the history and heritage of the Jewish people, we find that Judaism is deeply connected to the Middle East and North Africa: Sarah and Abraham came from Mesopotamia, (today's Iraq), the same land where the first yeshivas and the Babylonian Talmud were developed. Purim celebrates the liberation of ancient Persian Jews, and Passover tells the story of ancient Egyptian Jews. Regardless of where Jews lived most recently, all Jews have roots in the Middle East and North Africa. Some communities have more recent ties to this region. *Mizrachim* and *Sephardim* are two distinct communities that are often confused with one another.

Asiatic (or Oriental Jews)—from Central, South and Eastern Asia, and the Middle East, and who have created and preserved their own cultural and religious customs and traditions in Judaism from as far back as Biblical times—are known as *Mizrahi* Jews (plural form: *Mizrachim* in Hebrew). *Mizrahi* means "eastern" in Hebrew.

Sephardim are among the descendants of the line of Jews who chose to return from the First Exile and rebuild Israel after the Persian Empire conquered Babylon. About half a millennium later, under the Roman Empire, the Jews in ancient Israel were exiled for the second time, many eventually becoming settled in Spain (*Sepharad* in Hebrew) and Portugal.

Today Mizrahi Jews, also referred to as *Edot HaMizrach* (Communities of the East), are Jews descended from the historic Jewish communities of the Middle East, Central Asia and the Caucasus. The term *Mizrahi* is used in Israel for Jews from the Arab world and adjacent, primarily Muslim-majority, coun-

tries. This includes Iraqi Jews, Syrian Jews, Lebanese Jews, Yemenite Jews, Persian Jews, Afghan Jews, Bukharian Jews, Maghrebi Jews, Berber Jews, Kurdish Jews, Mountain Jews, Georgian Jews and Ethiopian Jews. It would also include the Jews of India and Pakistan.

Despite their heterogeneous origins, Mizrahi Jews generally practice rites identical or similar to traditional Sephardic Judaism, although with some differences among the customs, *minhagim*, of the particular communities. In certain areas, where the Sephardic immigration was weak, Sephardim assimilated into the predominantly Mizrahi communities, taking on all-Mizrahi traditions and retaining just a hint of Sephardic heritage, such as Spanish-sounding names.

Different traditions show up very clearly on major holidays. Some examples:

Sephardic Tradition: Most Sephardic Jews permit eating *kitniyot*, (approximately translated as "bits" in Hebrew), like corn, rice, and beans on *Pesach*. The Sephardic prayer book is a bit different, as are the melodies used. Ladino is a language used by Sephardic Jews based on Spanish and Hebrew. Sephardic Jews follow a specific way to put on tefillin and say blessings for it. The Mizrahi tradition is to keep the Torah scroll in a hard case, not a fabric cover.

Hungarian-Jewish Tradition: To commemorate the gold and silver that the Egyptians showered on the Israelites as they fled (*Shemot* 12:35), Jews in Hungary decorated their Seder tables with all of their valuable jewels. If you don't mind rinsing off grape juice spills, this ritual will make your Seder shine.

Persian-Jewish Tradition: At the Pesach Seder during the song "*Dayenu*," green onions are distributed and people hit each other with the stalks when the ninth stanza begins. Besides being hilarious to watch, some have speculated that the ritual refers to when the Israelites yearned for Egyptian onions, instead of manna, while in the desert (*Bemidbar* 11:5-6).

Bukharan Jews: On Hanukkah, Jews in Bukhara (southern Russia) baked cakes with coins, called Hanukkah *gelt*, in the dough. Brides wear long, embroidered caftans and hats with fur-lining. Bukharan Jews play a style of music called shashmakam, which mixes klezmer, Muslic, and Central Asian sounds.

Jews of India: After services on Shabbat, the communities gather for *Kiddush* and *hamotzi*, but instead of challah, they eat *chapatti*, an Indian flatbread.

Jews of North Africa: Mimouna is a holiday celebrated the day after Pesach and in Israel people have picnics and BBQs.

Syrian Jewish Tradition: In Syria on Hanukkah, the synagogue caretaker would send a beautiful candle to each family in the congregation as a gift to use as their *Shamash*. During the week of Hanukkah, children in Damascus would collect food and money. Then, on the last day of the holiday, they would prepare a meal for their teachers, a meal for the poor, and a meal for themselves.

Passover customs in different Jewish communities were and are primarily reflected in the foods served at the Seder meal, where ingredients particular to the region have been either added to traditional Passover foods, or foods consisting mostly or solely of ingredients found in the region themselves became a tradition. There are also differences in the ways the Exodus story is told: with Ashkenazi Jews, the story will simply be told, while within both Sephardi and Mizrahi communities, the story will be both told and acted

out, but this custom will vary from place to place. Still, the fundamental structure of the Seder meal, outlined in the *Haggadah*, remains the same for Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Mizrahi cultures.

Mizrahi Jews are now half of the Jewish population in Israel. Throughout the rest of the world, Mizrahi Jews have a strong presence in metropolitan areas--Paris, London, Montreal, Los Angeles, Brooklyn, and Mexico City. As Mizrahi and Sephardi Jews are a minority of Jews in North America, their heritage remains foreign to many Ashkenazi Jews. But just as the world has begun to embrace multi-culturalism, so too has the Jewish community begun to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity that exists among its own people. ◇

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

THE PRODUCERS

Sunday, April 25, 2010
2:00 pm
Murray E Nelson Cultural Center
Key Largo
MM 102 Bayside

A shady Broadway producer and his nerdy accountant concoct a scheme to overfinance a huge flop and pocket the excess budget, but the show unexpectedly becomes a smash.

This show has taken its place as one of the all-time great comedies.

Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan
Music by Mel Brooks
Lyrics by Mel Brooks
Directed by Debra Ginsberg
Original Choreography Recreated by
Gerri Caruncho & Serena Salva
Musical Director: Randy Lichtman
Produced by the Miami Acting Company

Contact: Linda Pollack to reserve your ticket
lindap4000@earthlink.net Donation: \$25

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



Before I write about our busy March schedule, I have to mention a few highlights from the recent past. Yiddishkeit night was an amazing success, and thanks must go to the organizer, Dr. Erica Garrett, whose dedication, energy and creativity are beyond description. Thanks also to David & Patti Gross, who won the 50/50 and donated the proceeds back to Sisterhood. Then yesterday, at the KJCC general meeting and installation, I was inspired by Alan's "State of the Union" address. We really are a union of diverse interests and talents that come together, each group complementing and enriching the other. Although Sisterhood produces many events (details to follow), our potluck meals seem like the glue that cements the community. So, my personal "thank you" goes to everyone who worked to provide us with a delicious lunch immediately after our KJCC Annual Membership Meeting. Thank you also to Michael and Suzanne Gilson for their sponsorship of this event.

February 28 was (or will be, depending on when Chai-Lights is received) our Purim celebration and lunch. A joyous *seudah* (feast) is obligatory on Purim. We can always count on our members to perform this obligation very well! Thanks again to Erica Garrett for coordinating.

You will need your date book, beauty rest and a healthy dose of vitamins to keep up with the schedule for March. We start off with a day of fun fashion. On Thursday, March 4 at Snooks Restaurant (MM 99.5 bayside), we'll meet at 11:30 for lunch and Angelika's latest spring wear. Menu choices are: hazelnut chicken, mahi mahi française or pasta with vegetables. Tickets are \$25. If you haven't obtained yours yet, contact Joan Stark or me

with your menu choice.

Just a few days after that, we have our next Sisterhood meeting, on Sunday, March 7th at 9:30 a.m., and then we're off to Miami to "Miss Saigon" that afternoon. I've been told to bring a hankie. If this year is anything like past years, folks will be car-pooling and/or getting together for lunch or dinner. Let me know if you want to give or get a ride. We can figure out the meals at the morning meeting. Let me know if you have any favorite locations. (Chinese, anyone?)

There's one short week to catch our breath, and then the event we've been waiting 30 years to attend – the gala 30th anniversary celebration at Hawk's Cay Resort on Sunday, March 14th. If you are a KJCC member in good standing and haven't gotten an invitation, contact me or Gene Silverman (gsilverman122@gmail.com). If you have received the invitation, please respond; you're right on deadline. Gene and Sofy have been working hard to make this a memorable evening. Don't miss it!

Passover comes very early this year. On Monday, March 22, the Women's Seder will honor Linda Pollack. It is always a wonderful event, and this year we should have a packed house. We will also be creating a commemorative tablecloth. To reserve your place at the Women's Seder, and let us know what you are bringing (meat or pareve - no dairy) please contact Beth Kaminstein (664-2875) or Erica Garrett (393-1162). Donation is \$18 (chai).

This extremely full month ends with Passover's Second Seder on Tuesday, March 30th. Make your reservation with Leslie Dillon (853-2693) or Joan Boruszak (852-0833) as soon as possible.

Hoping to see you soon and often! ♦

KJCC Annual Second Passover Seder



Tuesday, March 30, 2010

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

Your check is your reservation. Checks must be received no later than March 20, 2010.

Make checks payable to KJCC Sisterhood, c/o Leslie Dillon, PO Box 370736, Key Largo, FL 33037. Call Joan Boruszak at 852-0833 for information.

PASSOVER

Adults \$45

Children 12 and under are our guests.

Keys Jewish Community Center

7th Annual Women's Seder

Monday

March 22, 2010

5:30 PM @ KJCC

**Homemade Seder Dinner
w/Wine**

Limited seating - Contacts:

Beth (305) 393-4013

bethkam@bellsouth.net

Erica (305) 393-1162

hippiejap@hotmail.com

Dinner-Chai Donation \$18

**Additional Tzedakah
donations will be welcome.**

**Join us in celebration as we
continue our efforts of
Tikkun Olam - repair the
world.**



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



IDF in Haiti

IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) medics in Haiti treated 960 people, performed 294 life-saving operations, and delivered 16 babies, all in less than two weeks beginning January 12th, when the devastating earthquake struck the Caribbean nation. The medical and rescue teams have returned home to Israel but they left behind medical supplies, light equipment and tents for other medical personnel to use. Israel's assistance was highlighted on more than a dozen major networks. Former President Bill Clinton, who is the U.N. Secretary General's Special Emissary to Haiti, paid homage to the team and told Israeli President Shimon Peres, "I don't know what we would have done without the Israeli hospital in Haiti. [It] was the only operational facility which was able to perform surgery and advanced tests." And now, IsraAID, the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid, is partnering with actor Sean Penn and Israeli-born actress Moran Atias in its earthquake relief efforts by providing medical care and post-trauma support to refugees in makeshift camps that are now home to more than 50,000 people. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 1-26-10 and www.jta.org, 2-1-10)

2010 Sydney Taylor Book Awards

Winners of the 2010 Sydney Taylor Book Awards for Jewish Children's Literature were recently announced by the Association of Jewish Libraries. The winners are:

- Older readers' category: "The Importance of Wings," by Robin Friedman
- Young readers: "New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story," by April Halprin Wayland.
- Teen category: "Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba," by Margarita Engle.

The Sydney Taylor Book Awards are

named for the author of the popular children's series "All-of-a-Kind Family." (*American Libraries*, February 2010)

The Centenarian Knish

There are no longer very many knisherries around, but the Yonah Schimmel Knish Bakery on Manhattan's Lower East Side is celebrating 100 years of the softball-sized potato delicacy. After immigrating to New York City from Romania, Yonah Schimmel, a trained Torah scribe, wanted to be a teacher. But, to make ends meet, he started selling his wife's knishes on Coney Island in the 1880s. He opened his legendary store on East Houston Street in 1910; during its century-long existence, the store has been passed down through family members. Ellen Anistratov is the current owner along with her father, a distant relative of Yonah Schimmel. (*The Forward*, 1-20-10)

More Problems for Holocaust Survivors

Half of the estimated 517,000 remaining Holocaust survivors are living in poverty. This according to the Jewish Claims Conference, the organization set up in the 1950s to negotiate with the German and other governments on behalf of Holocaust victims. Most of the 260,000 survivors that live below the poverty line are in countries of the former Soviet Union and Israel and a fifth of all survivors, most of whom are over 80 years old, are in need of care. "We have an obligation to ensure that old-age Holocaust survivors can spend their remaining years in dignity," Georg Heuberger, representative of the Claims Conference in Germany said. (*World Jewish Congress*, 1-27-10)

Mengele's Diary

The diary of Josef Mengele, the Nazi doctor who conducted cruel experiments on Auschwitz inmates and sent hundreds of thousands to die, was bought by the grandson of a Holocaust survivor, an "east coast Jewish philanthropist" who wishes to remain anonymous. The diary was up for auction by Alexander Autographs, the historical artifacts house in Connecticut. At the end of World War II, Mengele fled to Brazil, where he died in 1979. He began his diary in 1960 when he was 49. The 180-page journal was sold for an undisclosed amount, but it was expected to bring in more than \$64,000. Initially, news of the auction prompted anger and revulsion among Holocaust survivors and their families, but apparently the manuscript will be donated to a museum devoted to the Holocaust. The diary includes a description of "lesser races" as "inferior morons." (*World Jewish Congress*, 2-2-10 and www.jta.org, 2-3-10)

And The Oscar Goes to...

Three films with Jewish themes and one Israeli film are in the running for this year's Academy Awards. "*Inglorious Basterds*," a "Jewish revenge fantasy in which a squad of Jewish GIs wipes out the Nazi leadership," won nominations in four categories, including Best Picture. The two other Jewish-themed pictures that received nominations for Best Picture are "*An Education*," a film from Britain, and "*A Serious Man*." For the third consecutive year, Israel has an entry in the foreign-language film category. The film is "Ajami." The Oscars will be announced on March 7th. (www.jta.org, 2-2-10)

An Extraordinary Act of Kindness

At the end of January, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown met with Denis Avey, 91, a former British Prisoner of War who helped a Jewish inmate survive Auschwitz. Avey hatched a plan to trade places with a Jewish prisoner by swapping clothing on two separate occasions to smuggle himself into the camp. His heroic actions provided the Jewish prisoner with the opportunity to receive vital food and rest in the British camp, and for

Avey, it was a chance to gather facts from within the death camp. Avey was held in Monowitz, a smaller camp near Auschwitz, and he heard rumors about the conditions at the neighboring camp. He convinced the unknown prisoner to swap uniforms two nights so he could witness the atrocities himself. In that short period of time, Avey befriended the prisoner, Ernst Lobethall, helping him to survive by smuggling cigarettes – as valuable as gold in the camps – to him to use to bribe the camp guards. Before his death in 2002, Lobethall recorded his story for Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation. Lobethall knew his savior only as "Ginger," never learning the name of the British soldier who saved his life. Avey is being considered for the title "Righteous Among the Nations" by the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem. (*Jerusalem Post*, 1-24-10)

An Israeli "American Idol?"

Vered Benami, a 22-year-old "sort-of Israeli," made it through the first round of auditions on the popular TV show "*American Idol*." Now a waitress and living in Los Angeles, Benami is competing for a spot among the show's final 24. "*Entertainment Weekly*" ranked Benami third among all those who performed in the series' initial round of auditions. She even earned praise from Simon Cowell, the show's often merciless critic. Ynet, the Israeli news web site, is reporting that Vered (the Hebrew word for "rose") was born in New York to a "family of Israelis" and raised in Tennessee. She's not the first "Idol" contestant with Israeli roots. Elliott Yamin, who placed third on the show's fifth season, has an American Jewish mother and a father who immigrated to the United States from Israel. (*The Forward*, 2-10-10)

In Memoriam

Avrom Sutzkever, the great Yiddish poet who is also considered to be one of the great poets of the 20th century, died in Tel Aviv at the end of January. He was 96. He was the founder and editor of the leading Yiddish literary journal *Di Goldene Keyt* (The Golden Chain), which is no longer in publication. He

received the Israel Prize in 1985 and remains the only Yiddish poet to win that prestigious award. Sutzkever was born in 1913 to a family of rabbis and Torah scholars in Smorgon, southwest of Vilna. His family escaped to Siberia during the First World War but he returned to Vilna in 1921. In 1933 he became active in the Yiddish literary group *Yung-Vilne* (Young Vilna) together with Chaim Grade, Shmerke Kaczerginski and Leyzer Volf. During World War II he smuggled arms into the Vilna ghetto. He was able to hide treasured manuscripts and documents of the YIVO Institute along with his own writings. In 1947, Sutzkever arrived in Palestine. He had a profound cultural impact on the city of Tel Aviv and became the *de facto* national Yiddish poet. (*The Forward*, 1-20-10)

Mount of Olives Finds a New Home

The Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, the oldest and most important Jewish cemetery in the world, just went online. A new project undertaken by the City of David Archeological Park has begun the process of identifying and documenting tombstones throughout the entire area and uploading the data to the web. Thousands of graves have already been mapped and incorporated into a database in the first-ever attempt to restore the graves and record the history of those who were buried there. While more than 20,000 gravestones have already been documented, organizers estimate that there are between 200,000 and 300,000 in the cemetery. Among the graves already documented are those of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the reviver of the Hebrew language; Shai Agnon, Nobel Prize for Literature laureate; former Prime Minister Menachem Begin; Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah Women's Organization; and Rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Kook, the first Ashkenazi chief rabbi of the British Mandate. Burial on Mount of Olives dates back around 3,000 years to the First and Second temple periods and continues to this day. While under Jordanian rule, from 1948 to 1967, the cemetery was badly vandalized. Tombstones were destroyed, broken and uprooted. After the Six-Day War, the cemetery was slowly re-

stored. The project includes the creation of a website, (www.mountofolives.co.il) that "aims to raise awareness of the City of David and to honor the memory of those buried in the cemetery." (*Jerusalem Post*, 1-23-10)

Did You Know...

-The Jewish National Fund (JNF) has planted 240 million trees in Israel since the founding of the organization in 1901. This makes Israel the only country in the world which has more trees now than it did 100 years ago. JNF aims to plant seven million trees in the next ten years for the purpose of absorbing carbon dioxide and to help fight against global warming. (www.ynetnews.com, 1-26-10)

- The original blueprints for the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp went on public display at Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. The collection of 29 plans (four of which are now on display) was given to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a visit to Germany this past August. An estimated 1.1 million Jews were murdered at Auschwitz. (*World Jewish Congress*, 1-26-10)

-J.D. Salinger, reclusive author of "The Catcher in the Rye" (still required reading at many high schools across the country, including incoming 9th grade English Honors students at Coral Shores High School), recently died at the age of 91. The grandson of a rabbi, Salinger was a product of a mixed marriage, with his mother, Marie Jillsch, of Irish descent. To appease her in-laws, she changed her name to Miriam. (*The New York Times*, 1-29-10)

- After a group of Jewish leaders protested at a Target store in New York, the retail giant removed a mini-globe from their shelves that "wiped Israel off the map" and instead labeled all the land as "Palestine." "We are no longer selling the product in our stores and we are sorry for offending our guests," a Target spokeswoman said. (www.nbcnewyork.com, 1-31-10)

- January 27 marked the 65th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation. Benjamin Netanyahu, Soviet veterans, and 100 survivors attended a ceremony at the former camp. ♦

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Sunday, March 7, 2010

2:00 PM

Actors Playhouse, Coral Gables

A classic love story is brought up-to-date in one of the most stunning theatrical spectacles of all time. In *Miss Saigon*, Alain Boublil and Claude-Michael Schönberg, creators of last season's acclaimed hit, *Les Misérables*, along with Richard Maltby, Jr., bring Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* to the modern world in a moving testament to the human spirit and a scathing indictment of the tragedies of war. An international sensation, *Miss Saigon* is an epic, daring pop opera that is universal in its emotional power even as it deals with controversial, contemporary issues. In the turmoil of the Vietnam War, an American soldier and a Vietnamese girl fall in love, only to be separated during the fall of Saigon. Their struggle to find each other over the ensuing years creates an unparalleled drama and a must see musical theatrical experience.

Donation \$40
Contact Nancy Kluger
klugerkeys@bellsouth.net
305-393-2129



Photo Gallery



Top left, Gloria with student Medina at Gloria's Jan. 19th class at The Rain Barrel. Middle right, Gloria and David at Keys Conch Café in Key Largo. (Great prop, great photo, Easy Rider days long past.) Above right, photos taken at Roberta McNew's house in Key Largo as Zoe formally installed mezuzot on both the downstairs apartment and the house's main door. Below and below right, some shots from the ceremony at Fishermen's Hospital in Marathon on January 22nd when Steve Smith was officially proclaimed Country Doctor of the Year for 2009. Many KJCC members were on hand, notably our matriarch, Pauline Roller. As you see, Steve wore his best Keys fishing shirt for the occasion.



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Luncheon and Fashion Show



Styles by

Angelika



Date: Thursday, March 4, 2010

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Snooks - MM 97.5 Bayside

Contact: Joyce Peckman 305-240-1000

Donation: \$25

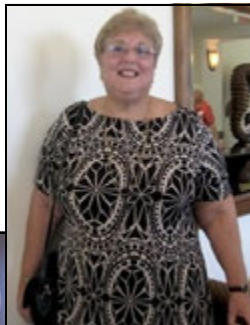
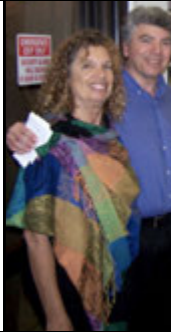


The top four photos are from the January 29th service at KJCC led by Rabbi

Danny Young. Top left are Stuart and Lauren Sax, who brought Rabbi Young to us, along with our Ritual Chair, head of Sister hood, and of course our prez.



The center photo is at the formal dedication of the painting now hanging at the entrance to the KJCC sanctuary and its blessing by Rabbi Young. The painting was donated to KJCC by the artist, Rosie Biskar, in memory of her daughter Dale.



The five photos lower left are from the February 6th annual luncheon organized by Gene Silverman for Voices for Florida Keys Children, Inc. Many members of KJCC are active in Voices, the premier Guardian Ad Litem organization for Keys children. The center photo is of David Perry, this year's main speaker and a resounding Voices

success story. He had been an abused and neglected child of druggies, and thanks in part to Voices he's now healthy and moving on with his life.





The photo top left is of the Jan. 31st Tu B'Shevat planting of a fig tree by the KJCC Sunday School class. Top right are Yarden's

son Andy Loi with his wife Sharon, right, and his cousin Andrea Loi, in a photo taken in January in Miami. An attorney and U.N. worker in Haiti, Andrea was

killed in the earthquake that leveled Port-au-Prince. All the other photos are from Sunday, February 14th at the KJCC Annual Meeting. Joyce is shown with her daughter-in-law Rebecca and granddaughter Libby; Yarden is shown with her granddaughter Naomi. Carol led The swearing-in. Not pictured with the new officers and board are new Vice President Gloria Avner, Steve Smith, Bernie Ginsberg, and David Goldfinger.



World War II Letters Home

One of the things we Jews do best is remember (in Hebrew l'izkor). We are specifically commanded to remember our history, our heritage, our laws. Pesach, which comes at the end of March, is all about remembering how we were once slaves in Egypt and how that has fundamentally formed us as a people.

Linda Rutkin has offered us access to the letters her father wrote home to her mother during World War II, at first from military bases in the States and then from the front in Europe. Many KJCC members still remember that time. It is particularly appropriate that we remember Frank Idestone, Linda's father, this month because as you'll see from our In Memoriam listings, this month is also his Yahrzeit.

The letters begin with an August 8th, 1943 note from Private Frank Idestone in Camp Lee, near Richmond, Virginia, to his wife Susie at their home in Baltimore. The original letters were much longer, of course; our portions here are all excerpts.

My sweetest,

I just came from the station, where I saw you off and I am now waiting for George to come out of the movie. So I thought I'd utilize the time, and now that our too very short meeting is over, let you know just how I feel. I feel lousy, as a matter of fact, very lousy. As much as I want you to come and see me, as much it hurts me when after a very few hours we have to say good-bye again. However, I suppose, that such is life and you can't do very much about it. As a matter of fact, you can't do anything about it.

I love you deeply.

Yours,
Frank

August 9, 1943

My darling,

This will be my last letter from Camp Lee. I am leaving here shortly. Please do not be disappointed if you will not hear from me for quite some time. Wherever I am going, my dearest, I love you deeply and hope you will follow me there as soon as possible. I shall try to send you some cards while on the way.

Your everloving husband,
Frank



Cpl. Idestone in Germany just before the war ended.

August 22, 1943
Fort Custer

My dearest,

Last night we arrived here, and I called you right afterwards. I am really awfully sorry that I hollered at you on the phone. But you acted so foolish about my being so far away, as though it was my fault.

Fort Custer is located right between Battle Creek, Michigan and Kalamazoo...We have not had any hot water here yet, nor do I have a pillow or bed sheets. That is very inconvenient and I hope the situation will be helped soon.

This morning we were interviewed and I insisted that I be transferred to Finance. I do not know how I ever got in the Military Police.

I do not think it is possible nor necessary to come here for the next few weeks. Basic training starts tomorrow and we are (in) for 13 weeks of the toughest training the Army has to offer. I understand it is even worse than the infantry...please do not be alarmed if you will not hear from me for a few days or even for a week, because I understand that

when the fellows come back from the drill field they just fall on their bunks and are asleep...If I can transfer to another branch of service I shall; otherwise I shall be as good an M.P. as I can be.

I love you,
Frank

August 27, 1943
Fort Custer

My sweetest,

I am sitting in the latrine, but I have to go upstairs soon because shortly we are going to have bed check...Today we had the worst day since I am in the Army...this morning we went through the obstacle course, which is supposed to be one of the toughest in the Army. And I do mean tough...We had to put on full field packs (50 lbs.) plus the rifle and went on a four-mile hike marching in step. That was the longest four miles I ever marched.

Well, I am dead tired now and I am going to sleep. We have to get up at five in the morning.

Your loving husband,
Frank

August 29, 1943
Fort Custer

My sweetest,

Did you get your allotment yet? We will not get paid for another month or so, because we have to sign the payroll first..

I forgot to tell you in my previous letter to send me a few pairs of white woolen socks. When you buy them please specify that you want Army socks. I would save you all this trouble but we cannot get them on the post.

...Every night when I go to sleep I say *Hamalach Hagoel* (I hope I got it right), and I include a special prayer for you, my sweetest...

I love you, my darling, very deeply, and I am praying and fighting for the day when our love can materialize again, when the world will not stand for war and slaughter but only for the family...and for the pursuit of well-being of mankind.

Yours forever and ever,
Frank

September 20, 1943
Fort Custer

...Three of us Jewish boys spoke to the chaplain again this morning about passes for the holidays and we will still have to see the commanding officer about them. We should not have any trouble getting them, but you can never tell in the Army...

...I was told I was too valuable a man to go to clerical school, on account of my knowledge in languages, and that I would be sent to military government school (right here in Fort Custer) right after my basic training is completed.

When you go out in Battle Creek at night by yourself be careful. The soldiers there, I have noticed, are pretty fresh and try to pick up or talk to any girl they see on the street. (Especially when they are as good looking as you are.)

Your loving husband,
Frank



Once their armor was readily available, the Americans moved rapidly across France in the fall of 1944. Modern tanks would dwarf this one.

October 21, 1944
France

My dearest darling,

Well, we are working and trying to make this place a little more livable. We have two stoves now; but of course they do not throw too much heat in such a long shed. I constructed what may be referred to as a bed. I have some boards and on top of that a bag filled with hay. I tuck my blankets underneath that and there is my sleeping bag...I understand it is possible now to send mail to French civilians and I am going to try again to get in touch with my parents...

Forever your loving husband,
Frank

February 5, 1945
Staff Section HQ 78th Inf. Div.
Ruhr Valley

My dearest one,

...We took a little trip today to "no man's land" and brought back some cows and horses. We also got seven chickens and one rooster, which remain in our personal care. It was raining and muddy and we got pretty wet and dirty.

The Ruhr Valley certainly looks beautiful, but of course we do not have too much time to take in the sights. What we all want most is to get this war over with and then we can go sight-seeing at home.

Forever your loving husband,
Frank

May 12, 1945
Somewhere in Germany

My dearest sweetheart,

It really seems that my little wife thinks I won this war here all by myself. Of course that is not quite true. There were lots of boys who did a lot more than I did.

...According to the point system at present you have to have 85 points to be discharged. I have been figuring and figuring and all I seem to be able to figure out for myself is between 40 and 45. Of course that will

change as the war against Japan continues...

May 18, 1945
Kassel, Germany

My dearest sweetheart,

...Your hubby is now sleeping in a bed formerly occupied by the local ortsgruppenleiter. I am quite a guy getting around with beds. In Koenigswinter on the Rhine I slept in one which was used by Napoleon. But I did not feel any different the next morning.

May 21, 1945
Kassel, Germany

My dearest sweetheart,

...Yesterday, I forgot to tell you I arrested a Russian who with two buddies of his staged a little holdup on the highway. He is now well taken care of behind the bars of the Kassel city jail.

...The radio announces that Marshal Tito is kind of stubborn, so maybe the European war is not over after all. Time will tell.

...Remember, when I come home I do not want to find a skeleton of skin and bones. You should weigh at least 175 lbs., well, 115 to 120 anyway.

Forever loving you,
Your hubby, Frank ♦



Frank took this photo in St. Lo, in France, shortly after D-Day. It's a stark example of the scale of the fighting.

A Month at Sea With Mort, Mah Jongg and Much More

by Gene Silverman

Only after we boarded the 747 and headed to our sleeper seats and got ourselves all comfy and cozy did I let myself get excited about the journey we were about to begin. We were picking up the Regent Seven Seas Voyager in Cape Town, South Africa and heading for some parts of the world we had never visited.

Day 1 - Landing in Cape Town, we were met by Regent personnel and taken to the ship that was to be our home for the next (almost) month. After inspecting our beautiful suite we left the Voyager and hired our own guide to take us to Table Top Mountain and the Mt. Nelson Hotel for High Tea. Table Top is thought to be at least six times older than the Himalayas and five times older than the Rockies, which might make it the world's oldest mountain.



While sailing north from Cape Town up the South African coast, Gene spotted this penguin colony.

Day 2 - From Camps Bay you can see the peaks of the Twelve Apostles. Then onward to Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. Then off to see the African penguin colony and False Bay for the magnificent Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. It's beautiful, well manicured and spotlessly clean. Everything in the world is in that garden because the temperate climate is perfect.

Day 3 - Off to examine the gym and hopefully work out. Then we're going to explore the Voyager and post a note for a mah-jongg game. Tonight is our first formal night, which we're having with a wonderful couple we met from Palos Verdes, California. The ship has great sugar-free desserts, which I think go perfectly with the glasses of Pinot Noir I have been imbibing.

Day 4 - Swakopmund, Namibia. Wow! It has a distinctly European feel to it, with German colonial buildings, seaside promenades and pavement cafes. And it's very clean. Then back to the ship to change into the proper clothing for our "dinner under the stars." Over 400 people are being taken into the Namib Desert tonight for music, drinks



At the gala desert feast.

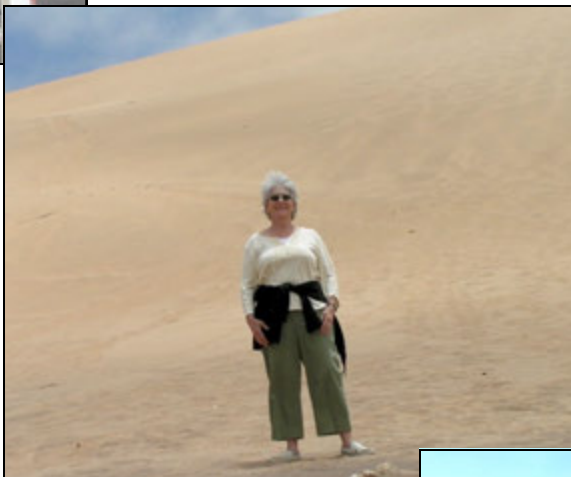


and dinner. Unbelievable... fantastic...out of sight...I am at a loss to describe this. There were three huge—and I mean huge—tents set up with carving stations for appetizers, butlers serving champagne,

It was Thanksgiving. We'd never spent that day aboard a ship. First, at noon there was a parade—complete with costumes, music and Santa with elves and, of course, music—that started on Deck 4 and wound its way up the central staircase to Deck 11. A buffet was set up in the center hall and wended its way all the way around the lobby and into the main dining room. We had never seen so much unbelievably displayed food - all of it gourmet and all of it displayed like a painting! Blinis, caviar, fish, veggies, meats, chicken, cold cuts, hot cuts, starches and on and on and on! I almost forgot - desserts - desserts - desserts!

Day 6 and Day 7 - Cruising the South Atlantic Ocean, heading for St. Helena, Jamestown. We went to listen to "Rap with the Rabbi," with Rabbi Joe Ehrenkranz. It is Friday night, so off to services. Were very surprised that more than 38 people were there. The Rabbi is Orthodox but the Siddurs that Regent supplied were Re-

wine and drinks, and servers to take care of you while dining at your table. There were chicken, fish, shrimp and game meats to choose for your entrees with every kind of salad, vegetable, potato, rice and dessert. Then there was music - at least 24 people in the orchestra, an entire dance ensemble and, to top it off - fire throwers!



Gene before a dune in the Namib desert. Vast and desolate, indeed.

Day 5 - The Namib Desert is said to be the world's oldest living desert. It certainly is vast, desolate and spectacular, with dunes that rise to over 1,000 feet. It is known as "The land God Made in Anger." Our guide showed us which cacti plant are able to give more than one glass of water per leaf and can keep you alive if lost in the desert. Out of the four-wheeler it felt, if you can imagine, like being on the Moon. There were huge craters, gigantic dunes and NOTHING else. Namibia is also known as a bountiful gem-bearing country, with many gem crystals like tourmaline, aquamarine, citrine and diamonds.



Mort at Cape Point, near Cape Town, at the bottom of the African continent.



On one of the winding, craggy hills of Jamestown, St. Helena in the Atlantic.

form. After we all looked at them, Rabbi Joe said, "okay, that's enough of that - let's just talk." Regent supplied the yarmulkes, head coverings, challah and wine, so the Kiddush was very nice.

Day 8 - Jamestown, St. Helena was first visited by the Portuguese in 1502. About 2,735 km from Cape Town, in the open Atlantic, this is where Napoleon was exiled for good in 1815 after Waterloo.

Day 8 - We're cruising the International Waters of the South Atlantic on our way to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and will be at sea for the next 4 1/2 days. We're trying to get ourselves on a schedule -- workout, breakfast, pick up the daily crossword and sudoku puzzles, lectures, lunch, lecture, mah-jongg, tea, Trivial Pursuit, dinner, comedy club, Liars Club, drinks, casino.

Met a very funny comedian last night, Sarge. He's a mixture of white, black and most of all Jewish. Tonight we saw him on stage in the Theater and then to the Liars Club. We've never laughed so hard.

Day 10 - Gym, breakfast, wash clothes in laundromat, and then Rap with the Rabbi - all before 10 a.m. Today there's a Country Fair at the pool. In the Middle Ages, particularly during the 13th and 14th centuries, many fairs were held throughout Europe, so today our ship has also included this tradition in its schedule. OMG- what fun and what a produc-

tion.

Day 12 - Up before dawn to see our arrival in Rio. From a distance it looks just like we had imagined. The skies are crystal clear and the temperature seems perfect. We can see, through our binoculars, Christ The Redeemer on top of the mountain. It's a 120-foot-high statue, completed in 1931, which stands with its arms outstretched in brilliant white. I later learned that this is the only place in all of Rio not de-



A German-looking corner in the very clean Swakopmund, Namibia, very far from Germany.

faced with graffiti; it's kept scrupulously clean. Wended our way past the beaches of Ipanema, Copacabana and Leblon. (And no floss bikinis in sight!) Reaction to Rio is it's filthy dirty, very dangerous and I can't figure out how the graffiti goes all the way up to the fourth floor on buildings.

Day 13 - Dark, gloomy skies and pouring rain. Decided to visit a wholesale gem dealer's office. They wouldn't let us take our own transportation and sent a "hired taxi" to pick us up. We wanted to buy local coffee before returning to the ship. The gem dealers were absolutely determined that we not go by ourselves. This office, mind you, was in the best neighborhood of Ipanema/Copacabana;

it was early afternoon and the grocery store was only two blocks away. They insisted that we be accompanied by a local person who took us, literally, to the store, shopped with us and then put us in a taxi - which they paid for. Our escort said that in twenty years of living there she had been robbed 28 times - all in broad daylight. The last time the only thing she had with her was the dog she was walking. That's why they were robbing her - to take her dog to sell! The next day we decided to stay on-board and go to Shabbat Services with Rabbi Joe.

Day 15 - Great day at sea cruising up the coast of Brazil in brilliant sunshine. Started off with champagne and caviar breakfast in the dining room then off to the gym. Mort

went to listen to a lecture on Gemstones. We all were hysterical laughing at his descriptions. Seems the "lecturer" really didn't know about gemstones and had to read most of his information straight from a book.

Day 18 - Arrived in Fortaleza. It has a population of over 3.4 million with huge skyscrapers dotting the shoreline. It looks like Miami Beach - but with more GRAFFITI! Out to see their version of a "flea market" not far from the Port. This one is four stories high and open-air. It's cash only, so our hand-held calculator came in very handy for the exchange rate. Nice and very friendly people, with interesting, hand-made merchandise. Did some bargaining and buying.

Day 19 - We're cruising the top of the Brazilian Coast on our way to Barbados and will be at sea for the next 3 1/2 days. Starting the day at the gym, then pool, outdoor lunch at the pool. Mah jongg for me, Rap with the Rabbi for Mort.

Day 20 - Tonight is the first night of Chanukah. There were more than 70 and every-

one enjoyed the service, complete with latkes, applesauce, sour cream and, of course, a challah and wine because it is also Friday night.

Day 22 - Arriving in Barbados. Went on an off-road safari to see the elusive green monkey. What a joke! In the Barbados Wildlife Reserve the only monkeys to be found were inside wire cages. But, I must say, that running around were literally a hundred turtles, deer, rabbits and other little wildlife; but no mon-

keys - green or otherwise. We were told that these species were responsible for 70 percent of the world's polio vaccine.

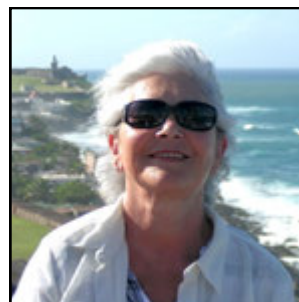
Day 25 - Cruising the gorgeous Atlantic again on our way to Port Everglades. Right

back on schedule: gym, breakfast, lunch at the pool of curry and Tandoori Barbeque, mah, napping, reading. Captain's farewell party - dinner with dessert and cordials in the Horizon Lounge. Then off to watch the Regent singers and dancers with their rendition of Cole Porter.

Day 28 - It's 8 in the morning and we are ready.... but not really. I just loved being aboard this ship, being pampered, having fun, playing Mah, meeting lots of interesting (and some not-so-interesting) people and everything we saw and did. Looking outside, I think the winds have picked up to somewhere about 30 knots and the rains have started, so by the time we are waiting, outside, for our son Mark to pick us up there will probably be a gale outside.◇



At Chanukah services aboard ship. That is not, if you were wondering, a Chanukah bush to the right.



YIDDISHKEIT NIGHT: AN EVENING OF SENTIMENT, NACHAS AND FRESSING. AND A PLAY, EVEN.

Monday, January 25—our last Yiddishkeit Night for a while—was an exciting evening



Gene and Mort as Burns and Allen.

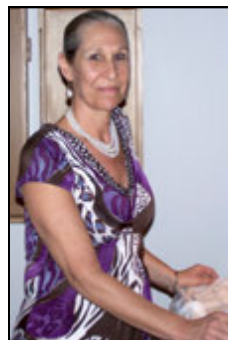
shared by more than 85 people at the KJCC. The delicious dinner made by our *mish pocha*, with contri-

butions by so many, was fantastic and tasty. The evening was also our annual Membership Dinner. All our guests, some of whom are either now or about to become new mem-

bers, were delighted by the warm and open reception and welcoming attitude. I was personally honored and blessed to have my aunts and uncles from Toronto, and Kitchener, Ontario visiting and able to share this wonderful event with me.

Inspired by my grandparents and my motivation to continue to learn and practice Yiddish, I wrote the play we performed after dinner: "My Yiddisha Bubba: A Sentimental Love Story." The story tells of the 68-year marriage of my grandparents, who spent their winters in Miami Beach, leading up to the time 18 years ago when I was visiting and met my husband.

As the narrator, my grandmother tells the



Bernie had the lead as young Moishe, based on Erica's grandfather. (You would cast someone else?)

story of their meeting back in the 1920s, while she was working at the lunch cart outside the factory where my grandfather sewed coats. The story is told at a time when she and her two sisters are older, and reminiscing. Scenes are set in Miami Beach, at the pool playing mah jongg, going to Wolfie's for the Early Bird Special, going to the Fontainebleau to watch the show,



Gloria sings “My Yiddische Mama,” above. Bernie and Gloria in a courtship scene. At right, Jules Seder provided perfect-pitch accompaniment. (A tinkling piano in the next apartment...) Below, the restaurant scene at Wolfie’s.



going to the butcher’s to shop for *Shabbos*, going to the pharmacy at the Woolworth’s on Lincoln Road, and finally preparing and eating *Shabbos* dinner.

I owe thanks to lots of people: to Rabbi Zucker, who



helped me translate my play into Yiddish; to all of the great and tolerant actors—Gloria Avner (as young Billie), Bernie Ginsberg (as young Moishe), Georgia Landau and my friend and savior Hindy Zeifman (who came down from Ft. Lauderdale at the last minute when I needed her) as the two sisters, Steve

Friedman (as the waiter), Jerry Oshinsky (type-cast as the pharmacist), Linda and Joel Pollack (as the butcher and his wife), and to Gene and Mort Silverman (as the performers, the real-life team of George Burns and Gracie Allen)—who

helped me, through rehashing and rehearsing, and, above all, with warmth and patience, to bring my play to life.

My great thanks, also, to Alan Beth, who took old pictures of mine and the English translation of the play (if you weren’t there, it was performed wholly in Yiddish) and created a projection slide show

that so wonderfully helped the audience follow the story and also tied the storyline together.

The beautiful, professional musical accompaniment of Gloria singing "My Yiddisha Bubba" and the finale of "Bei Mir Bist Du Shayne," with Bernie singing and declaring his love, was by the generous piano man Jules Seder.

Thanks also go to Mark Wasser, who captured the whole evening on videotape.

This event probably meant the most to me personally. I felt blessed, proud and honored to have experienced such a wonderful evening of support, love and joy surrounded by my KJCC family as well as my immediate family, who all, by the way, felt so welcomed by and grateful to our won-



The entire cast takes a bow post-curtain, above. Left, Gloria and Bernie opened by walking around the sanctu...er, theater, setting the tone by singing all in Yiddish. At lower left, the mah jongg group scene. (Those old outdoor Miami Beach games were brutal. Does anyone know why only Chinese men and Jewish women play mah jongg?)

Below, the writer, producer and director with the traditional flowers after opening night, given to her by her cast.



derful KJCC community.

Thank you again to all who spent their time and energies to make our Yiddishkeit Night a great success. If my grandparents were still here, they would thank you, too.

Zay Gazeint,
Erica Lieberman-Garrett



You probably know the story: Guy named Moses demands that Egypt hand over all its slave labor so he can take them, en masse, east. God backs him up. But—as usual—Gloria offers us some fresh perspective, delving into the meaning of the message.

Rabbi Danny Young and a Passover Appetizer: Miriam, Music, and Metaphor

by Gloria Avner

We offer sincere thanks to our guest leader of January's early Shabbat service, Rabbi Danny Young, for a number of things. For one thing, he combined all the elements of an excellent service with good teaching stories, including one for Tu B'Shvat. For another, he delivered an excellent "dvar" for the special "Shabbat Shira." This is the *parshah* in which Miriam, the older sister of Moses, delivers in call-and-response the joyous "Song of the Sea."

It was gratifying to see and be part of such a large group coming to celebrate Shabbat with our visiting Rabbi. Along with the delights of an excellent Oneg (compliments of Stuart and Lauren Sax and our Ritual Committee), I enjoyed walking around the social hall to overhear small groups of people enthusiastically discussing the rabbi's talk. Rabbi Young even led us in a "Shehechyanu" blessing of the painting donated to KJCC by Rosie Biskar in memory of her daughter Dale, and the plaque just installed beneath it. As usual, the event lasted long into the night.

Even though it's been over a month since we heard Miriam's song, as Pesach season approaches, now is the time to personally experience and commemorate and pass on to our heirs the story of the Exodus, the moment of escape from slavery to freedom that

inspired the *Shir* ("song," in Hebrew). For those who could not be with us that night, let me tell you a story that the Rabbi shared with us. (For the over 50 of you who were there with me, it's a story well worth reliving.) I had not heard it before, and later overheard many people saying how much it had inspired them.

As Miriam and the women chanted their song, danced, and played timbrels at the shore of the Reed Sea, not all were joyful. The sea had yet to part, and the Egyptian army was not far behind. Many of the escaping Israelites were anxious, even beginning to wonder if leaving Egypt had been the right thing to do. As both the ecstasy of the singers and the anxiety of the doubters reached a peak, the seas did finally part. The people, some more hesitantly than others, began to walk across. The slow ones were encouraged by the others to hasten. Two men, who had been anxious from the beginning, walked across neither joyfully nor quickly. Their eyes were on their shoes. They were uncomfortable. They knew the sea had parted, but were focused on the muddy ground of the seabed. Their feet and clothing were wet and dirty; the going was not easy, and they were not happy.

All around them a miracle was happening. These two men did not see it. They focused instead on the mud and their now wet, dirty shoes, not on the amazing feat of redemption from slavery through divine intervention.

There is always something imperfect on which to focus, no matter what is going on in the world or in our lives. We have a choice of where to look. Miriam chose to look to our Creator and sing a song of praise and gratitude. The point is to not be blinded by focusing downward. As we move ever closer to the season of "freedom from constriction and tight places" (the literal translation of *Mitz-*

raim), let's keep our eyes, minds, and hearts open to and aware of the miracles around us at every moment, and not on the mud caking our shoes. Remember the many miracles, and many lessons for us, in the Pesach story. And thank you again, Rabbi Young.

Yayin and Mayim: Wine and Water in the Cups of Elijah and Miriam

by Gloria Avner

Soon Jews all over the world will be sitting round assorted tables in homes, restaurants, and (if they're very lucky) sandy beaches, surrounded with family by blood and by choice, while recounting the story that never gets stale: Passover. We are commanded to remember and inhabit that story, to tell it in proper order, with all the right ritual foods, ritual questions, ritual songs, and ritual drink. Our survival, both literal and ritualistic, has always depended on two drinks, ubiquitous wine and the desert dweller's highly valued water.

More than just commanded, we rejoice in the telling of our story. Alive with it, knowing that through our ceremony we connect both horizontally, through geography, and vertically, through time, with all who have come before us, we share our commitment to *"tikkun olam*, repair of the world," and to those who will come after. We say our blessings, and hoist, time after time, another brimming cup of wine. We drink four cups, one for each promise of redemption made by God when God spoke to Moses, telling him of the coming Exodus. We dip a finger in the wine

glass as we recount each of the plagues. We set out Elijah's cup, trusting in the coming of *Moshiach*, in our time, in our house.

We cleanse our hands with water twice during the Passover seder. We dip eggs in salt water. Water, not just for cleansing or the healing power of tears, is the key to survival in desert wandering. A *Midrash* teaches us that a miraculous well accompanied the Hebrews throughout their journey in the desert, providing them with water. This well was given by God to Miriam, the prophetess, to honor her bravery and devotion to the Jewish people. Both Miriam and her well were spiritual oases in the desert, sources of sustenance and healing. In the modern Jewish world, more and more, a new cup is appearing as ritual object on the Seder table. It has taken a key place for the past six years at our

KJCC Women's Seder table. We call it *Kos Miriam*, the cup of Miriam. Filled with water, it represents survival, honoring the source of life that followed the Jewish people in their desert wanderings as long as Miriam was alive.

Miriam's cup is filled with water to honor her role in ensuring the survival of the Jewish people. Like Miriam, Jewish women in all generations have been essential for the continuity of our people.

As keepers of traditions in the home, women passed down songs and stories, rituals and recipes, from mother to daughter, from generation to generation. Let Elijah's Cup and the Cup of Miriam stand side by side. Let us each fill the cup of Miriam with water from our own glasses, so that our daughters may continue to draw from the strength and wisdom of our heritage. May this be the year that Elijah walks through our door, drains his cup of wine, and leads us from our narrow straits in *"Mitzraim"* to freedom and redemption in *"Jerusalem."* ◇

***"...a new cup is
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'Kos Miriam,'
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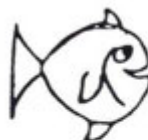
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Chai~Lights

30th Anniversary Issue



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President's Message Alan Beth



I am just leaving the 30th Anniversary event at Hawks Cay, and what a party it was! I hope you all had as good a time as we did. Candy and I stayed till the end, which for us meant being kicked out when I started singing into the microphone!

We all need to thank the 30th Anniversary committee, especially Gene Silverman and Sofy Wasser. Gene, you should know, left no detail untended with the resort and staff to ensure that we had the best event possible. If you had a good time – please let us know. Putting on this event the way we did was a controversial decision of the KJCC Board. I know of no other synagogue that would risk having an event like this without turning it into a massive fundraiser. As you know, we offered the event to our members at no charge and relied only on donations. Well, I am pleased to tell you that KJCC has not lost money; it looks, in fact, like we will make a profit from this event. So, thank you for coming and helping celebrate our 30th.

A few other wonderful things happened this night. Some of our founding members attended: Pauline Roller, Susan Horn, Ron and Dorothy Horn. I am thrilled that Rene Rose was presented the Joel Cohen Award by Bea Graham. This is a tremen-

dous honor given to those who have dedicated themselves to the well being of the KJCC. Those that have received Rene's flowers, cards, baskets and goodies know that the Sunshine Committee has that name for a very good reason.

I'm feeling buoyant and thankful, so I want to give special thanks to a few more people: to Yardena at the conclusion of her five-part lecture series on Jews in the non-European diaspora. It was a labor of love for Yardena, and we were the beneficiaries. Also my thanks to Joyce and Erica for the Purim celebrations, organizing both the reading of the *Megillah* and the luncheon afterwards. We had a nice problem this year: there were so many people we ran out of books! Thanks also to our Ritual chair, Gloria, who had the wonderful idea of celebrating Shabbat Across America before services at Bill and Freda's restaurant. (Please see the pictures of all these events in Photo Gallery.)

My family and I wish you all a healthy Passover and hope that you answered the four questions, drank the wine and did not get too *shikker* at your seder!

-Alan

April 2010

17 Nisan - 16 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors.</div>				1	2 Jim Boruszak & Gloria Avner Yizkor service <i>KJCC's Ulpan Students</i>	3
4 Sisterhood Meeting	5	6 8th Day of Passover	7	8	9 Sam Vinicur, Gloria Avner & Yardena Kamely <i>Elaine & Bernie Solas</i>	10
11 Yom HaShoah KJCC Board Meeting	12	13	14	15	16 Ken Atlas <i>Stephanie & Larry Gilderman</i>	17
18	19 Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	20	21	22	23 Joyce Peckman	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Stuart Sax 6:30 Service	

Calling all Mitzvoters

If your child (or you) has celebrated their (or your) Bar or Bat Mitzvah at KJCC over our 30 years, please send us a 4" x 6" photograph of your child (or yourself) at the time of their (or your) special event. As part of our 30th anniversary celebration, we hope to create a "gallery of KJCC mitzvot" we can display publicly on one of the walls of KJCC. For further information, please contact Susan Gordon at 305-766-3585.

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On his 70th birthday

By Skip and Rene Rose

Yom Ha'shoah at KJCC

Holocaust Remembrance Day for 2010—Yom Ha'shoah—is Sunday, April 11th. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. The theme for this year's remembrance is: What You Do Matters.

To preserve human freedom, what we do matters. By keeping stories of freedom alive, each of us works to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

On Sunday, April 11th, 6:30 p.m. at the KJCC, after a ceremony remembering the Holocaust, we will show a film from the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Our annual Holocaust exhibit will be displayed on Friday, April 9th, and Shabbat service that evening will include a few words on Yom Ha'shoah. *-Yardena*

Welcome New Members

The KJCC would like to welcome new members Ira and Shirley Stein of Key Largo. It's wonderful to have you, hope to see you soon and often.

Project seeks Florida WWII Memories

The University of South Florida's graduate program in Florida Studies is doing research on Florida's Jewish experience during World War II. They are looking for individuals with pictures as well as stories, from those who worked here on the home front, moved here for military training, or moved here relatively soon after the war. They'd also like to hear from those whose family members may have fit into one of these categories and who know the stories. Contact Jason Memmer at jmemmer@mail.usf.edu for more information.

KJCC Events Calendar Now Online

Don't forget that you can get up-to-date information on the KJCC schedule online. Alan has created an online calendar which is updated often. It lists all of the activities at or of interest to KJCC and its members. Any late-breaking activities that might not make it into Chai-Lights will be listed there. Visit keysjewishcenter.com and click on calendar. Also, if you have events or information to share, send it along to Alan at president@keysjewishcenter.com.

TREE OF LIFE

IN HONOR OF STEVE STEINBOCK

Happy 70th and many more!
3/3/10

Love, Muriel and George

IN HONOR OF MY WIFE, LINDA,

On being named Woman of the Year
At the 2010 Women's Seder

By Joel Pollack

Department of Corrections

I would like to apologize to Dave Mont, Yiddishkeit nephew extraordinaire, for the omission in last month's article about Yiddishkeit night. I failed to thank him for his participation and help the entire evening—the schnapps, the play, and the beautiful flowers that were presented to me. He was an integral part of the success of the event. Thank you, Dave, for all you did.

-Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Calling all readers...

The next meeting of the Readers' Circle will be on Wednesday, April 15 at 2:30 p.m., at the home of Bea Graham, 609 N. Jade Drive, Key Largo. (That's MM96 in Silver Shores.) Bring a book that you love and want to talk about.

-Joyce

Oneg Omissions from March

Two oneg sponsorships from March did not get mentioned last month. Chanuch Shiloh sponsored on March 19th in honor of his mother Henya Edith Shiloh. Carol and Steve Steinbock sponsored on March 26th to celebrate the 93rd birthday of Carol's mom, Marianne Cimkowski.

Havdalah Host Needed

Ritual Chair Gloria Avner is looking for someone willing to host a Havdalah service for April. This may be the last service of the season, seeing as how our snowbird members will soon be heading north. If you would be willing to host this short song- and story-filled good-bye to Shabbat please contact Gloria at 305-619-0216 or by email at geetavner@gmail.com.

Oneg Sponsors for April 2010

April 2nd—KJCC's Ulpan students

April 9th—Elaine & Bernie Solas to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Amy Solas and Richard Klein.

April 16th—Stephanie & Larry Gilderman in honor of Ella & Jordan's birthdays.

Scholarship Deadline Approaching

Anyone still wanting a KJCC scholarship application needs to contact Kurt Kluger as soon as possible. He can be reached at 394-7571 or e-mail kurtkluger@bellsouth.net. The deadline for submission is April 15th.

April Anniversaries

	Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder44
7th	Salomon & Mary Terner.....17
10th	Stuart & Geri Smith.....45
15th	Sheldon & Carole Weiss.....59
18th	Rick & Roberta McNew.....29
30th	Morton & Gene Silverman.....55

Torah Studies to Begin

We are about to begin a program at KJCC not to be missed. In keeping with our mission statement, not to mention our collective thirst for learning, we are happy to announce that a new weekly evening of study and discussion called "Torah and Dinner" will soon begin. (Could anything be better or more Jewish? BYOD or something to share.) Reb Bernie Ginsberg has graciously agreed to be our leader. We will meet on Sunday evenings at KJCC. The first will probably be sometime in April, so watch your e-mail for an announcement.

-Gloria

BOOK PLATE

TO HONOR LINDA POLLACK

Woman of the Year
2010 Women's Seder

By Jim and Joan Boruszak

April Birthdays

3rd.....Claire Cooper
 3rd.....Harvey Kay
 3rd.....Lauren Abrams
 4th.....Larry Weber
 4th.....Lauren Lane
 6th.....Faychesca Graham
 7th.....Harvey Schwaid
 9th.....David Feder
 9th.....Gene Silverman
 10th.....Abigail Everson
 10th.....Addison Greene-Barnett
 10th.....Ilese Vorcheimer
 11th.....Max Logan Gershowitz
 12th.....Richard Knowles
 13th.....Moirra Knowles
 13th.....Samantha Grossinger
 14th.....Timothy J. O'Connor
 14th.....Rosie Biskar
 16th.....Dave VanArtsdalen
 16th.....Ella Gilderman
 17th.....Katie Greenman
 18th.....Jennifer Garrett
 18th.....Lauren Sax
 20th.....Jonathan Nobil
 20th.....Larry Gilderman
 21st.....Susan Temkin
 22nd.....Robin S. Denker
 24th.....Lynn Nobil
 24th.....Randolph Green
 24th.....Susan Gordon
 24th.....Tiffany McNew
 25th.....Jared Scott Gershowitz
 25th.....Shirley Stein
 26th.....Maryann Boruszak
 27th.....Aaron Schmidt
 27th.....Beverly Robins
 27th.....Elinor Grossman
 29th.....David Goldfinger
 29th.....Jordan Neidenberg
 29th.....Linda Pollack
 30th.....Jason Sherman
 30th.....Rachel Barrett

BOOK PLATE

IN HONOR OF STEVE STEINBOCK

Happy Birthday

From Jim and Joan Boruszak

A Yizkor Service In April

Just a reminder that the third of the four Yizkor services for this year is scheduled for this month. The KJCC Passover Yizkor service will be held on the preceding Friday, April 2nd, during regular Friday services. Yizkor, or remembrance, is said four times a year--on Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Passover, and Shavuot.

Don't Forget Chai-Lights

If you have any comments about Chai-Lights, we'd love to hear them. And if you have any information or events that might be of interest to your fellow members, let us know and we'll get the word out. Contact us at chailights@keysjewishcenter.com.

A Mishebeyrach Thank You

The following letter was sent to KJCC by a long-time Keys resident who'd recently been at Mariner's Hospital for an extended stay and had received one of our Mishebeyrach cards:

Dear members of the Keys Jewish Community Center,

I cannot begin to thank you enough for your many prayers and amazing support during my recent illness. It means so very much to Betty Anne and me. I am happy to say I am home on the road to recovery.

I am so incredibly grateful to live in the Upper Keys community and have so many lasting friendships.

Thank you again,

-I. E. Schilling

KJCC GIFT SHOP

COME TO THE KJCC GIFT SHOP FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS!

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

HOUSE GIFTS

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH GIFTS AND CARDS

WEDDING GIFTS AND CARDS

Yes, we have yahrzeit candles - traditional or electric!

plus JEWELRY, MEZUZAHs, SEDER PLATES, MATZOH SWEEPERS,

CHALLAH PLATES, CHALLAH KNIVES AND MORE

If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.



Ongoing Projects and Programs of KJCC

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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353.

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.

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Kashariyot: Heroines of Yom Ha'shoah

In one of his Days of Remembrance addresses Elie Wiesel said: "How does one mourn for six million people who died? How many candles does one light? How many prayers does one recite? Do we know how to remember the victims, their solitude, their helplessness? They left us without a trace, and we are their trace. We tell these stories because perhaps we know that not to listen, not to want to know, would lead you to indifference, and indifference is never an answer. Whoever hates, hates everybody. Whoever kills, kills more than his victims.

"We didn't even talk. Some of us tried. No one wanted to hear. But we did not become bitter. We believed naturally that one must bear witness. It wasn't easy. We knew, silence is forbidden; talk, impossible. But things are different today. Young people listen, they want to know. They visit our Museum, listen to survivors, and they want to learn how to prevent our past from becoming their future.

"... this fiery memory remains and we, you and I, you and all of us, now are its very privileged custodians."

The story of the female couriers of Nazi-occupied Europe is a story of resistance that has largely remained in the shadows, yet it is a story of incredible bravery by a group of Jewish girls and women who served as a life-line between Jewish communities throughout war-torn Europe.

These women, says Emanuel Ringelblum, wrote "a glorious page in the history of Jewry." As he wrote in a diary entry in May of 1942: "These heroic girls, Chajke and Frumke

- they are a theme that calls for the pen of a great writer. Boldly they travel back and forth through the cities and towns of Poland. They are in mortal danger every day. They rely entirely on their 'Aryan' faces and on the peasant kerchiefs that cover their heads. Without a murmur, without a moment of hesitation, they accept and carry out the most dangerous missions. Is someone needed in Vilna, Bialystok, Lemberg, Kowel, Lublin, Czestochowa, or Radom to smuggle in contraband such as illegal publications, goods, money? The girls volunteer as though it were the most natural thing in the world. Nothing stands in their way. Nothing deters them. How many times have they looked death in the eyes? How many times have they been arrested and searched? The story of the Jewish woman will be a glorious page in the history of Jewry during the present war. And the Chajkes and Frumkes will be the leading figures in this story. For these girls are indefatigable."

The word "courier" does not do these women justice. They were much more than messengers. True, they carried mail and information back and forth from place to place. They smuggled forged identity cards, documents, underground newspapers and money into the sealed-off ghettos of Nazi Europe. However, they were also the first to smuggle guns, grenades, ammunition and other weapons into many of the ghettos. And in addition to the strictly "messenger" part of their job, these girls who risked their lives to move from ghetto to ghetto also served a very human purpose - they inspired and brought

hope, along with information, to Jews who would otherwise have been cut off from the entire world, as if to reassure them that they had not been forgotten. They were, literally, lifelines that connected Jewish communities and isolated ghettos to each other and to the outside world. As such, we refer to these girls and women as “*kashariyot*,” from the Hebrew word “*kesher*,” which means connection.

Jews who lived in the ghetto needed to find some way to reach the outside world and communicate with each other. Out of this need, the courier system was born. Youth movements were the first to send their members across borders to reach other ghettos. However, it became increasingly dangerous for Jews to be found outside their ghettos; the Germans, early on, began to impose the death penalty on anyone so found. At this stage, the Jews trapped in their ghettos began more and more to rely on women as *kashariyot*.

This occurred for a number of reasons. First and foremost, a Jewish man could easily be identified. In addition, men who were out and about on the streets generated suspicion – why weren’t they at work? It was much easier for women to stroll the streets, seemingly carefree, on the way to meet with friends, or casually shopping. Women were also more likely to speak the local language; many women had been educated in Polish secular schools, while the boys had undergone mostly religious instruction in *Cheder*. The girls, therefore, spoke Polish fluently, without an accent or a Jewish inflection that could give them away, and felt more at home on the Polish street.

An additional reason why girls and women made excellent *kashariyot* was their intuition. Bronka Klibanski, a courier who connected the ghettos in the area of Bialystok and Grodno in Poland, wrote: “In comparison to men, it seems to me that we women were more loyal to the cause, more sensitive to our surroundings, wiser – or perhaps more generously endowed with intuition...” This intuition helped them to sense when someone on the street was star-

ing at them a little too long, when someone could be trusted, when a contact was actually a Nazi collaborator, and when to cut and run.

At the very beginning, when the Germans were first creating ghettos in which to isolate the Jews, the *kashariyots*’ primary functions were to reconnect the Jewish communities, political parties and youth movements. As such, logically, most of the couriers came from, and were called into service by, the youth movements. In this stage, their main role was carrying information, news and written bulletins from one ghetto to another.

Once the Germans began to actually exterminate the Jews, however, the role of the *kashariyot* changed; they spread the word about the killing units and the shooting operations. It was the information spread by the *kashariyot* that enabled Jewish leaders in different places and communities to put the pieces together and to realize that the German plan really was to exterminate the Jews of Europe.

Now the *kashariyot* took on yet another role. They had to warn communities where slaughter had not yet occurred, so that those communities could take some action. With the new role of warning the Jews came the parallel task of assisting them in mounting armed resistance against the Germans. As they smuggled weapons into the ghettos, the couriers also helped smuggle Jews out of the ghetto.

With immense bravery, the *kashariyot* faced incredible dangers every minute of every day, and yet somehow found the strength to continue with their missions, or to die trying. They are icons of heroism, and they shatter many stereotypes: that the Jews went to their deaths like sheep to the slaughter, that women are less capable of sustained resistance than men. Despite all this, the glorious history which should be their due has not yet been fully written. In light of the achievements and heroism of these young women in the nightmare of the Holocaust, we can only be in awe of them. ♦

Holocaust Remembrance Day for 2010—Yom Ha’shoah—is Sunday, April 11th.

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



This past month was certainly one to remember. It began with our fashion show at Snooks, a new location for us. I had the fun task of modeling. When I went to Angelika, Lauren Sax had me try on outfits that were beyond my normal “comfort zone” – and I found that they were wonderful! Lauren can be my personal stylist any time! After a delicious lunch, Stuart gave a professional presentation, worthy of BRAVO. Georgia Landau, Joan Stark, Leslie Dillon and Erica Garrett were stunning as they showed off short sets, stylish pants and gorgeous evening wear. Thanks to Joan Stark for organizing, to Susan G for the loan of her sound system, to Nettie, Rene, Elaine, Lee and everyone else who helped make the afternoon a success.

Three days later about twenty of us went to see “Miss Saigon,” a beautiful musical complete with helicopter! (Well, almost...but the effect was impressive.) Thank you, Nancy and Carol, for coordinating the tickets.

And then we had our annual “play with clay” event, making covered containers – for honey, *charoet*, *maror*, or just for the fun of it. Beth is an amazing teacher, and each of us becomes an artist under her gentle tutelage. We never know exactly how our handiworks will turn out until Beth brings them to be displayed at the Women’s Seder.

The Women’s Seder is always a highlight for Sisterhood. Not only do we feast, sing and socialize. We celebrate our accomplishments as women as well as our history and the freedoms we enjoy. This year we had the pleasure of honoring Linda Pollack. Linda, it seems to me, functions much like the heart of the KJCC. As treasurer of KJCC, former Sisterhood president and advisor to so many of us, she is central to the energy and functioning of

nearly every aspect of our community. Gene Silverman toasted Linda eloquently, and Beth presented her with a specially made ceramic goblet.

In the ongoing tradition of *Tikkun Olam*, funds collected at our seder are to be distributed to the Women’s shelter, the food bank, and the KJCC Scholarship fund. A commemorative tablecloth, signed by those present, was created to be used in future years. Thanks to Pauline and Gene for manning the front door, to Joan and Erica for coordinating the menu, to Beth for handling reservations and pottery displays, and to everyone who cooked and set up and cleaned up.

The 30th Anniversary Gala at Hawk’s Cay was an unqualified success. The venue was gorgeous, the weather perfect. The food was delicious, the music was great, and the dance floor was full. A good time was had by all. The best part was seeing over a hundred of us looking our best. It was wonderful getting together with many of our members who live far from KJCC and who we don’t often see. In a surprise addition to the program, the Joel S. Cohen award was presented to Rene Rose for the tireless, often undisclosed and unheralded work that she does for the KJCC. The hard work of Gene Silverman and Sofy Wasser made this lovely evening possible. Thank you.

This month, we are looking forward to the Miami Acting Company’s production of “The Producers” at the Murray Nelson Cultural Center in Key Largo. The 2 p.m. performance takes place on Sunday, April 25th. Contact Linda Pollack to reserve your \$25 ticket while they are still available! ♦

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

Book Plates

Boruszak, Jim & Joan
Boruszak, Jim & Joan
Rose, Skip & Rene

In Honor of

Linda Pollack
Steve Steinbock
Steve Steinbock

Yartzeit Contributions

Azzato, Maryann
Gilderman, Larry & Stephanie
Isenberg, Henry & Patricia
Lippman, Lillian
Olsen, Jerry & Sheila
Temkin, Robert & Susan
Weber, Larry & Judy
Weber, Larry & Judy

In Memory of

Paul Charlap
Elsie Gilderman
Harry Phillips
Jennie Lippman
Louis Weinstein
Anne Temkin
Deborah Eichler
Alice Weber

General Fund

Pollack, Joel & Linda
Wohl, Milton & Joan

In Memory of

Dorothy Goldstein
Dorothy Goldstein

General Fund

Levi, Nancy

In Honor of

Jim and Joan Boruszak

Holocaust Education Center

Steinbock, Steve & Carol

In Honor of

Theresa Steinbock

JNF Certificates Sent By

Rutkin, Linda

In Memory of

Moti

Meditation Garden

Peckman, Joyce
Roy, Medina
Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Honor of

Steve Steinbock
Steve Steinbock
Steve Steinbock

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves

Pollack, Joel
Swartz, George & Muriel

In Honor of

Linda Pollack
Steve Steinbock

Oneg Fund Sponsors

Peckman, Joyce
Solas, Bernard & Elaine
Shiloh, Chanoch & Jan
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Ulpan Class

In Honor of

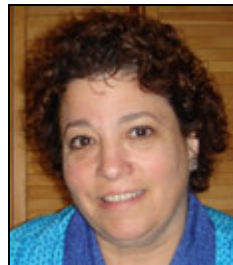
Amy Solas' engagement
Hanya Edith Shiloh
Marianne Cimkowski

30th Anniversary

Avner, Gloria
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark
Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Dorf, Barry & Natalie
Graham, Bea
Graham, Doug & Rozi
Hayden, Beth
Hermann, Bob & Eileen
Horn, Ron & Dorothy
Horn, Susan
Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein
Mayk, Israel & Nissan
Peckman, Joyce
Prober, Mel
Rose, Skip & Rene
Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Schocket, Jeff & Patty
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Schur, Lee
Seder, Jules & Nettie
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine
Singer, Mary Lee
Smith, Stuart & Geri
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Swartz, George & Muriel
Vinicur, Sam
Wasser, Mark & Sofy
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



10,000 Cookbooks in 50 Years

Dalia Carmel's two-bedroom apartment on Manhattan's East Side once held 10,000 cookbooks that she collected over a fifty year period. She's now whittled it down to 1,500 volumes, having donated 8,000 of her collection to New York University's Fales Library, which holds one of the largest food-focused collections in the country. Carmel, 75, began her collection in 1960 after immigrating to the United States from Israel. She particularly enjoyed collecting Jewish and Israeli cookbooks and was able to track down cookbooks from synagogues in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and even a Jewish nursing home in Turkey. But Carmel's prized possession is a small hand-sewn notebook containing 70 recipes written in German and Czech given to her by her friend Anny Stern, a Holocaust survivor. The book belonged to Stern's mother, Mina Pachter, and was compiled by a group of women in the Terezin concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Dalia Carmel lists six essential cookbooks for a Jewish home. They are:

A Drizzle of Honey: The Life and Recipes of Spain's Secret Jews, by David M. Gitlitz & Linda Kay Davidson.

Arthur Schwartz's Jewish Home Cooking: Yiddish Recipes Revisited, by Arthur Schwartz.

Jewish Cooking in America, by Joan Nathan.

Mama Leah's Jewish Kitchen, by Leah Loeb Fischer & Maria Polushkin Robbins.

The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey From Samarkand to New York, by Claudia Roden.

The Sephardic Kosher Kitchen, by Suzy David. (*The Forward*, 3-3-10)

An Unlikely Spy

It turns out that Mosab Hassan Yousef, son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef—a Hamas founder and one of its leaders in the West Bank—

has been spying for Israel for over ten years and has been considered the most valuable source regarding the Hamas leadership. The intelligence he supplied to Israel exposed a number of terrorist cells and prevented dozens of suicide bombings and assassination attempts on Israeli officials. Capt. Loai, Yousef's handler, said that Yousef collaborated with Israel because he wanted to save lives. "So many people owe him their life and don't even know it...The amazing thing is that none of his actions were done for money."

Yousef, 32, who converted to Christianity a decade ago, now lives in California after fleeing the West Bank in 2007. His memoir, "Son of Hamas," has recently been released in the United States; with it, Yousef hopes to send a message of peace to Israelis. "The Hamas leadership is responsible for the killing of Palestinians, not Israelis...I tell you with certainty that the Israelis care about the Palestinians far more than the Hamas or Fatah leadership does."

After learning that his son was a spy for Israel, the elder Yousef, who has been held in an Israeli prison since 2005, has disowned his son. (www.haaretz.com, 2-24-10)

Jewish Success at the 2010 Olympics

The 2010 Winter Olympics may be over, but the *kvelling* by a few Jewish families goes on. Two American Jews – Steve Meisler and Charlie White – earned medals in Vancouver. Meisler won a gold medal in the four-man bobsled race and White took silver in ice dancing along with his partner Meryl Davis. Other Jewish athletes who did not earn medals but participated nonetheless were Ben Agosto, American ice dancer; Israeli brother

and sister ice dancing duo Alexandra and Roman Zaretsky; Israeli skier Mikail Renzhin; and biathlete Laura Spector from Massachusetts. (The biathlon combines cross-country skiing and target shooting. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-3-10)

Lemba's Jewish Roots

Genetic tests carried out by British scientists have revealed that many of southern Africa's Lemba tribe—who total 70,000 to 80,000 and live in central Zimbabwe and northern South Africa—have Jewish origins. According to their oral tradition, the Lemba are descended from seven Jewish men who left Israel 2,500 years ago and married African women. Their customs are similar to Jewish ones, in that they refrain from eating pork and other foods forbidden by the Torah, they wear yarmulke-type skull caps, conduct ritual animal slaughter and even put a Star of David on their gravestones. Their sacred prayer language is a mixture of Hebrew and Arabic. Members of the priestly clan of the Lemba, the *Buba*, have a genetic element also found among *Kohanim*, the Jewish priestly line. However, despite their roots, many Lemba are now Christians or Muslims. (*World Jewish Congress*, 3-8-10)

The Good News...

A Gallup poll in the United States found that Israel is among Americans' most favored countries in the world, coming in fifth after Canada, Britain, Germany and Japan, with an approval rating of 67 percent of respondents who were asked to provide their opinions about 20 countries. Some 63 percent of those polled said their sympathies lie more with Israel than with the Palestinians in the current situation, which is the highest level of support Israel has enjoyed for 19 years. (*World Jewish Congress*, 3-3-10)

The Bad News...

Anti-Semitic incidents in Canada have risen to record levels, with an 11.4 percent increase in incidents in 2009 over the previous year. This translates into the highest number ever reported in the 28-year history

of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights reporting. The highest number of incidents for any month, 209, occurred in January, coinciding with Israel's war in Gaza. The majority of incidents, 672, occurred in Ontario. (*World Jewish Congress*, 2-26-10)

Ten to Watch in 2010

The Forward, the legendary Jewish newspaper now published in both English and Yiddish, has come out with a list of "10 up-and-coming Jewish political hopefuls." The list represents Jews who are either just entering the national scene or are viewed as possible future leaders. They are:

- Richard Blumenthal, (D) Attorney General of Connecticut;

- Ted Deutch, (D) Florida state senator;

- Lee Fisher, (D) Lieutenant governor of Ohio;

- Paul Hodes, (D) Congressman from New Hampshire;

- Beth Krom, (D) Irvine (CA) City Council-woman;

- Josh Mandel, (R) Ohio state representative;

- Deb Markowitz, (D) Secretary of State of Vermont;

- Steve Poizner, (R) California state insurance commissioner;

- Jay Ramras, (R) Alaska state representative;

- Doug Turner, (R) private businessman from New Mexico. (*The Forward*, 2-17-10)

Hold On to Your *Shtreimel*!

With the exception of the traditional *shtreimel* fur hats for the *Hareidi* (ultra-orthodox) religious community, Israel may soon become the world's first fur-free nation. A bill in the Knesset that would expand a current law and ban all import, export, production and marketing of fur was approved in early February. The *shtreimel* would be the only exception aside from the other minor exception, that being cow hide, which is "only a secondary use after cows are slaughtered for meat." Wool from sheep and hair from camels and goats were not included in the bill because no slaughter or cruelty is involved. Agricultural Minister Shalom Simchon said that Israel "should set an example and serve its Biblical role as a 'light unto the nations.'" (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-8-10)

2010 Sophie Brody Award

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association, has announced its selection of the 2010 Sophie Brody Award, an annual honor given to “encourage, recognize and commend outstanding achievement in Jewish literature.” The criterion for eligibility for this award is limited to works published for adults in the United States in the preceding year. The winner is “The Book of the Unknown: Tales of the Thirty-Six,” by Jonathan Keats. The three honor books are “Lucky Child: A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy,” by Thomas Buerghenthal; “The Jewish Body,” by Melvin Konner; and “Clara’s War: One Girl’s Story of Survival,” by Clara Kramer and Stephen Gantz. (*American Library Association, www.ala.org, 1-17-10*)

The “Forgotten Exodus”

The Knesset, Israel’s parliament, has passed a bill that aims to secure compensation for Jewish refugees from Arab countries and Iran, and making the issue an integral part of any future Middle East peace negotiations. According to the bill, a Jewish refugee is an Israeli citizen who left one of the Arab states or Iran following religious persecution. Approximately 850,000 Jews were forced to leave Syria, Trans-Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco in the decades following the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, due to widespread discrimination and persecution. Some research estimates that about one billion dollars worth of personal and community assets were left behind by Jews who forfeited all when they left their old countries for the new one. Former Canadian Justice Minister, Irwin Cotler, a member of *Justice for Jews From Arab Countries* (JJAC) said, “This speaks to the question of, among other things, the... narrative of the last 62 years where the question of Jews from Arab countries has not been part of the narrative. There have been more than 160 U.N. resolutions on the matter of refugees. All 160 dealt with Palestinian refugees only...there is no justice and no truth if it does not also address the plight of Jews

seeking justice from Arab countries.” (*www.latimes.com, 2-14-10 and World Jewish Congress, 2-13-10*)

In Memoriam

Dr. Bernard Lander, founder and president of Touro College, died recently at the age of 94. Lander, an ordained Orthodox rabbi, founded the college, a competitor to Yeshiva University, in 1971 with a mere 35 students. The institution now has over 23,600 students enrolled in its many graduate and undergraduate programs, with campuses in 29 locations around the world, including one in Miami Beach, which opened in 2006. Lander was Touro’s president from its inception until his death, making him one of the longest-serving college presidents in the United States. Dr. Lander held a PhD in sociology and was a pioneer in Jewish and general higher education. He served as one of three directors of New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia’s Committee on Unity, established in 1944, which became the city’s first Commission on Human Rights. Lander served as a consultant to three U.S. presidents and served on the commission that established the historic “War on Poverty” program. (*www.israelnationanews.com, 2-9-10 and World Jewish Congress, 2-15-10*)

Did you know....

-The 16-year-old who sang Canada’s national anthem at the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver is jazz-pop phenom Nikki Yanofsky, a Jewish girl born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. (*www.myjewishlearning.com, 2-18-10*)

-The sixth annual Jewlicious Festival was held in Long Beach, California, February 19th through the 21st. The festival organizers’ goal was for a “metaphorical immersion... covering a huge variety of Jewish topics to appeal to young Jews with a wide range of backgrounds and interests.” Rabbi Yonah Bookstein, the festival director, said when asked the purpose of the festival: “to help prevent a generation from opting out...and leaving the Jewish community behind.” (*The Forward, 2-23-10*) ♦

Photo Gallery



KJCC's own Maryon Gould is shown with I Believe Foundation founder Kathy Lasseter and the plaque honoring Maryon with the I Believe Foundation Humanitarian Achievement Award for 2010. The plaque reads: "In appreciation of your tireless efforts in always being there for others." As many of you know, the foundation seeks

to promote the support, care and comfort of children in Monroe County.



The KJCC Book Club met Wednesday, February 3rd at Bea Graham's home in Silver Shores. Elinor's off to Canada (yes, she took Herb), so there's at least one open spot. Contact Bea or Joyce if you're interested.



At left, friends gathered to help Gerri Emkey celebrate earning her doctorate in education. (Elvis? Is that you?)

At right, the Oneg sponsors from the early service on February 26th, Joe and Kathy Shabathai and Jim and Rita Williams. Kathy had told everyone to come hungry. She made sure that no one left that way.





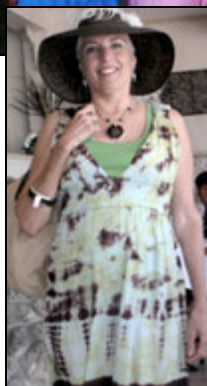
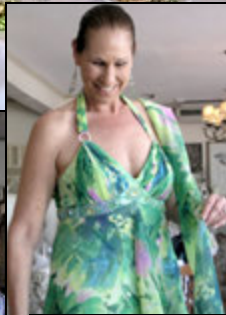
What terrific events we have celebrated since Chai-Lights last came to our doorsteps. We had our first-ever morning reading of the *Megillat Esther* on February 29th followed by a delicious Sisterhood brunch,

an event made all the more delicious by the costume parade, songs, antics, and participation in the *Megillah* reading by the children of the KJCC Religious School. It was also a delight to see so many of our members in costumes and masks (most of the masks made by our young scholars and budding young artists). Most important, we had a great crowd and fulfilled all of the required *mitzvot*. Almost forty of us read the *Megillah*, drowned out the hateful name of Haman, collected and distributed charity, and gave out treats of *Shalach Manot*. (Thanks as usual to Joyce, who did her usual wonderful job of organizing and leading the *Megillah* reading.) Oh, did I forget to mention one of the most important *mitzvot*? We were not remiss. **We drank.**

-Gloria



One of the highlights of each season is the KJCC Sisterhood Fashion Show. Though the event had to be postponed once because the original venue kept forgetting to pay their electric bill, the gang who attended at Snooks on Thursday, May 4th had wonderful food, a wonderful show and a wonderful time. Stuart and Lauren Sax again hosted, bringing their Ange-lik's magic: Stu is a spieler without peer; and Lauren, the taste maven extraordinaire, knows exactly what looks good on everyone. Take a look.






Above and right are scenes from Monday, March 1st during the last of Yardena's lecture series on Jews of the Diaspora: the Jews of China. Obviously word had gotten out that this series was really interesting.



On March 5th, with barely a week's notice, KJCC members, along with hundreds of other congregations spanning the full breadth of the United States and Canada, participated in celebrating "Shabbat across America." Starting with candle lighting and Kiddush at Bill and Freda Ferns' Greek Isles Grill in Pink Plaza, about thirty of us welcomed this special Sabbath as the family we are, gathering as at a home to have Shabbat dinner, with good cheer, warmth, great food and the knowledge that we are a small family growing larger and ever-more-connected to each other and Judaism. I was proud of us. And of all the others who gathered in different places. We looked great! And Freda and Bill, who never get to go to Shabbat services anymore, were thrilled to have Shabbat come to them.

-Gloria





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March 14, 2010 Hawks Cay

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Thank You!

-This Month in Jewish History-

April

538 – In the third Synod of Orleans, France declares that Jews aren't permitted to be seen during Passion Week (the week before Easter) because "their appearance is an insult to Christianity."

711 – Tarik, a Moslem general, attacks the south of Spain at today's Gibraltar. He defeats Roderic, last of the Visigoth kings, at the Battle of Xeres. Tarik is helped by Jews. After each city is conquered (Cordova, Granada, Malaga,) Jews are often given positions of safeguarding Moslem interests.

1298 – In Rottingen, a German knight accuses local Jews of profaning the host. (The wafer eaten by Christians said to symbolize the body of Jesus. So wouldn't that also be, symbolically, cannibalism?) He incites the local populace to riot, and twenty-one Jews are murdered. The killing spreads to a hundred and forty communities in Bavaria and Austria. Tens of thousands of Jews are either killed or wounded.

1389 – A priest in Prague is hit with a few grains of sand thrown by small Jewish boys playing in the street. He insists there is a Jewish plot against him. Thousands are slaughtered, the synagogue and cemetery are destroyed, and homes are pillaged. King Wenceslaus insists that the responsibility rests with the Jews for venturing outside during Holy Week.

1486 – The first prayer book (Siddur) is printed in Italy by Soncino, the only time the Siddur is published during the 15th century. Typically, hand-copied manuscripts are used.

1492 – The Edict of Expulsion for all Jews is passed in Spain. Jews are technically not under the jurisdiction of the Inquisition, so the Church levels a ritual murder accusation

against them in Granada and is thus able to call for the expulsion of both Jews and Marranos. Torquemada, the director of the Inquisition, is often said to have been of Jewish descent.

1533 – Pope Clement VII, in an effort to stop the Inquisitions, acts against New Christians in Portugal, and issues the *Bulla de Perdao*, essentially a pardon for all past offenses. Unfortunately, the pope dies a few years later and the Inquisition does not.

1657 – After a battle of almost two years, Asser Levy, one of the original 23 accidental Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam, is allowed to serve on guard duty. Levy, the ritual slaughterer of the town, has his slaughterhouse on what is today Wall Street. He further petitions to be allowed rights as a burgher, or freeperson of the town.

1775 – Pope Pius VI, partly in reaction to the Reformation, issues the *Editto sopra gli ebrei*, re-instituting all anti-Jewish legislation. The forty-four clauses prohibit possessing Talmudic writings and erection of gravestones, forbid Jews from passing the night outside the ghetto, and more. The regulations are in effect until the arrival of Napoleon 25 years later, who tears down the ghetto walls of medieval Europe.

1890 – Nathan Birnbaum (no, not George Burns, another Nathan Birnbaum) coins the term Zionism in his journal *Selbstemanzipation*.

1898 – Fifteen Jews serving on the battleship U.S.S. Maine are killed when it is sunk in Havana harbor. Five thousand Jews serve during the war. The first member of Roosevelt's Rough Riders to reach the top of San Juan Hill is a Jew, Irving Peixotto.

1925 – Hebrew University is opened in Jerusalem by Lord Balfour, on Mount Scopus. ◇

30th Anniversary Gala

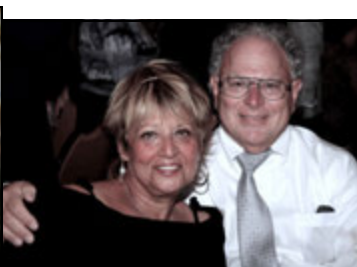
*I*t all started with a newspaper ad, thirty years ago. Jews in the Upper and Middle Keys weren't sure if there were any other landmen around. There were. Well, look at us now. KJCC continues to grow, with over 170 families and individuals on our membership rolls. Some maintain their memberships even if they're now hundreds or thousands of miles away. So

we decided to throw ourselves a party, to celebrate thirty years of KJCC and each other and the ways we, together, enrich and expand each others' lives. We invited everyone, and well over 100 of us came, including a sprinkling of honored founding members. So enjoy the photos, and who was there, and what a remarkable and enduring group we are.

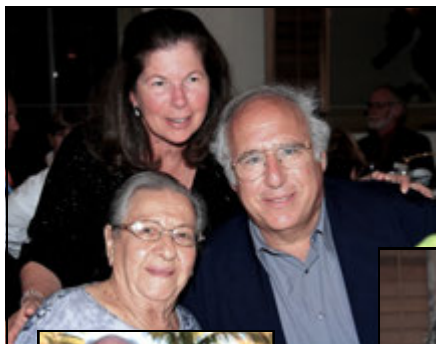




The highest individual award KJCC has to offer, the Joel Cohen Award, went to Rene Rose this year. Her response was captured beautifully in the photos left and left below. As with most of the photos you see here, these were taken by KJCC member Richard Knowles, who dedicated his evening to helping make ours memorable. There are hundreds of shots from the 30th Gala available on their web site, BarbaraKnowles.com, where KJCC members are welcome to browse and, if they like, purchase keepsake photos.







As We Hide the Afikomen, Does It Help Reveal to Us What is Hidden?

by Gloria Avner

We all know that the true purpose of Passover is to pass over our story, our strategies for survival, to the next generation, to pass on our faith in the one God, who (Mi Chamocha) delivered us out of the hands of Egypt, to our children and our children's children. The meaning of Hagaddah, after all, is "The Telling."

Before we can tell though, the young ones have to ask. Bring on the "Four Questions." The singsong chant takes on a life of its own. Year after year I see how much the children like to sing these questions, well before they know what they are asking or the significance of the answers. Little by little they get it, almost by osmosis, through the yearly repetition. They may even start to wonder, after hearing yet again about the four sons, which of the children they are most like.

But a seder service can be long, and the explanations, depending on who is leading the service, can be dry and tiring to a child. Ever inventive, with an eye on the prize, the ultimate goal being the integration of the story in a child's mind, some great Jewish teacher implemented a great device, integral to the story, to keep a child (his own?) awake throughout the evening: matzoh replaced the carrot on a stick sometimes called reward.

For centuries during the Passover seder in Jewish homes, one of three pieces of unleavened bread, the middle matzoh, is broken in half, wrapped in a napkin, hidden, and later retrieved to be served as the last morsel of food eaten at the end of the lengthy observance of this ancient Jewish feast. We call this bit of unleavened bread the "afikomen." Depending on whom you talk with, the roots of the word are either Greek (epikomion—that

which comes after) or Aramaic. It symbolizes the Paschal lamb. For our children, the afikomen is a focus for their attention until the end of the seder. It works.

In some families the children "steal" the matzoh and are paid a ransom in order to get it back to the table. In other families it is hidden and the children search and are rewarded. The children associate fun and challenge, joy and treats, with this most important observance of their heritage. But there are also lessons here. They search for and reveal what is hidden. Unity reigns once more, and the last bit of matzoh meets its designated honor, to be consumed, intimately joined with both the celebrant and the celebration.

In Judaism, we see time and time again that what is hidden is also endowed with special meaning. (Some Jews from Middle Eastern countries saw the afikomen as having special powers and kept a piece of it as a good luck charm.) The broken, unhidden piece of matzoh remains on the Passover table. Two parts make up the whole, one visible, touchable, edible, and one hidden. Because we can only see one half, do we assume that that is all there is, that there is no wholeness? No. Unity remains, even when there is real or perceived loss. We are conjoined to believe in the wholeness of our heritage, our tribe, and our laws.

As we grow in learning and interest in meanings below the surface of things, we are rewarded with understanding and appreciation of the complexity of our heritage. That is the adult prize of what is hidden in the napkin. (I love the recent custom initiated by Jim and Joel to hide the afikoman not in some dark cupboard in a far corner of the dining room, but in an agreed-upon place in their minds, which the children must intuit. Of

course it also helps us have a less-crazy post-dinner hour.)

We are living in ever-more-stressful times, particularly in a world of downward, painful economics. Often, things seem “broken.” Honoring the mitzvah to free ourselves from our own restrictions just as our ancestors freed themselves from the slavery foisted upon them in Egypt (how interesting that the Hebrew word for Egypt, Mitzraim, actually means “from tight spots, restricted spaces.”) is a challenge. Can we unlock ourselves from self-imposed slavery? Can we lead ourselves to freedom? Will a broken piece of matzoh somehow help us in our release to a higher, more meaningful life? It can if we remember that broken parts in our lives do exist in completion. The parts just need to be found. Just as God guided Moses, gave our people manna to eat in the mornings of our wanderings, and water in the desert to drink from Miriam’s well, we would be well-advised to trust in God the Provider.

We eat the afikomen, the last bit of food we are commanded to eat during the seder, without which the seder cannot be concluded. The children, satisfied with their prizes, have been involved with

the seder to the very end, whether they stole the matzoh or merely found it. Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author of encyclopedic volumes about Jewish history and custom, tells a story about a friend who once volunteered to conduct a seder inside an Israeli prison. “Everything was done according to Jewish law,” he said. “But,” as his friend told him later, “the warden did announce that the stealing of the afikomen would not be permitted.” Oh he of little faith. ♦



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Yom Ha'Atzma'ut

Israel's Independence Day this year falls on April 19th. It's an enduring miracle that, after two thousand years of prayer, next year in Jerusalem is now a reality every year. It also helps to understand big stories by considering smaller ones. Here are a couple for this year.

The War Before the War

Most of us know that the State of Israel was born on May 14, 1948. (As was our Medina, née Medina Kirschenbaum. On that same day Bernie Ginsberg celebrated his first birthday.) That was the day the British left. It

is also widely known that on the next day five Arab armies—from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, supported by irregulars from other Arab countries—invaded, intent on destroying the neonatal Jewish state quickly, with coordinated attacks from all directions except the sea. Many

believe this was the beginning of the fighting, and the War for Independence, but in reality it merely began phase two of the war. Fighting between Jews and Arabs already had been raging continuously for almost six months, ever since the November 29, 1947 Partition Resolution of the United Nations, as both sides prepared for the impending British departure. What follows is an abbreviated (though representative) history of the fighting even before the State of Israel was proclaimed:

Nov. 17, 1947: Golda Meir meets secretly with Transjordan's King Abdullah. Abdullah

asks that the coming Jewish state be part of Transjordan (which changed its name in 1949, by the way, after it had seized the West Bank and East Jerusalem). Golda says no.

Nov. 29, 1947: The U.N. votes to partition what's left of the British Mandate—Transjordan, occupying about 80 percent of historic Palestine, had been created by the British in 1922 to appease Arabs angry about

the beginnings of Zionist immigration—into Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem to be internationalized. Both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. support the resolution. All Arabs reject it.

Dec. 1-3, 1947: Arabs begin their blockade of Jerusalem, while in the city Arab resi-

dents riot.

Dec. 12, 1947: An Irgun bombing at the Damascus Gate kills 20 and wounds 50.

Dec. 15, 1947: Arabs cut water pipes to Jerusalem. Though pipes are repaired by the British, Jerusalem prepares for siege.

Dec. 30, 1947: Irgun bombs a crowd of Arabs outside the Haifa Oil Refinery. Six are killed. Arabs then storm the refinery; before the British can arrive, forty-one Jews are killed. The "Haifa Refinery Massacre" becomes a rallying cry for both sides.

Dec. 31, 1947: The Old City Jewish quar-



May 14, 1948: David Ben-Gurion proclaims the Jewish state.

ter is placed under siege. Palmach forces attack Balad as Sheikh in revenge for the Refinery killings.

Jan. 7, 1948: Irgun bombs an Arab crowd at Jaffa Gate stop of No. 3 bus. Arabs firing into Jerusalem kill four. Return fire kills five Arabs.

Jan. 14, 1948: A major attack of Arab irregulars on Gush Etzion, near Jerusalem, is beaten off, with up to 150 Arabs killed.

Feb. 1, 1948: Palestine Post is bombed by an SS-trained Arab explosives expert. Many are wounded. The paper puts out an edition at 6 a.m. the next day.

Feb. 14, 1948: A Haganah force raids Arab Sasa in the north, blowing up 35 houses and killing 60 Arabs.

Feb. 22, 1948: Ben Yehuda Street is bombed by the same group who bombed the Palestine Post. Up to 60 Jews are killed.

Mar. 10, 1948: Plan Daled is finalized. Originally conceived for when the British left, to defend Jewish areas of Palestine, its timetable is moved up because of the rapid worsening of the situation.

Mar. 26, 1948: A convoy gets through to Jerusalem, the last for two weeks. Residents line up for scarce water.

Apr. 2, 1948: In early phases of Operation Nachshon, the first Jewish brigade-sized operation, Haganah commandos blow up headquarters of Mufti Army commander; Haganah also attacks a key point in the Jerusalem blockade, but fails.

April 3, 1948: S. S. Nora docks, with 10,000 Czech rifles plus ammunition hidden in cargo. They are rushed to Haganah units preparing for Operation Nachshon and implementing Plan Daled.

April 9, 1948: Irgun and Lehi, Jewish underground groups, invade Arab village of Deir Yassin. Over 100 Arabs, mostly civilians, are killed. Despite vigorous Jewish claims that reports are grossly magnified and distorted, the event becomes known as the Deir Yassin Massacre.

April 13, 1948: In retaliation for Deir Yassin, Arabs attack a medical convoy en route to Hadassah Hospital. Among the 80 dead are doctors, nurses, patients, and the hospi-

tal's director.

April 20, 1948: Large convoy of 200 trucks to Jerusalem, including Ben Gurion and Rabin, is attacked and stopped. There are no further convoys until the "Burma Road" is opened.

May 7, 1948: Operation Maccabee begins, intended to secure the road to Jerusalem. The Arab Legion of Jordan begins to pour troops into the area. In constant battles over almost two weeks, Jews suffer over 150 casualties.

May 10, 1948: Kfar Darom in Gaza suffers a major artillery attack by the Muslim Brotherhood. In Operation Barak, also in Gaza, Arab villages are destroyed and a key bridge blown up to help deter an Egyptian invasion.

May 13, 1948: Jaffa surrenders to Haganah. Arabs massacre 129 Jewish defenders at Kfar Etzion, most after they had surrendered.

May 14, 1948: The remaining kibbutzim of Gush Etzion surrender to the Arabs. British High Commissioner leaves Palestine. That evening, in advance of the Sabbath, David Ben-Gurion, in the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, delivers the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel. (See text on next page.)

May 15, 1948: Armed with full caches of modern weapons and a huge numerical advantage, Arab armies invade day-old Israel from the north, east and south. ♦

Israeli Standard Time?

There's a well known story in Israel that Yardena heard often as a child. As you can imagine, the wording of the Proclamation of Independence was not accomplished easily. There were many drafts. Zeev Sharef, the Council Secretary, was finally ready to deliver the final draft at 3:40 p.m. on May 14th. But the ceremony was to begin at 4:00. So he asked a policeman for help. The first driver refused to take him, saying he had to get home to hear the address on the radio. They finally convinced the man there would be no address unless Sharef was driven to the hall. During the drive Sharef learned that the man did not have a valid driver's license. The sin was shrugged off, and Sharef bounded up the steps to the hall two minutes before 4:00.

*Excerpts from
The Declaration of the Establishment of the
State of Israel*

*Provisional Government of Israel
May 14, 1948*

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books. After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home...

...On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel... This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable. This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish Community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength

of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel...

...The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations...

...We appeal - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

We extend our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the provisional Council of State, on the soil of the Homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).

David Ben-Gurion

Daniel Auster Mordekhai Bentov Yitzchak Ben Zvi
Eliyahu Berligne Fritz Bernstein Rabbi Wolf Gold
Meir Grabovsky Yitzchak Gruenbaum Dr. Abraham
Granovsky Eliyahu Dobkin Meir Wilner-Kovner
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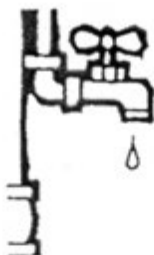
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May 2010

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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President's Message Alan Beth



This will go down for us as the best Passover ever! I need to give thanks to several people that were of tremendous and special help this year: to Joan Boruszak and Leslie Dillon, who arranged and prepared the community Seder, where each of us received a prepared plate and were served delicious food (really); to Jim and Gloria, who led the service, which was short, musical, light in humor and yet meaningful; to Yardena and Gloria for leading the children's service at the KJCC. We thank Joel Pollack for his many years of dedication leading prior Passover Seder services. He's earned his retirement, but we'll miss him.

Every year, a few days before Passover, we get several out-of-towners desperate for a Seder. I am so proud of Bill and Freda Ferns, who opened their home to anyone with no Seder to attend. Freda said she did not want anyone to be alone. Some of our KJCC members and all the out-of-towners attended Bill and Freda's Seder. Truly they embodied the Passover spirit, where we are obligated to open our door.

Judy and Frank Greenman, together with its minister, organized a community Seder at the Episcopal Church in Marathon. Pauline Roller, Candy and I represented the KJCC. We were warmly greeted by over a hundred of the local parishioners. The pastor in-

vited their community and ours to build stronger ties for the future. Which, of course, I would welcome.

Special thanks go to Beth Kaminstein, who again this year offered her house and studio prior to the KJCC Women's Seder, so those attending (over 50!) could create the plates and cups and bowls they would use at the Seder.

Last month also saw some emotional events. Judge Stanley Nason, who described himself as an "atheist Jew," passed away. At the end, though, he found G-d and asked that the Shema be read. We were visited on a Sunday evening by seven Holocaust survivors. This was an unplanned event, as they were heading to Marathon to speak at several schools the next day. At the last minute, we arranged for them to visit us and address our membership. They were supposed to stay only for one hour, but ended up staying for three, remembering and teaching.

Special thanks also go to Yardena, Medina, and Muriel, who spent many, many hours researching, creating and presenting our Yom HaShoah Holocaust remembrance.

*B'shalom...*Alan

May 2010

17 Iyar - 18 Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></div>					1
2 Lag Ba-Omer Sisterhood luncheon KJCC Board Meeting	3	4	5	6	7 Yardena Kamely & George Swartz <i>Joan & Harvey Kay</i>	8
9 Mothers Day	10	11	12 Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day)	13	14 Yardena Kamely & Steve Steinbock <i>Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg</i>	15
16	17	18 Shavuot Celebration 7:30 p.m. KJCC	19 First Day of Shavuot	20	21 Gloria Avner & Alan Beth <i>Medina Roy (Happy 95th, Bianka)</i> Yizkor service	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28 Gloria Avner & Cory Wasser 6:30 Service	29

Nosh

30th Gala DVDs available

DVDs from our 30th Gala celebration, with hundreds of photos shot by Richard Knowles, are now available from KJCC Sisterhood's Gift Shop, for the incredibly low price of \$20 each. (Thank you, Richard and Barbara.) Contact Joan Boruszak at joanborus@aol.com or 852-0833.

Got Ink?

I have two unopened HP ink cartridges: #96 (black) and #97 (tricolor), purchased for my HP 7210 all-in-one, but I no longer have this printer.

Will be happy to give them away as my new printer does not use these. Let me know if you can use them.

— Linda Pollack

Welcome Newest Member

The KJCC *Mishpocha* welcomes new member David Gitin of Key Largo, who chose love over Monterey, California. We think you made an excellent choice!

Yizkor Service This Month

Don't forget that Shavuot means the final Yizkor service for 5770, to be held on Friday, May 21st, at 8 p.m., led by Gloria and Alan.

Shavuot Celebration: Tuesday Night, May 18th, 7:30 p.m. at KJCC

Don't be caught sleeping when the Torah arrives. We've been wandering in the desert counting Omer for 49 days, and tonight's the night. Perform the *mitzvah* of listening to the Ten Commandments, hear "The Book of Ruth," discuss, learn, argue, watch a stimulating short film, eat (!), see the list of 613 *mitzvot*, be with your *mishpocha*, eat, hear the sound of the Shofar. It will be an evening of study and celebration (and *milchedikeh* treats like cheesecake and blintzes). What could be better?

May Birthdays

1st.....	Jonathan Schenker
2nd.....	Barney Coltman
3rd.....	Michael Solomon
4th.....	Pamela G. Marmar
4th.....	Ryan Curtis
5th.....	Richard Palacino
8th.....	Kelley Greenman
8th.....	Sidney Boruszak
9th.....	Reid Schur
9th.....	Rhett Curtis
11th.....	Sheila R. Steinberg
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th.....	Nyan Feder
12th.....	Robert Silk
13th.....	Rose Marie Gordon
14th.....	Bernie Ginsberg
14th.....	John Temkin
14th.....	Mark Burnett
14th.....	Medina Roy
15th.....	Paul R. Schur
17th.....	Alex Shatz
18th.....	Andrea P. Silverman
18th.....	Jaime Boruszak
19th.....	Jonathon Hodgson
19th.....	Shelby Strean
20th.....	Rita Williams
21st.....	Tracey Greenberg
22nd.....	Sharon Repka
23rd.....	Bianka Kirschenbaum
23rd.....	Jenny Margulies
23rd.....	Jules Seder
23rd.....	Nettie Seder
25th.....	Carolyn Kaufman
25th.....	Matthew Birnbaum
25th.....	Susan Schwaid
26th.....	Randy Robins
27th.....	Alan Beth
27th.....	Jeffrey Pollack
27th.....	Joan Boruszak
29th.....	Liati Mayk
29th.....	Nancy Zinner
29th.....	Robin Forman
30th.....	Julie Burnett
31st.....	Mark E. Silverman
31st.....	Robert Sherman
31st.....	Wes Conklin

Stanley Nason, R.I.P.

Judge Stanley H. Nason, May 5, 1919 - March 26, 2010. Earned his law degree from New York University. Lived and practiced law most of his life in New York. Preceded in death by his wife; three children; avid dancer and fisherman. Retired to Key Largo more than a dozen years ago, living in Silver Shores because he loved his "million dollar view." For years he swore in each year's Board and Officers for KJCC. The funeral service was officiated by Cantor Lisa Segal and attended by several neighbors from Key Largo. Phyllis Moffit, one of Stanley's caregivers over the last few years, spoke of his background and of his frequent visits to Harriette's Restaurant. "They always had his hot coffee on the table even before he sat down," she stated. "Stanley had a dry sense of humor, always telling the ladies in his family, 'Don't pick up any sailors!'"

-Stuart Sax

May Anniversaries

	Years
4th	Alan & Susan Cooper.....24
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz.....19
24th	Alfred & Sue Ann Wehl.....51
29th	Lawrence & Judith Weber.....48
30th	Harold & Shelley Schenker.....17

Oneg Sponsors for May 2010

May 7th—Joan & Harvey Kay in honor of Cele's Yahrzeit.

May 14th—Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg in celebration of their shared birthday.

May 21st—Medina Roy to celebrate the 95th birthday of her mom - Bianka Kirschenbaum.

Ongoing Projects and Programs of KJCC

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.

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YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Yom Yerushalayim: After 1,900 years, Jerusalem is Again a Jewish City

At the very end of the 1948 War of Independence, the Arab Legion of Jordan, under King Abdullah, seized the Old City of Jerusalem, or East Jerusalem, thereby dividing the city in two. Under Jordanian rule, there was no possibility of Jews reaching the Temple Mount or Western Wall, which lie within the Old City. The Jewish nation was detached from its heart.

Nineteen years after independence, the Six-Day War broke out on June 5th, 1967. Orders came down not to open fire in Jerusalem since Jordan, still controlling the Old City, had not joined the war. Under intense Arab pressure, King Hussein of Jordan changed his mind and decided to fight. With the situation changed, orders were given to recapture the Old City of Jerusalem.

The Liberation, a first-hand account

After surrounding the Old City, the paratrooper brigade received an order to capture it. They burst through Lion's Gate, one of the gates of the Old City, captured it and liberated the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

"...The clocks showed 10:12 in the morning, on 28 of Iyar, 5728. The half-tracks moved quickly forward. The commander of the paratroopers unit, Motta Gur, stood in line. In an emotional voice, and yet reserved as was his way, he announced over the communication equipment: 'Paratroopers. Today we are standing at the gates of the Old City that we have dreamed of for so long. Be proud of yourselves!' We all shivered. The order went out to move forward. The command half-tracks burst forth to cross Lion's

Gate, shattered earlier by our tank mortars. The sound of the impact was enormous and the gates trembled before the onslaught of the troops. We were inside. The rest of the troops burst through in the wake of the half-tracks. We reach the Omar mosque. From here until the Western Wall, the distance is short. With great emotion, the heart beats quickly. We were among the first to reach the small opening. From here, narrow and winding steps led us to the Western Wall, the *Kotel*. The Western Wall, the last remnant of the Temple, *Beit Hamikdash*. Jewish footsteps have not walked here for nineteen years. We are pushed forward by the stream of exultant



**Michal Kamely with son Uri at the Kotel
during their trip to Israel in 2007.**

soldiers...hundreds of dusty, sweaty soldiers, their clothing stained with blood...crowding into the narrow rectangular space in front of the Wall...tough men, who for two days have carried out heavy fighting, imprinted with blood...stood and cried out loud without embarrassment, a cry of release and emotion, a cry of spiritual elevation and a recognition of the greatness and eternity of the nation of Israel...."

(Excerpt from text by one of the soldiers)

Words to the liberators

On Monday, the fourth of Sivan, June 12, 1967, at the end of the War, the paratroopers brigade formed on the Temple Mount. Their commander, Motta Gur, spoke the following words, to them, to the world and to posterity:

"To the paratroopers, liberators of Jerusalem: when the Temple Mount was captured by the Greeks, it was liberated by the Maccabees; in the destruction of the Second Temple fought the zealots and Bar Kochba. Until you came—you the paratroopers—and returned it to the nation [of Israel]. The Western Wall, towards which every heart beats, is again in our hands. Many Jews put their lives in danger, throughout our long history, in order to reach Jerusalem and live in it. Numerous songs of yearning expressed the deep yearning that beats in the heart of every Jew for Jerusalem.... For me – my goal has been achieved. The Temple Mount is in our hands. The Temple Mount means also the Western Wall...The Temple Mount. Mount Moriah. Abraham and Isaac. The Temple. The zealots and the Maccabees, Bar Kochba, Romans and Greeks. Everything is mixed together in our thoughts. However, the *feelings* are stronger and deeper than anything. We are on the Temple Mount. The Temple Mount is ours!"

The liberation and reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 united more than the physical city itself. It united hearts and minds across the entire spectrum of the Jewish nation. From religious rabbis to secular poets; from old people who remembered touching the stones to young children who only had the memory of other people's memories...The liberation of the Old City, and particularly the Western Wall, carried immense implications for all.

The newest holiday on the Jewish calendar, Yom Yerushalayim—the liberation and unification of the city of Jerusalem, the spiritual heart of Judaism since King David made it his capital in 1,000 B.C.E., more than three thousand years ago—is celebrated on 28 Iyar, which this year is May 12. ◇

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- WEDDING GIFTS AND CARDS
- YARZEIT CANDLES-ELECTRIC AND NATURAL
- plus JEWELRY, MEZUZAHs, SEDER PLATES, MATZOH SWEEPERS,
- CHALLAH PLATES, CHALLAH KNIVES AND MORE

If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



Sisterhood's final meeting of this season on Sunday, May 2nd will not be held at the KJCC, but instead at Pilot House Restaurant, at 12:30. Sofy told them to set up for 25, so even if you've missed our regular meetings, we'd love to see you there. Instead of focusing on the business of the KJCC, we'll focus on lunch.

We can do that thanks to the work of Joan S. and Candy, and everyone who already signed up to help set up the Onegs on Friday night during the summer. If you will be around in the Keys from late June through October, please volunteer to help out for a couple of Friday nights. (Men are invited to help as well! After all, Marc Bloom provides essential energy to everything that goes on in the kitchen.) If that means you will attend Friday services several times more than you usually do, so much the better! Angela, who works the kitchen during the winter season, will have returned home. She's spoiled us all by setting up and cleaning up. So please, come to Friday services, then lend a hand and clear your table when you've done eating, drinking and socializing!

While we are on the topic of Friday nights, consider sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat during the summer. You can either send a check to Sisterhood for \$50, or pick up a bottle of Manischewitz, coffee creamer, some fruit and/or cake and a challah from Publix. Just let me know. I'll be coordinating the dates. My e-mail is joyce@adoctorsbag.com. My cell phone is 305-240-1000; home phone is 451-0665.

The KJCC Second Seder seems like a long time ago, but I did not have a chance to thank everyone who made it so memorable. Joan Boruszak (assisted by her able helper,

Jim) and Leslie Dillon put in long hours organizing and planning the event. The Seder itself was beautifully led by Jim and Gloria Avner. I was told that the food was absolutely delicious and the service excellent. The Passover Seder is a central part of the Jewish faith and tradition, and one of the keys to our existence as a people. To all who attended and to all who labored to make it possible, I wish continued blessings and "may we go from strength to strength."

Each May we celebrate Mothers' Day. I was thinking about the responsibilities undertaken by the mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, aunts and mentors in our community. We are responsible for the physical, educational and spiritual well-being of our charges. As I have become involved in the Upper Keys community, I am struck by how much the women (and men) of the KJCC have taken upon themselves the care and enrichment of the community at large. We are at the forefront and behind the lines of efforts at Mariner's Hospital, Voices for Florida Keys Children, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We have volunteers at the schools, the scouts, Keys for Peace, and Volunteers for Literacy Project. Cultural events presented here by ICE and the Upper Keys Concert Series are the direct result of efforts spearheaded by members of the Jewish community. Our involvement and concern extends beyond our own species to the Bird Sanctuary and local rescue shelters. So to all of us, young and older, who have reached out with love and energy to those around them, this mother wishes you flowers, a beautiful spring, and the gratitude you deserve. ♦

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

Holocaust Education Center
Goldfinger, David & Toby

In Honor of
Holocaust Survivors

Yartzeit Contributions

Elson, Barry
Elson, Neil
Graham, Bea
Rubin, Myron & Myrna
Sheinker, Miltra
Tallent, Ralph & Lillian

In Memory of
Saul and Selma Elson
Selma Greenspan
Marty Graham
Herman Rubin
Warren Sheinker
Ida Tallent

JNF Certificates Sent By
Cooper, Murray & Claire
Peine, Richard & Rachel

In Memory of
Philip Ross
George Britton

Meditation Garden
Barefoot, Rosemary

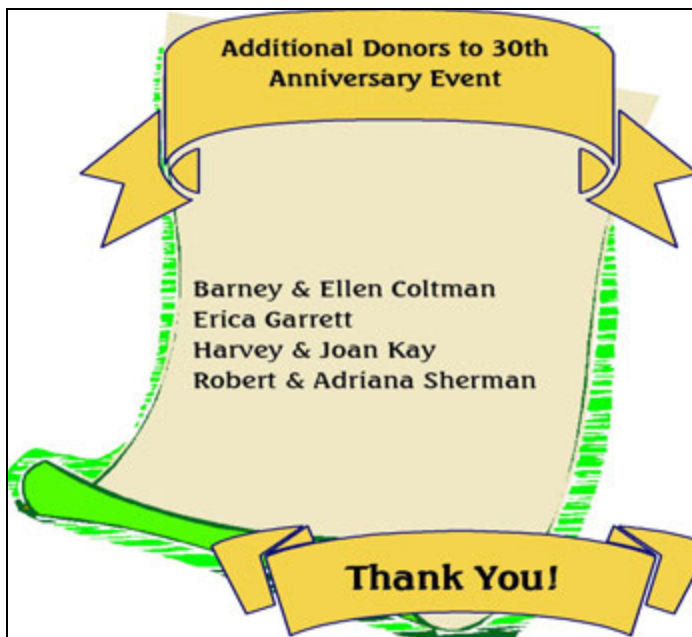
In Honor of
Steve Steinbock

30th Anniversary
Bernard, Edward & Diana
Coltman, Barney & Ellen
Garrett, Erica
Gould, Maryon
Kay, Harvey & Joan
Line, John & Arlene
Sherman, Robert & Adrianna

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves

Oneg Fund Sponsors
Silverman, Mort & Gene
Silverman, Mort & Gene
Ulpan Class

In Honor of
Anniversary
Gene's birthday
Morah Yardena



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



2010 Cholent Cook-Off

On March 11th, Yeshiva University's Weissberg Commons, in the Washington Heights section of New York City, played host to the 2010 Cholent Cook-Off. (Cholent is a robust type of stew created because religious Jews are not permitted to cook on the Sabbath. The dish is prepared in advance and can stay warm over night over a low flame.) Sixteen teams made up of 64 students from the men's undergraduate schools of Yeshiva College and the Sy Sims School of Business fought it out in a culinary battle to proclaim a true cholent champion. Among the contest judges were renowned kosher chef and best-selling author of *Kosher by Design* Susie Fishbein, TV personality and author Jeff Nathan, and president and publisher of *Great Kosher Restaurants Magazine*, Elan Kornblum. "One of the nice things about this year's contest is that we tied it with our food drive for the Upper Manhattan Food Pantry," said Jonathan Mantell, organizer of the event. After a three-way dead heat was announced, Yeshiva University's President Richard M. Joel was called in to break the tie. The results: Team Heerlijk, (Flemish for "delicious") was crowned cholent champion. Second and third prize went to teams Cholent Fulfillment and the Maccabeans.

(www.vosizneias.com, 3-12-10)

Two Jews on the Short List

Jewish representation on the Supreme Court could reach a historic high following the April 9th announcement that Justice John Paul Stevens plans to retire. Two candidates often mentioned to replace Stevens on the bench are Jewish: Solicitor General Elena Kagan and Judge Merrick Garland. Currently justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen

Breyer, two of the nine Supreme Court members, are Jewish. Kagan, 49, is the first woman to hold the office of U.S. Solicitor General, having been appointed to the position by President Obama. She is the former dean of Harvard Law School. Garland, 57, formerly a senior official with the Department of Justice, currently sits on the federal appeals court in Washington. In 1916, Louis Brandeis became the first Jew to serve on the Supreme Court. Since that time, six other Jewish justices have served. If either Kagan or Garland is chosen and confirmed, one-third of the court would be comprised of Jews, and, for the first time in the history of the United States, there would not be a single Protestant sitting on the nation's highest bench. (*The Forward*, 4-9-10)

Copy of Schindler's List for Sale

One of the remaining five copies of the famous "Schindler's List" has been put up for sale, with the asking price of 2.2 million dollars. "It is the only one [of the lists drawn up by Schindler himself] remaining in private hands," Gary Zimet, the New York-based seller of the document said. It contains details of 801 men, along with their occupations and birth dates. Schindler gave the Nazis up to ten different lists of names. Only four others are known to have survived. One is housed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., another at the German Federal Archive in Koblenz and two others at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Oskar Schindler, made famous by the book by Thomas Keneally and the subsequent movie by Steven Spielberg, died in 1974 at the age of 66. He is buried in Jerusalem and was

named a Righteous Gentile Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.
(*World Jewish Congress*, 3-25-10)

His Mameloshn is ASL

T. Alan Hurwitz, 68 and profoundly deaf, has become the 10th – and first Jewish – president of Gallaudet University, the renowned school for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Washington, D.C. Gallaudet, founded 146 years ago, has been “the seat of significant innovation in deaf education.” Hurwitz, who until recently was president of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York, was born profoundly deaf and grew up in Sioux City, Iowa using American Sign Language (ASL). His parents were also deaf. In recent years, significant advances have been made for deaf and hard-of-hearing Jews. Many rabbinical schools have yielded several deaf rabbis and more synagogues are providing interpreting services. Skokie, Illinois, the home to Congregation Bene Shalom, is geared toward deaf and hard-of-hearing Jews. (*The Forward*, 4-7-10)

Israel Knows the Laws of War

An Israeli team from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya recently beat out 44 universities to take first place in the 2010 Jean-Pictet Competition, a prestigious week-long competition on international humanitarian law. The event, held at the end of March in Quebec, Canada, matched up teams from universities around the world to test their knowledge in the field of international humanitarian law (IHL), commonly referred to as the “laws of war.” The four core principles of IHL are: distinction of soldiers from civilians; military necessity as a rule of evaluating targets; proportionality; and humanity to the enemy. In the competition, nations and continents are fictitious. The teams role-play as representatives from foreign affairs, military advocates or the Red Cross. They are questioned by judges and evaluated by a jury. One of the judges for the event was Philippe Kirsch, first president of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. The final round was held against New York University and the

University of Montreal.
(*The Jerusalem Post*, 4-8-10)

In Memoriam

Israel and the world Jewish community lost a friend when Lech Kaczynski, the President of Poland, along with his wife and 95 other people, were killed in a plane crash on April 10th. They were en route to Katyn in Russia to honor the 22,000 Polish officers killed there in 1940. “President Kaczynski and his wife did much to promote closer ties between the Polish and Jewish peoples, making a significant contribution to the healing process of the scars of the past and the building of a common better future,” said Israeli President Shimon Peres. “The State of Israel bows its head, as it partakes in the deep sorrow of the Polish people on the occasion of their dreadful loss.” Yad Vashem highlighted Kaczynski’s commitment to preserving the memory of the Holocaust. (*World Jewish Congress*, 4-12-10)

Professor Chanan Eshel, 52, a leading Second Temple historian and archaeologist who taught at Bar Ilan University, died of cancer in early April. He was an expert on Dead Sea archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls in particular. Among his discoveries was a fragment from Leviticus from the period of Bar Kokhba (2nd century C.E.). The fragment contained a passage that is read on Passover. “The findings show that most of the Jews who lived during the times of the Second Temple...observed the Torah’s commandments,” he once said. Eshel wrote five books, authored over 200 articles and headed the Land of Israel and Archaeology Department at Bar Ilan University from 2002 until 2004. He received research grants from Harvard, Oxford and Michigan University.
(www.israelnationalnews.com, 4-8-10)

Jewish Women Are on the Map

“On the Map,” a new virtual mapping project showing locations that are important in Jewish women’s history, is a new interactive tool that appears on the Jewish Women’s Archive (JWA) website and is supported by Google Maps. The site allows individuals to add information and photos about locations

and the women who are connected with them. Two weeks into the project, fifty locations of importance in Jewish women's history, from California to Austria, were added to the map. Gail Reimer, executive director of JWA, said, "We're exploring Jewish women's history in a new way." The map pinpoints places such as Galveston, Texas where Rosanna Dyer Osterman helped found the first Jewish community in Texas in the mid-19th century and aided Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. It also shows Maennerchor Hall in Philadelphia, where a spelling bee was held to raise funds for the first Hebrew Sunday school. The map will soon include *The Milky Way*, a deli run by Steven Spielberg's mother (milk with a hot pastrami sandwich? *Feh!*) (*The Forward*, 3-24-10)

Curious George Saves the Day

An exhibit of 80 original drawings and letters entitled "Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H.A. Rey," opened on March 14th at the Jewish Museum in New York. Curious George, the monkey created by the artist and author duo of the classic set of children's books, was originally known as Fifi when the couple lived in Paris in the 1930s. "George" quite literally saved the Jewish couple's escape from the Nazis, not just once but twice. In 1939, authorities suspected that their studio was a makeshift bomb factory. But in a search of the grounds, they found drawings of the mischievous monkey instead of bomb parts and did not arrest the Reys. A year later, the couple fled France by bicycle, taking with them sketches of the monkey. They used the drawings to prove their occupations when applying for American visas in New York, where they ultimately settled. (*The Forward*, 3-10-10)

"Kosher" Companies

The Ayalon Investment House, based in Ramat Gan, Israel, has started a new investment fund that promises to invest only in stocks issued by companies that adhere to *halacha* (Jewish law). The fund is supervised by a rabbi. The companies that will be included in the fund will be those that do not

operate on the Sabbath, do not sell food products made with milk and meat and do not collect direct interest from Jews; other *halachic* criteria will be applied as well. The fund will invest 75 percent of its assets in government-issued bonds and 20 percent in "kosher" private firms. Within its first week, the fund attracted close to 16 million dollars in investments.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-28-10)

And Robots Have No Eyes to Squirt...

The director of the Israel Cattle Growers Association has proposed a plan to use robots to milk cows and process the raw milk, thereby replacing foreign workers who are now the backbone of Israel's dairy industry. Israel's government is looking to reduce the number of foreign workers. The project would hopefully attract young people to the dairy industry, giving them the opportunity to work with high-tech equipment.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-4-10)

Did You Know...

-In early March, David Habibi, a Chabad 5th grader, beat out fifty other children to win the regional spelling bee in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The winning word: ephemeral. Habibi moves on to the national competition in Washington on May 31st. (www.jta.org, 3-11-10)

-The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on the Mall in Washington, D.C. welcomed its 30 millionth visitor the week of March 9th. The museum opened in April 1993. Its guests have included 8 million school children, 88 heads of state and some 3,500 foreign officials representing more than 130 countries. Admission to the museum is free. (www.jta.org, 3-11-10)

-According to the Western Wall Heritage Fund, over 600,000 people visited the Wall (in Hebrew called the Kotel) during the first three weeks of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which included the Passover holiday. The number represents the highest ever recorded for visitors to the site and is a dramatic increase in the number of visitors during Passover in recent years.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 4-6-10) ♦

Photo Gallery

At far right, the Board and volunteers of the Upper Keys Concert Series gather for a final photo at season's end. Looks suspiciously like a KJCC mini-meeting, no? Adjacent, the cast of this year's *Dancing With the Stars*, Keys version, managed and directed by KJCC's own Nancy Kluger.



It's never too early to begin promoting for next year. Below, Joyce and Mary Lee in the UKCS booth at Island Fest.



On March 19 Lauren and I welcomed the birth of our first grandchild, who arrived at St Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach. Liam Jacob Sax weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measured 20 inches. He is the son of Jeremy and Kristin and brother to doggies Zeke and Sadie. Grandpa is looking forward to taking his grandson swimming and kayaking; Grandma is looking forward to spoiling him rotten and then sending him home!
-Stuart Sax



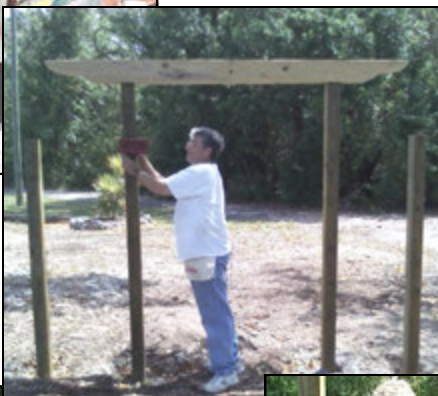
At right, back home in the Keys after seeing *Miss Saigon* in Miami, in a setting slightly more idyllic than Saigon in 1975. Carol took the picture.



For art students, Gloria's classes are among the highlights of high season. (She paints, she draws, she sings, her poetry wins awards: the girl's a virtual one-woman W.P.A., not to mention a proud Arbiter Ring alumna.) At right and below are scenes from a class at the Rain Barrel.



Steve and Candy, with a little supervisory help from Joel Pollock, create below the framework for the soon-to-be Meditation Garden of KJCC. The ground has been cleared (as you pull into the parking lot, notice that the huge stump and thorny plant are gone.) Plans, not yet finalized, include walkways, benches and all-native plants.



Yom HaShoah

On two very special Sundays, KJCC honored the memory and the meaning of The Holocaust. Plus, the cherished survivor that lives at KJCC.

The Living and the Dead: Remembering, in our own KJCC Sanctuary

Like most synagogues, we take *Yom HaShoah*, and our obligation to remember, seriously. The last few years, under Yarden's Kamely's capable and impassioned direction, we have created impressive visual exhibits that are both educational and moving. We share them with the community. We pay for a bus to take Monroe County youth to the Holocaust Museum in Miami, where the students hear the true stories from the survivors themselves. This year the



The Holocaust survivors who visited us pose in the KJCC sanctuary. That's David holding our KJCC Holocaust Torah.

We were privileged to be among their "students."

Five people came to us. Four had spent key parts of their lives in concentration camps. Now in their 80s, all were youngsters living normal lives when they and their families were stripped of possessions, taken prisoner, and reduced to the status of a blue number tattooed on the wrist.

The devil, as well as enlightenment, is in the details. To hear firsthand the calmly spoken, step-by-step accounts of the road from free citizen/carefree child to the horror of family separation, physical deprivation, humiliation, and torture, is to step into another world, an impossible, inconceivable world. As they spoke, so gently and heartfully, occasionally an emotional tremor came



survivors came to the students, stopping at every school along the Keys. They also stopped at the KJCC.





Joe and David tell their stories. For many years they wouldn't.



through, occasionally a smile. They spoke of meanness beyond the pale from fellow citizens and they spoke of acts of great kindness. These people

are dedicated to telling their truth. They do it with such gracious, humble authority, that the truth, ugly as it is, shines out from them in testament to their humanity and courage. They were our living exhibit that night. They were our animate Holocaust Torahs. We could listen to them, ask them questions, get them water, share some food, some talk and huge respect. It was a deeply moving evening and all fortunate enough to be there were grateful for the privilege.

A week later we observed the actual day with our own *Yom HaShoah* memorial service, with songs sung by Yardena and Gloria, with readings by Muriel, Medina, Alan and Sam, with a *Yizkor* ceremony, and the showing of an excellent documentary. We can say with confidence that those members of the KJCC and our larger community who were able to participate in either or both of our two *Yom HaShoah* events, performed the *mitzvah* well: ***Never forget.***

-Gloria

The Story of KJCC's Holocaust Torah

by Steve Smith

In 1941 Bohemia and Moravia were under the rule of Reinhard Heydrich, the head of Hitler's Secret Police and the man who originated the "Final Solution." (And who was assassinated the following year, widely believed by Jews, by a bomb thrown into his moving car.) Heydrich ordered the confiscation of all Jewish libraries, artifacts and religious articles and personal items. He created the "Central Jewish Museum" whose charter announced, "the numerous, scattered Jewish possessions of both historic and artistic value of the entire protectorate must be collected and stored." This included all synagogue-related items. The Nazis felt that after the Final Solution was completed, this massive collection, which filled eight synagogues and fifty warehouses, would allow a permanent exhibition showing relics of an extinct culture and religion.

After the war, the Central Jewish Museum was turned over to Prague's Jewish Community Council. By 1949 it was obvious that this group didn't have the manpower or financial resources to survive. The Museum was turned over to the Czech government, which established the State Jewish Museum. The collection of *Sifrei* Torahs

remained an embarrassment to them because they could not be displayed effectively as museum exhibits. It was also realized that these

Keeping a KJCC Promise

To keep a promise made upon accepting this Torah, we rise at the end of every KJCC service, open the Ark to expose our treasured Holocaust Torah, and say a final Mourner's Kaddish to honor all the victims of Susice and any others from World War II who might not have had anyone to properly mourn them. It is one way we at KJCC help to perform the solemn and sacred duty of *l'izkor*—to remember.

items would deteriorate further if not properly cared for. This realization allowed the Westminster Synagogue to obtain the scrolls with the help of a private art dealer who had connections in the Czech government.

In 1964, 1,564 scrolls arrived at the Westminster Synagogue and their newly established Czech Memorial Scroll Centre. Many had blood-stains, water damage and fire damage, and were wrapped in personal clothing or *Tallit*. A team of five student scribes examined all the scrolls, and each was classified as to details of its condition, place of origin, date of writing and repairs that would be required. Those that were repairable were worked on by a scribe, David Brand, who spent the rest of his career working on those that could be made usable either as Kosher or commemorative scrolls.

Many of these repaired scrolls were placed on permanent loan to congregations around the world, including the Keys Jewish Community Center, which now cares for Scroll 418, originally from Susice, Czechoslovakia.

Susice is located 115 km SSW of Prague in the province of Bohemia, in today's Czech Republic. The first Jewish settlement was recorded in 1562. The first official Jewish prayer room was established in 1659, which was destroyed by fire in 1709 and rebuilt in 1710. Services were held there until 1859, when a newer, larger Synagogue was built, where services were held until World War II. It was in this building that Scroll number 418



was used after it was written in the late nineteenth century, making it approximately 120-135 years old. In 1860 there had been 300 Jews in Susice; by

1930 the Jewish population had shrunk to 112. After the war the synagogue was never used again for prayer and was demolished in 1964.

Scroll 418 arrived at the Miami Airport on September 8, 1983. KJCC's president at the time was Ron Horn. The whole process had begun with a

letter from KJCC member Gus Zeldich to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre. His letter was answered by Ruth Shaffer, the Joint Chairman and Trustee of the Memorial Scrolls Trust of Westminster Synagogue. It was she who ultimately arranged the transfer of Scroll 418 to us. Initially we had been told that no more Kosher scrolls were available. But then Joel Cohen got involved, some contributions got made to the Czech Memo-

KJCC's Yom HaShoah service on April 11th. David Goldfinger holds our Holocaust Torah. Medina, Yardena and Muriel, our Holocaust Committee, stand before this year's lobby display.

rial Scrolls Centre, and our Torah was delivered. We even had a scribe visit soon after, spend a day correcting imperfections in the scroll, and declare it Kosher. This was all paid for by a fund-raising drive instituted by Ron Horn. ♦

Steve Smith was originally scheduled to read these words aloud at Yardena's Yom HaShoah service, but a flat tire kept him away. We happily reproduce his notes here. – Ed.



Survey Says!

Rather than just publish the dry results from the recent survey of the KJCC membership, we asked Alan to write an intro and short summation and to place the survey in context. That follows below. The survey results themselves appear on the following two pages.

You remember a few months ago we sent out a survey to all of our members. The questions came from various committees (Ritual, Membership, Communication, etc.) and of course from me. We placed the survey in Chai-Lights and I twice e-mailed it to every KJCC member. I wanted to get honest feedback from as many people as possible.

We received 65 responses. This represented a 42 percent response rate, very high for such things. Responses to each question were optional. For example, several from out-of-town said they did not attend High Holiday services – so those questions were not answered. But they did answer others. We counted all the responses and tallied them into a spreadsheet. Looking at the chart, you will see the maximum responses for any one question was 52. And the least was 7.

Lets take, for example, the first question: *How satisfied are you with Friday night services?* We had 47 responses to this question. Of those, two said they were somewhat or extremely dissatisfied. Of the same 47, 45 said they were satisfied or higher. We summed these into basically two columns and came up with a 98 percent satisfied and higher vs. 2 percent unsatisfied.

Only one question – *How satisfied are you with the content and presentation of Chai-Lights?* – generated a 100 percent response. Of the 52 responses, all said satisfied or higher – a 100 percent approval rating for Chai Lights.

We have addressed and will continue to address the questions dealing with rabbis and education. We have had two rabbis visit us, one who led Friday services. In the last few months we have hosted outside guest

lecturers. Also, Yardena, Gloria and Bernie are giving us education classes.

Overall, the responses to this survey were very interesting and informative. I especially enjoyed reading all of the feedback from the free-form questions we asked. Some of it was complimentary and some of it was not. The questions that raised the most controversy dealt with the High Holidays. This will be discussed in the next few months prior to Rosh Hashanah.

The two fill-in questions at the end addressed how you, our members, feel about the KJCC generally:

Question 1: *What I like **least** about the KJCC.* Most of the responses were left blank, with a few writing “no comment” or “nothing.”

Question 2: *What I like **most** about the KJCC.* Nearly everyone responded with (an actual selection of the words used): Warmth, Friendship, Openness, Welcoming, Home, Mishpocha.

Anyone who wishes to examine the personalized responses to some survey questions, please contact me and we’ll arrange it. On that note: As I am sure you know by now, I encourage an open-door policy, on this as well as all other KJCC matters. If you ever want to bring something to my attention, then call, e-mail or send me a note. E-mail is my preference; you can reach me at president@keysjewishcenter.com.

KJCC continues to grow, and more activities and services are offered than ever. I think we’re all proud of this, but it’s also vital that members stay in touch and tell us what they’re thinking. This survey has been a part of that process.

-Alan

KJCC Survey Results Summary 2009

Questions

Questions	Total Responses	Yes	NO	Extre Dissa
a. How satisfied are you with Friday night services?	47			
b. How satisfied are you with the way we communicate our message	52			
c. How satisfied are you with the content and presentation of Chai-Lights?	52			
d. If Saturday morning services were offered would you attend? Y/N ?	50	17	33	--
e. How satisfied are you that we are an unaffiliated synagogue?	50			
f. Would you like KJCC to hire a part- time rabbi or student rabbi to come occasionally? Y/N ?	48	33	15	--
g. Are there additional educational classes or lectures you would like to see offered? Y/N ?	33	20	13	--
High Holiday Q.'s				--
a. Were you aware of Tashlich/Havdalah services at Ocean Point? Yes / No?	40	35	5	--
c. Would you volunteer to help with Children's services on Rosh Hashanah? Y/N?	38	8	30	--
d. How satisfied are you with the practice of reading names aloud during Yom Kippur Yizkor service?	39			
e. How satisfied generally were you with the High Holiday services?	41			
f. Do you believe we need a rabbi to officiate the High Holiday services? Y/N?	42	10	32	--
If you answered Yes: Would you contribute to the additional cost? Y/N?	7	7		--

Extremely Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied.	Summary		
1	2	3	4	5	% Satisfied and Higher	% <i>Not Satisfied</i>	
1	1	11	13	21	96%	4%	
	1	1	3	47	98%	2%	
		3	4	45	100%	0%	
--	--	--	--	--			
1	3	6	5	35	92%	8%	
--	--	--	--	--			
--	--	--	--	--			
--	--	--	--	--			
--	--	--	--	--			
7	6	6	4	16	67%	33%	
1	2	9	11	18	93%	7%	
--	--	--	--	--			
--	--	--	--	--			

-This Month in Jewish History-

May

1096 – On his way to join the Crusade led by Peter the Hermit, Emico, the Count of Leiningen, attacks the synagogue at Speyer, on the Rhine in southwestern Germany just south of Worms. The Jews defend themselves but are systematically slain. This begins a period of more frequent and organized attacks on Jews in Europe.

1103 – The anniversary of the death of Isaac Alfasi (Fez, born 1013) also known as the "RIF," who compiled the first codification of Jewish law, called Sefer Halachot, which still appears today in every volume of the Talmud. Joseph Caro later used Sefer Halachot as a basis for his work.

1160 – Bishop William of Bezier, France, is appalled by the custom of beating Jews during Palm Sunday, and issues an order excommunicating priests who do so. His act of tolerance does not become a trend.

1171 – The first ritual murder accusation in Europe occurs in Blois, France. Fifty-one Jews are burned, seventeen of them women. While burning to death, they chant the hymn Alenu, which had been composed in Talmudic times.

1267 – The city council of Vienna decides to force all Jews to wear a cone-shaped head-dress in addition to the badge. Called the Pileum cornutum, it is prevalent in many medieval woodcuts illustrating Jews.

1291 – After a two-month siege, the Christian fortress at Acre (just north of modern Haifa) falls to the Fatimid Egyptians, bringing a final end to the Crusades. (Six of them over a period of almost two hundred years.)

1415 – Enraged by the lack of voluntary conversions after the Christian "victory" at the Tortosa disputation in Aragon, Spain—one of

the most famous Christian/Jewish debates—Pope Benedict XIII bans Talmudic study in any form, institutes forced Christian sermons, and tries to restrict Jewish life completely.

1420 – Albert V of Austria accuses a rich Jew, Israel of Enns, of purchasing a wafer in order to desecrate it. All the Jews in the territory are jailed.

1554 – Pope Julius III agrees to allow the burning of the Talmud, but after an appeal by Jews in Catholic countries spares "harmless rabbinical writings."

1861 – David Camden De Leon, a Jew known as the "Fighting Doctor," is appointed as first surgeon general of the Confederate Army.

1882 – Tsar Alexander III issues the May Laws, designed to "cause one-third of the Jews to emigrate, one-third to accept Baptism and one-third to starve." Jews are banished from all rural areas and towns of less than ten thousand people, even within the Pale of Settlement. The laws remain in quasi-effect until 1914 and provide impetus for mass migration to America as well as heightened interest in the settlement of Eretz-Israel.

1934 – The district of Birobidzhan, in the far southeast of the Soviet Union on the northern border of Manchuria, is established as a Jewish Autonomous Region. It is to cover an area of 36,000 square kilometers, with Yiddish as its official language. Within two years the Stalin government has a change of heart, as its infamous 1936 purges begin, and many Jewish socialist leaders are liquidated. After World War II, attempts are made to revive Birobidzhan, with Yiddish culture but without Judaism, as the Soviets do not allow religion. All attempts fail miserably, but soon a real Jewish country miraculously appears. ◇

SHAVUOT:

Omer Counting, the 49-Day Walk to Sinai, and Polishing Our “Rocks” to be Worthy of Torah

by Gloria Avner

An old friend of mine, now the synagogue’s as well, gifted me with a small book three years ago, a spiritual guide that forever transformed my view of *Shavuot*. It is called “Counting the Omer: Forty-nine Steps to Personal Refinement According to the Jewish Tradition,” written by Rabbi Simon Jacobsen. Say thank you to Chaim the next time he visits. Ritual Committee bought several books and they are available in the office for your perusal. The counting of *omer* is about more than barrels of barley.

There is a teaching that our centuries of slavery in Egypt degraded us to such a degree that had we sunk one more level, we could never have recovered. We could never have become worthy of receiving the Torah, the precepts upon which our life as a people is built. The process of receiving the Torah—“instruction”—actually begins 49 days prior to the moment at Sinai, the period traditionally called “Sefirat Ha’Omer,” the Counting of the Omer.

Ancient Israel’s economy was based primarily on agriculture. On a purely physical level, the “waves” of grain were offered up every day from

Passover to Shavuot as sacrifices in the Temple. But is that the whole story? Of course it isn’t. We are talking about Judaism. We take the physical and through it reveal the metaphysical, unearthing ever-deeper layers of meaning.

Though *omer* is the proper name of a dry measure, similar to a barrel or basket by which grain was measured, the specific word in Hebrew for measure is *mida* (plural: *midot*), the same word used to describe personal character traits or emotional attributes. Isn’t our language wonderful?

The word *s’fira* (plural: *s’firot*) also has two meanings. We are familiar with the “counting” definition, but listen to what the 16th century Kabbalist RaMaK said: “*Sefirah* means both ‘mispar,’ or number, and ‘sipur,’ as in storytelling. A third root is ‘safir,’ or sapphire, a brightly shining translucent crystal. By this root/route, we come to the meaning of ‘emanation,’ light from a source of illumination.”

According to our little booklet, “counting *sefirot* illuminates the different aspects of our emotional lives. The days of *sefirah* tell us a story—the story of our

Lag B’Omer: Insights Into the 33rd Day

As we count each day, let’s not forget that *Shavuot*, this seven times seven series of days for serious introspection, is meant to be both sad and difficult. It is only on the thirty-third day of counting, on “Lag b’Omer,” that we get momentary relief. One may at last get married, have a haircut, wear new clothes, put on perfume, and engage in a whole host of pleasurable activities.

Then there is the story of Rabbi Akiba’s 12,000 young pairs of scholars struck down by the plague, a tragedy beyond measure said to have been related to lack of mutual respect and inappropriate ego struggles. The students stopped dying on *Lag b’Omer*, and we are to rejoice, go outside, have picnics, and shoot bows and arrows. It is also said that at this time the great work of transcribing the mystic oral tradition of the *Zohar* was completed by Shimon Ben Yochai after 13 years in exile, doing his great work while hiding from the Romans in a cave. His followers said great lights shot out of his eyes as he completed his work. Huge bonfires are lit all over Israel to commemorate his life on the day of his death, *Lag B’Omer*. How easily the light of that knowledge could have disappeared. So many lessons, so little time and space. Read last year’s *Shavuot* issue if you are intrigued. There is always more, much more.

souls. The spectrum of human experience divides into seven emotions and qualities, known in plural as *sefirot*. Each of these in turn divides into seven again, making a total of forty-nine."

Here is a very basic description of the seven emotional attributes:

Chesed: Lovingkindness, benevolence;

Gevurah: Justice, discipline, restraint, awe;

Tiferet: Beauty and harmony; compassion;

Netzach: Endurance; fortitude, ambition;

Hod: Humility, splendor;

Yesod: Bonding, foundation;

Malchut: Mobility, sovereignty, leadership (feminine aspect).

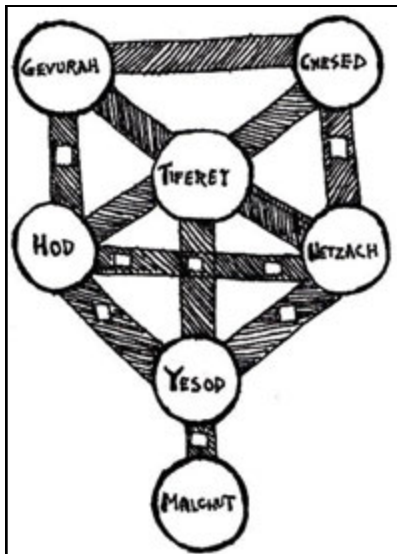
Each person when created is given a certain measure of each attribute, which determines the person's particular personality. It is his or her spiritual work to refine these *mi-dot/sefirot*.

Each week is represented by a specific attribute, and each day of the week is represented by an aspect of that attribute. Imagine a grid, with each of the attributes standing for one week along the left hand side. Then imagine seven columns that represent days, again with each of the *sefirot* listed at the top. We begin to make a repair by focusing on the interaction of two attributes every day. There are forty-nine squares. On the first day, for example, we would focus on *chesed b'chesed*—lovingkindness in lovingkindness. On Day Two of Week One, we focus on *g'vura she'b'chesed*—the aspect of restraint in lovingkindness. On Day three of Week One, the focus is *tiferet she'b'chesed*—harmony in lovingkindness. On we go for seven weeks.

In consciously counting the *Omer*, we take opportunity to focus on one aspect of personality and character on every one of our 49 days' walk toward Mt. Sinai and the Torah. We repair ourselves one trait at a time. We

polish our facets as if we were the gem, the brilliant sapphire.

Spiritually and emotionally uplifted, we can then receive the Torah properly, as much more than a legal and historic document. Torah becomes a resource guide not just to behavior in daily life but to attaining higher and deeper spiritual connection to our source.



Let's take advantage of these days of counting. They come to a close on Tuesday, the 18th of May. We will have completed our 49 days of wandering and introspection. Our feet may be tired but we must keep our minds alert. We do not want to be caught, as some were in the desert, sleeping when the Torah is given to us. The mystical tradi-

tion, begun in S'fat in the 16th century, says we are to stay up studying Torah all night. We call it "*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*" (repair on the night of Shavuot). We can keep the shul open as long as students wish to study. If we could break last year's record of active studying and enjoyment beyond 10 p.m., it would be lovely. Maybe we could reach midnight. Our goal as we prepare to receive the Torah is to achieve unity of purpose and communal harmony.

Come to KJCC on the 18th and celebrate *Shavuot* with *mishpocha*. We will listen to the Shofar, read commandments from the Torah, do the customary reading of the "Book of Ruth," and watch stimulating films. Bernie Ginsberg will lead our first Torah discussion group.

So come. Receive. Study. Enjoy marvelous food of the dairy realm. We are hoping for Muriel's blintz casserole (or is it a soufflé?) and myriad other goodies. Discuss. Learn. Argue. *Fress*. Complete more *mitzvot* than you thought possible, and complete yet another significant cycle and high point of our culture. ◇

A Surfeit of Seder Riches

A report, in text and photos, on the three KJCC seders for Passover 5770.

by Gloria Avner

Can there possibly be too much of a good thing, especially if the good thing is satisfaction of a commandment? I suspect the answer is no, even when one feels her own shape morphing into something akin to a matzoh ball. I had the fortune to attend four Passover *seders* in nine days this year and heard great stories of at least three more in our very own 'hood.



The Women's Seder

The Women's Seder led the

way, a largest, best-ever event, if the plethora of e-mail comments and congratulations are to be believed. There is something undefinably special about this ceremonial evening, the singing, the poetry, the storytelling, the seamless shifting from world repair *tikkun olam* motivation to preparation of one's best recipes and bonding through shared creation of covered vessels in



Preparation for the Women's Seder always begins, at top, in Beth Kaminstein's pottery studio.



Beth's magical pottery studio. It makes 53 women, ages 21 to 95, Jewish and non-Jewish, into a family, a microcosm of creativity, sharing, and heartfull social action in the world.

We adored honoring Linda Pollack and hearing the stories of how she came to be the woman so important to our community. We learned from honoring Henrietta Szold, the Founder of Hadassah, how much our two honorees had in common, both of them

skilled in financial management and both having passionate commitment to their community's betterment (only young Linda, however, had the honor of disappointing Playboy readers by turning down their offer to pose as a centerfold).

Next year there will be something new, a tablecloth with all the women's names written in paint on colorful scraps of memory-



Old, young, regulars, occasionals, newbies, mostly Jewish but not all, they, too, were once slaves in Egypt.

laden fabric. This was our seventh seder, our Shabbat year. One would think we might rest. Instead we cooked and sang and celebrated

freedom. Then we donated our *tikkun olam* proceeds to the KJCC Scholarship Fund, the Food Bank



next door, and the Women and Children's Shelter. The other "proceeds," the deepening bond among those attending, remains the gift that keeps on giving. ♦



Our sincere thanks to Candy Stanlake, who shot most of the photos of the Women's Seder.



"A most thrilling and very moving and memorable sound was hearing 54 women, chanting the four questions in unison."

Elinor Grossman

Linda Pollack:



Woman of the Year

by Gene Silverman

When asking people for their thoughts regarding Linda, there was one word that almost everyone used and that was mentor.

But Linda is much more than just a mentor.

Born April 29, 1941, the youngest of three daughters to accountants – yes, both of her parents also counted numbers. She went on to gather many degrees from the University of Miami, University of Maryland and Miami-Dade.

She met her husband Joel while she was working at Jackson Memorial Hospital where he was a resident. She supported their family while her husband was a struggling resident, having her own business as a pension plan administrator.

Oh yes – do you know that our respected Linda was also asked to pose for Playboy while she was working there? (*She didn't do*

it. Don't ask. There aren't any pictures-Ed.)

After a brief courtship of six weeks she and Dr. Joel were married on Feb. 11, 1962 and spent their honeymoon at the Yankee training center in Ft. Lauderdale.

That was to become quite a habit – sports.

Their first son, Jeff, was born in 1963 with brother Roy to follow in 1965, with both being born, of course, at Jackson. So now, with three men in her house, she became a life-long sports fan.

She never missed a performance of her sons whether on the playing field or playing in a concert. She was the scorekeeper for their teams, was on the Palmetto High School Booster Club, became an excellent bowler herself—winning many trophies and awards—was active in the P.T.A. and, of course, served as treasurer.

And now, with words from her friends and family to describe her, they say she is: shy, bright, dedicated, compassionate, patient, a great teacher, trustworthy, humorous, naughty, super grandmother, caring and lov-

ing wife, advisor, guide, gracious, wonderful, humble, sweet smile, kindness to all, positive...and the most important, a fantastic mah jongg player.

She is the “beating heart” of the KJCC, always gracious and everlastingly positive and a great friend who knows how to keep a secret and also happens to be wonderful to travel with. ♦





asked the four questions with an extra jazzy kick supplied by Zach Schrader-Grace and Lili Werthamer. Joel Pollack sat in the place of our elder, the grandfather helping to tell the story meaningfully. Jules and



Nettie Seder represented the congregation (and won our hearts and stomachs with matzoh bark), Marc Bloom, Jane Friedman, and Paul Bernstein represented our childrens' parents, and our newest Temple member, David Gitin, took photo-



graphs. It was a perfect dress rehearsal for what would follow on the next two nights, and yet was a complete, wonderful ritual in its own right (rite?). Particularly lively was the singing of "Dayenu" and the ritual "whipping" of parents, students, and teachers Yardena



and Gloria amidst much giggling, with the long green ends of scallions. Hannah Werthamer, Joshua Bernstein, Max Schrader-Grace, and Harry Friedman did a fine job of reading to us in Hebrew about the four sons, and all the children, including our newest and youngest Natalie Werthamer, gave the story-singing their all. Moira found the *afikomen*. We did our duty. (And going beyond the call of duty that very same night, Alan Beth, Candy Stan-

KJCC Religious School Seder

The Children's Seder came next. The table and seder plates were artfully arranged, pots of matzoh ball soup made by Moira and Barbara Knowles waited temptingly, and the matzoh, thanks to a donation from Freda Ferns, was authentic Israeli "schmeer." Our children

Joyce's oldest son, Daniel, keeps glatt Kosher in his Denver home. So, for those of you who've never seen it before, here's what burning of the chometz looks like.

KJCC Community Seder



At a first-night seder, David braces Gloria while she cups the annual first-night full moon. Many other first-night seders took place, including the one given by Bill and Freda Ferns, where they invited all out-of-towners or KJCC members with no seder to attend.

lake, and Pauline Roller attended yet another *seder* held at a church in Marathon, organized by Judy Greenman--a remarkable interfaith event that even more of us might want to attend next year).

In *grand finale* fashion, just under 100 people gathered at the Islamorada Fishing Club for the second seder, dubbed "best ever" by satisfied participants. Good food (a miracle of intervention arranged by Joan and Jim Boruszak and Leslie Dillon when the club's



Our great thanks to Barbara Knowles, who took all the 2nd Seder photos on this and the next two pages.

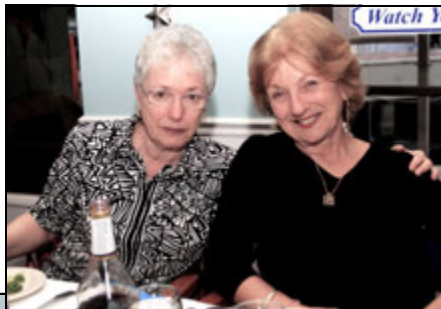


chef quit a week before seder time and his replacement had never made a matzoh ball in his life), accomplished leadership under the experienced hand of Jim Boruszak, assisted by Yours Truly (accompanied by my proud

May we be worthy of receiving the Torah. (Aaah, Jewish ritual, it's such a cycle—never over, not even when the fat lady, or the matzoh-ball-filled-one, sings). ◇



and happy mother, Bea), and tuneful asking of the four questions by Cammie Jayne Berk and



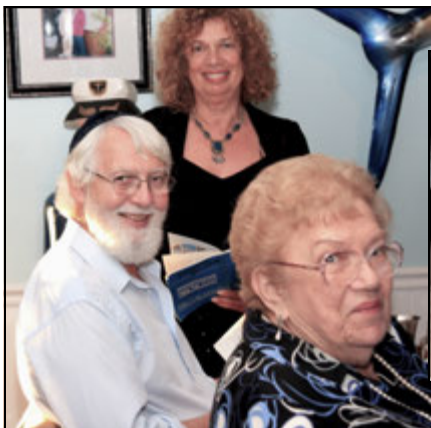
Joshua Bernstein, made the event a multi-level success. The pictures speak for themselves. If Hag-gaddah means "the telling," and we are commanded to do that re-telling, we definitely fulfilled that *mitzvah* this year.

May we continue to move out of our "tight, restricted places." (*Mitzraim*/Egypt) and move onward, counting *Omer*, examining and refining our own behaviors and attitudes for 49 days. Yes, already we're getting ready for Shavuot.



At the head table: Alan and Candy, Jim and Joan, Gloria and David, and Gloria's mom Bea.





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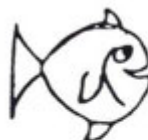
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Chai~Lights



June/July 2010

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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Keys Jewish Community Center
P.O. Box 1332
Tavernier, Florida 33070
chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Alan Beth



This summer marks the end of another successful educational year for our young KJCC students and our not-so-young students! We thank our teachers and students. We also congratulate those graduating from high school and college. Several of our college students are receiving scholarship money from the KJCC to help them continue their studies.

Many thanks to Gloria for planning and Bernie for leading the Shavuot study sessions. I look forward to congratulating Max Schrader-Grace at his June 5th Bar Mitzvah. We have another big celebration coming up, too. One of our founding members, Pauline Roller, will achieve her 95th birthday on July 4th. We will combine that celebration with our annual BBQ on July 2nd.

The past six months have just flown by. We have had so much activity at the KJCC: Yiddishkeit nights, lectures, guest speakers, Holocaust survivors, Rabbi's visits, dinner events, 30th anniversary gala, Havdalah evenings, religious classes and our weekly services and oneqs.

All of these events were educational and a lot of fun, but came at a cost. We have been providing these programs at no charge. This is a tough year, but during hard times we still need money to

operate. Many of you have been very generous with your time and donations this year. Remember that the KJCC needs not only your annual dues but also your donations. Dues, in fact, cover only 40 percent of our operating budget. Dues notices will be going out very soon. Please be as generous with extra contributions as you can. Those contributions are the reason we can keep our dues so low.

I am thrilled to announce that our Meditation Garden is starting to take fruition. Literally we are planting a seed that will grow into something wonderful. The end result will be a gorgeous garden with native plants and benches. Now, we need a commitment from you to purchase an engraved brick at the Garden's entrance. We have deliberately priced the bricks to make them affordable. This is a wonderful way to both support the KJCC and also honor a loved one, cause, or blessed memory.

My congratulations to Linda Pollack, KJCC's Woman of the Year. I am honored to count Linda as my friend, counselor and mentor. Thanks, Linda, for all your help and congratulations again on a truly well-deserved honor.

My family and I wish you a healthy and happy summer. ♦

June 2010

19 Sivan - 18 Tammuz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Joyce Peckman	5 Max Schrader-Grace Bar Mitzvah at KJCC—4:00
6	7	8	9	10	11 Jim Boruszak	12
13 Board Meeting Blood Drive At KJCC	14	15	16	17	18 Bernie Ginsberg	19
20 Father's Day	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	24	25 Stuart Sax 6:30 Service	26
27	28	29	30	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services.</div>		

Nosh

See you in September

With this issue, Chai-Lights goes to its summer schedule. This is a combined June/July/August issue. The next issue will be September, to arrive in late August in preparation for the High Holy Days, which begin in early September. Please continue to send us your news and photos and ideas, so we can consider them for the September issue. Have a safe and happy summer.

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

The Sachs Family

on the death of Susan's mother,

Louise Baker

TREE OF LIFE

In Honor of David Goldfinger

Happy 75th and Many More!

4/29/2010

Muriel and George Swartz

Dearest Joel & Linda Pollack

Many thanks for your continued support and
loyalty to the KJCC

Alan Beth

Our Little Miracle

Liam Jacob Sax

March 19, 2010

Stuart and Lauren Sax

June Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Jim & Rita Williams.....26
1st	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark.....24
5th	Stephen & Carol Steinbock.....27
7th	Richard & Sheila Steinberg.....51
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman.....14
8th	William & Barbara Weprin.....42
10th	Mark & Sofy Wasser.....15
12th	William & Donna Bolton.....17
12th	Harvey & Beverly Robins.....53
14th	Harvey & Joan Kay.....40
14th	James & Joan Boruszak.....57
18th	Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grace.....16
20th	Milton & Joan Wohl.....59
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake.....23
23rd	Skip & Rene Rose.....55
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax.....36
24th	Robert & Heide Werthamer.....15
25th	Herbert & Elinor Grossman.....53
28th	Lloyd & Rae Susan Wruble.....41
28th	Wes & Rita Conklin.....40

Mezuzah seeks patron

As you see in the pictures in Photo Gallery, and read about in this month's President's Message, our KJCC Meditation Garden is underway. Steve Steinbock, he of the gorgeous garden, heads our efforts. He and Candy have already erected the gate that will be the garden's entrance. Bricks have been laid before the entryway, which offer, as Alan notes this month, inexpensive ways to both commemorate someone or something and also contribute to KJCC. But a gate, at least a Jewish one, requires a mezuzah. Anyone wishing to sponsor the mezuzah, please contact Linda Pollack. We are asking for a minimum donation of \$1,000.

BOOK PLATE

In honor of Joel Pollack's recovery

By Mort and Gene Silverman

June Birthdays

3rd.....	Abraham Rakov
3rd.....	Elanor Forbes
3rd.....	Lorene Solomon
4th.....	Alfred Weihl
4th.....	Scott Kay
5th.....	Dorothy Wolfe
5th.....	Joseph Sachs
6th.....	Donna Bolton
6th.....	Nancy Kluger
6th.....	Suzanne Gilson
7th.....	Jim Nobil
7th.....	Joan Wohl
8th.....	Elaine Solas
9th.....	Zoe Berk
11th.....	Deborah Weiss
11th.....	Linda Feinberg
12th.....	Kevin M. Silverman
12th.....	Michal Kamely
13th.....	Israel Mayk
13th.....	Justin Greenbaum
14th.....	Jennifer Nobil
15th.....	Haley Mayclin
15th.....	William Bolton
16th.....	Peter Kantor
18th.....	Amelia Kasinof
20th.....	Harvey Klein
20th.....	Judy Schmidt
20th.....	Sunne Rego
21st.....	Taryn Nobil
23rd.....	Dale Chasteen
23rd.....	Joseph Goldberg
24th.....	Delaney Rohde
24th.....	Rita Bromwich
27th.....	Frank Emkey
27th.....	Maxwell Schrader-Grace
28th.....	Alan Cooper
29th.....	Arthur Feinberg
29th.....	Robert N. Kwalick
30th.....	Barbara Weprin
30th.....	Bob Friedman

KJCC Calendar Online

Keep up with KJCC events over the summer months by visiting keysjewishcenter.com and clicking on calendar.

July Birthdays

1st.....	Alex Hudson
1st.....	Chely Markowitz
1st.....	Jennifer Gilson
1st.....	Patti Gross
2nd.....	Elissa A. Denker
4th.....	Pauline Roller
5th.....	Ron Levy
8th.....	Erica Morgan Shatz
9th.....	Joyce Peckman
10th.....	Lindsay Gould
11th.....	Steven Hartz
12th.....	Rebecca M. Schur
12th.....	Richard Steinberg
13th.....	Dot Brooking
14th.....	David Gross
14th.....	Paul Eric Bernstein
15th.....	Danna Levy
17th.....	Foster Davidson
17th.....	Robert Werthamer
17th.....	Shira Listman
18th.....	Ellen Coltman
18th.....	Zachary G. Kwalick
20th.....	Carol Laskin
21st.....	Arlington Garrett
21st.....	Brian Smith
21st.....	Joshua Samuel Bernstein
21st.....	Linda Perloff
23rd.....	Carrie Temkin
25th.....	Alan Markowitz
26th.....	Carol Field
27th.....	Marc Bloom
27th.....	Rachael Bloom
28th.....	Lila E. Juenger
29th.....	Bruce Boruszak
29th.....	Candy Stanlake
29th.....	Mary Lee Singer
30th.....	Molly Bloom

BOOK PLATE

**In Memory of Louise Baker,
Mother of Susan Sachs**

By Mort and Gene Silverman

August Birthdays

1st.....	Nicholas Rivera
2nd.....	Marc S. Field
4th.....	Jessica Forman
5th.....	David Kaufman
5th.....	Nissan Mayk
7th.....	Bill Weprin
8th.....	Ilana Gilderman
9th.....	Eric Freundlich
10th.....	Barbara Smith
10th.....	Rozi Graham
13th.....	Brian Gilderman
13th.....	Gina Moritz
13th.....	Stephan L. Friedman
14th.....	Heide Werthamer
15th.....	Danielle Zinner
15th.....	Eileen Kominsky
15th.....	Patricia Isenberg
16th.....	Alan Lindenbaum
16th.....	Alison Thompson
18th.....	Zachary Schrader-Grace
19th.....	Pamela Friedman
20th.....	Amanda Nobil
21st.....	Ashley Solomon
21st.....	Rachel Zinner
23rd.....	Dave Mont
23rd.....	Morris Willner
24th.....	Carl McNew
27th.....	Jaimee Marshall
27th.....	Judy Greenman
28th.....	Bill Ferns
28th.....	Evan Stuart
30th.....	Robert Temkin
30th.....	Sandra Kanarek
30th.....	Sue Ann Weihr

July Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Douglas & Rozi Graham.....6
3rd	Michael & Lorene Solomon.....21
5th	Erwin & Barbara Kantor.....53
12th	Jason & Debbie Madnick.....15
24th	Dick & Rita Bromwich.....36
29th	Bernard & Elaine Solas.....54

On Saturday, June 5th, 2010 at 4 p.m. at KJCC,



Max Schrader-Grace

will become a Bar Mitzvah. His parents Ruth and Eric cordially invite all members of KJCC to join them, their friends and family, as they celebrate.

August Anniversaries

	Years
7th	Larry & Dorothy Wolfe.....53
7th	Aaron & Judith Schmidt.....55
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts.....42
15th	Richard & Barbara Knowles.....11
16th	Ira & Shirley Stein.....52
20th	Barnet & Ellen Coltman.....50
22nd	Franklin & Judy Greenman28
27th	Israel & Nissan Mayk.....38
28th	Kurt & Nancy Kluger.....22

Important forms will arrive soon

In the next few weeks you will be receiving a package from KJCC which will contain several documents, a Database Information page and of course our annual Yizkor book form. Please fill out these forms carefully and let us know if any personal information—your e-mail, cell phone, or address—has changed, so our database is fully up to date. It is most important that all the documents be sent back to us as soon as possible; we'll soon begin work on two key publications, our annual Membership Directory and the new Yizkor book. Thanks.

-Alan

Congrats to Barbara Gintel

Award-winning photographer and philanthropist Barbara Gintel can now add "Coconut Telegraph Artist of the Month" to her list of accomplishments. The cover of the May issue of Conch Republic Coconut Telegraph features her photo "The Card Sound Man." On page 7 is a lovely photo of her, taken by husband Robert, along with the story of how the shot was obtained. You can see more of their work at www.GintelPics.com

-Joyce Peckman

Don't Forget to Donate

It may be summer, but the need for blood donors never takes a vacation. The KJCC will be having a blood drive over the summer on June 13th. Mark your calendars now for the drives already scheduled for next season on October 10th and December 12th. See you there.

30th Gala DVDs available

DVDs from our 30th Gala celebration, with hundreds of photos shot by Richard Knowles, are now available from KJCC Sisterhood's Gift Shop, for the incredibly low price of \$20 each. (Thank you, Richard and Barbara.) Contact Joan Boruszak at joanborus@aol.com or at 852-0833, or just stop by whenever the KJCC is open.

Service Leaders for July and August

July 2nd--George Swartz

July 9th--Alan Beth

July 16th--Jim Boruszak

July 23rd--George Swartz

July 30th--(early service) Marc Bloom

August 6th--Alan Beth

August 13th--Linda & Joel Pollack

August 20th--Bernie Ginsberg

August 27th--(early service) Sam Vinicur

Ongoing Projects and Programs of KJCC

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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353.

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-

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

<i>Book Plates</i> Silverman, Mort & Gene	<i>In Memory of</i> Louise Baker	<i>Meditation Garden</i> Sax, Stuart & Lauren Steinbock, Steve & Carol	<i>In Memory of</i> Sam & Babe Sax Susan Cimkowski
<i>Book Plates</i> Silverman, Mort & Gene	<i>In Honor of</i> Joel Pollack's recovery	<i>Tree of Life</i> Beth, Alan Sax, Stuart & Lauren Swartz, George & Muriel	<i>In Honor of</i> Joel & Linda Pollack The birth of Liam Jacob Sax David Goldfinger's 75th Birthday
<i>General Fund</i> Begam, Delores Congregation Emkey, Gerri Lippman, Lillian Margulies, Stan & Jenny	<i>In Honor of</i> pray for Britt David Goldfinger's 75th birthday Mort Silverman's recovery	<i>Yartzeit Contributions</i> Gilderman, Larry & Stephanie Grossman, Stuart Incociati, Estelle Mishaan, Marilyn Schur, Lee Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila	<i>In Memory of</i> Albert Gilderman Morris Grossman Louis & Dorothy Biderman Margie Haddad Bob Schur Saunders Cohen Joel Cohen
<i>Holocaust Education Center</i> Goldfinger, David & Toby	<i>In Honor of</i> Holocaust survivors		
<i>JNF Certificates Sent By</i> Gould, Maryon Gould, Maryon	<i>In Honor of</i> Joel Pollack's recovery Mort Silverman's recovery		

Did You Know ???

...that you can place an advertisement in Chai-Lights for an entire year for only \$120?

... that you can remember a loved one with a yahrzeit plaque? A candle will be lit on the memoriam date and at Yizkor services four times a year, including Yom Kippur.

Contact Linda Pollack at 852-8575 for more information .

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Growth Through Teaching and Learning

We have come to the end of our Hebrew school-year 5770. Sitting together at our Ulpan Class end-of-the-semester lunch (a pleasant "*shevet achim gam yachad*,") everyone felt that it was a good year for our Adult Education activities. We felt a sense of satisfaction and motivation to continue next fall with our studies. The students gave the teacher (me) many ideas of what they'd like to study in our Hebrew classes and hear in the lecture series. For me, Adult Education at the KJCC is a precious gift I am receiving, because it is about a rich experience of teaching *and* learning: we all are students and teachers.

Pilpul ha'talmidim in Hebrew means, literally, "discussions with students." The word "Torah" in Hebrew is derived from a root which means "to teach." The meaning of the word is, therefore, "teaching." Our rabbis say that to attain wisdom for living, teaching needs to be a basic way of life. Why? Because if you can't teach an idea, then you don't really know it yourself. Until you share an idea, it's not yours. It remains but a hazy notion in your imagination. Transmitting the idea to others makes it real.

I am mindful of the fact that we teach what we most want to learn. I am always interested in human relationships and ways of life. Several times, in some of my lecture series, I tried to talk about *Kabbalah* and the thoughts of Jewish mysticism on certain psychological topics. I was not satisfied with my attempts; but I am trying again.

Kabbalah literally means "receptivity," and the teachers say it is the art of learning to

receive. In his book "Endless Light" (1997), David Aaron writes that when he first began study of the *Kabbalah*, he stumbled upon the learning center of a great Kabbalistic master. He went in. The place was crowded. The master was speaking, but suddenly he stopped. He had noticed David coming in, pointed at him and motioned him to come forward. The teacher spoke with a soft voice, and only asked David a few innocuous questions. Then he held out an apple in his hand and dramatically raised it before the student, dangling it by its stem.

"This great man wanted to give me an apple? I had no idea what this was all about. I reached to take the apple. But the whole crowd shouted, 'No!' I became flustered and withdrew my hand. He offered the apple again, and again I tried to take it. Again the crowd yelled 'No!' Then I saw that people were motioning for me to cup my hand and hold it beneath the apple. I did so. The great Kabbalist smiled and dropped the apple into my hand. He then bent over and, in a tone that seemed to admonish me, whispered in my ear, 'What have you been learning?' Before I could answer, he turned and walked away."

The master was trying to show David that he had not yet learned the real meaning of the *Kabbalah*. When you are offered a gift, do not *take* it; instead, make of yourself a space that can *receive* it.

In our Hebrew classes students ask me about the meaning and origin of certain Hebrew words. These are the best questions for their teacher, who gets motivated and enthu-

siastic exploring the Hebrew root of the word. One of the words we explored, for example, was *shalom*. We know that the greeting *Shalom*, means peace. Peace has a meaning that comes from the same root and has an interesting psychological aspect. We know the expression *shlom bayit*, which means "peace at home or in your household," or the question *mah shlomcha? Mah shlomech?* Meaning: "how are you?"

When can people say that they are in peace with themselves? Psychology deals with questions about the Ego and the Self of a person. The *Kabbalah* also asks the question:

who am I? A person has a heart attack and suddenly begins to see his body as an enemy, and thinks: I am not my body; so, who am I? He sees through the eyes of his Ego and, by asking the question, he is about to begin the process of psychological and spiritual growth, a long learning process. The *Kabbalah* teaches that, as long as the Ego insists on breaking the world into separate pieces, setting one against the other, there can be no peace outside and therefore no peace inside. You feel as if you are at war.

The Hebrew word for peace, *shalom*, is also the word for completeness. David Aaron writes: "The soul is never complete or at peace in the ego. Although the ego thinks it is complete, self-defined, and self-confined, that is an illusion. The irony is that he who thinks he is complete, *shalom*, and independent of others, lives an illusion and is truly incomplete. However, he who knows he is incomplete and interdependent with others is upon

the path toward true completeness."

Shalom *talmidim*—students; Shalom *chaverim*—friends. Have a wonderful *chofesh*—vacation, literally meaning "freedom," this summer. Don't forget to practice your Hebrew, continue to think about additional studies that can be of interest for our Adult Education classes, and send me your suggestions. I look forward to seeing you again in our classes after Rosh Hashanah. Teaching and learning together has been an experience of growth. Thank you for this wonderful gift. ◇



KJCC GIFT SHOP




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If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



On May 2nd, fourteen hungry women met at the Pilot House for a leisurely brunch, as our last formal Sisterhood meeting of the season. The mimosas were good, the company even better. Gigi, Marsha, Bea, Gene and Nettie were at one end, while Roberta, Sofy, Joan S., Pauline and I were at the other. In the middle, relaying conversation between the two ends, sat Rene, Gloria, and both Linda Ps. We missed those of you who were busy or traveling, but it was great to have some of you who don't generally come to meetings. I am pleased to say that no Temple business was discussed. Sometimes it's just about food and friends.

One of the pleasurable jobs of Sisterhood president is the presentation of a gift to a boy on the cusp of leaving childhood as he celebrates his Bar Mitzvah. I have enjoyed watching Max Schrader-Grace grow in poise, creativity and self-confidence during his years in our Sunday school. I wish him and his family only the best as he takes his place June 5th as a worthy young man in the Jewish community.

Even though our next regularly scheduled meeting isn't until September, the gift shop remains open and active, with the addition of the wonderful DVDs of the 30th Anniversary Dinner, available for the very low price of \$20. Richard Knowles seemed to be everywhere with his camera, and the results are well worth owning. (There are literally hundreds of pictures.) You can e-mail Joan Boruszak, or stop by whenever the KJCC is open.

Sisterhood continues to provide for the Oneg Shabbat throughout the summer. Sponsoring a Friday night oneg is a time-honored way of adding sweetness to someone's memory, as well as a great way to honor a birthday, engagement, graduation, safe return, or just the joy of being with friends. You can

either send a \$50 check to Sisterhood, or pick up a challah, a bottle of Manischewitz, cake and/or fruit and some creamer. Just let me know, as I'm coordinating the dates. Come to Friday night services, then stay for wine and challah, coffee, cake and schmoozing. (And don't forget to clean up...the KJCC is our home.)

The July 4th BBQ will actually be on Friday, July 2nd. See the ad on page 16 for details.

We've had a terrific season, from Rosh Hashanah through Shavuot. There were delectable brunches and dinners for holidays. We had a colorful Purim Megillah reading, and two very different yet equally marvelous community seders. We had unforgettable Yiddishkeit nights, two theatre events and a fabulous 30th Anniversary dinner dance. We have memories of the Fashion Show that almost wasn't (in a great restaurant that now isn't). All of these and more were only possible due to the hard work and dedication of all of us who organized, set up, prepared, cooked and cleaned. Thank you.

As some of us prepare for a summer of swimming and fishing, and others head off for all corners of the country and around the world, we do remain connected. I know that people will be meeting in Maine and Israel, and communicating by letter, phone and Internet. We are already thinking about next season. We will probably be going to see "Avenue Q" in Coral Gables, and thinking of other fun activities. Please call or e-mail me with your ideas and concerns. My e-mail is joyce@adoctorsbag.com, and my cell phone is 305-240-1000. Sofy can be reached at betweentwotrees@msn.com. Her cell number is 305-332-1500.

We wish you a safe and happy summer. ◇

**KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER**

JULY 4TH

Shabbabaque

AND

95th Birthday Party

For Pauline

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2010

PLACE: KJCC

TIME: 6:30 PM BARBECUE DINNER

TIME: 8:00 PM SERVICES

TIME: 9:00 ONEG/BIRTHDAY CAKE



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Observing the Sabbath saved his life

Michael Schudrich, Poland's Chief Rabbi—who was born and raised in New York City—along with a Jewish delegation from Poland, managed to escape imminent death when they refused to violate the Sabbath and fly with Poland's President Lech Kaczynski. On April 10th, the plane carrying the President, his wife and 95 other top government officials crashed, and all aboard were killed. The plane was en route to a city in Russia to mark the 70th anniversary of the murder of 20,000 Poles by the Soviets at the Katyn Forest. The reason the Jewish delegation was going in the first place? They planned to say *Kaddish* at the commemoration ceremony. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 4-11-10)

But she can't drive

Rachel Lester, a 15-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl, has become the youngest person ever elected as a public representative in Los Angeles. Rachel, a high school sophomore, was elected to the South Robertson Neighborhood Council, a heavily Jewish religious neighborhood and one of 90 neighborhood councils in Los Angeles. She defeated her opponent, a college-educated family man, by a vote of 144 to 13. She credits her win to contacts via e-mail and Facebook. She begins her two-year term in June, but she'll have to get a lift to her council meetings since she is not old enough to drive. (www.jta.org, 4-21-10)

"Kosher" jokes

A United States District Judge in New Jersey recently ruled that comedian Sunda Croonquist can continue making fun of her Jewish mother-in-law. Croonquist is part Swedish, part African-American and is mar-

ried to a Jewish man. She was sued two years ago by her in-laws who were offended by her jokes. And to make things even more interesting, Mark Zafrin, her husband, was her defense attorney. The judge ruled that her jokes fell under the category of protected free speech since they were nothing more than her opinion. Croonquist credits her beginnings in comedy with a chance encounter with legendary Jewish comedian Jackie Mason. (*The Forward*, 5-6-10)

The "Mitzvah" Lady

Clara Chaya Hammer, a Jerusalem woman who made sure that the city's needy always had a proper Shabbat dinner, died in March just shy of her 100th birthday. Hammer was known around the world as "The Chicken Lady of Jerusalem." It all began when she stood in line at the butcher shop and noticed a young girl in front of her who was taking home a bag full of chicken fat and skin. The butcher explained that there were many children in the family and the father was on dialysis. They had run up a tremendous bill and all the butcher could give them was the fat and the skin. Hammer told the butcher to give the family two chickens every week and she would pay for it. For the next 30 years, Hammer single-handedly spearheaded a fund providing free chicken (or a substitute meal if they happened to be vegetarian) every week to the needy.

Hammer was born in Russia in 1910 and survived a pogrom in the Ukraine. She fled with her family to Romania and later they made their way to Palestine, living in a tent for three years. Among her many awards was an honorary "doctorate in kindness" from

Yeshiva University. A daughter and great-granddaughter will carry on her legacy. The monthly butcher bill comes to about \$10,000. (www.cnn.com, 5-8-10)

You've gotta be kidding...

The United Nations has elected Iran to a four-year seat to its Commission on the Status of Women. Iran will now sit on a commission which, according to its website, is dedicated to "gender equality and advancement of women." As word spread of Iran's election to the commission, a group of over 200 Iranian (yes, Iranian) activists circulated a petition to the U.N., endorsed by over a dozen human rights organizations, asking that member states oppose Iran's election. The petition presents this picture of the status of women in Iran: "Women lack the ability to choose their husbands, have no independent right to education after marriage, no right to divorce, no right to child custody, have no protection from violent treatment in public spaces, are restricted by quotas for women's admission at universities, and are arrested, beaten, and imprisoned for peacefully seeking change of such laws." One of Iran's senior clerics even went so far as to say that women who wear revealing clothing are to blame for earthquakes because they "lead young men astray, corrupt their chastity and spread adultery in society, which (consequently) increases earthquakes." (www.foxnews.com, 4-29-10 and www.washingtonpost.com, 5-4-10)

Victim list "a must"

Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum is on a mission to gather and finally list the name of each and every Holocaust victim. So far, fewer than four million names have been accounted for. The museum states that just because one may know of a family member, acquaintance or neighbor who perished it does not necessarily mean that that individual is in the Jerusalem data base. Referrals to this worldwide effort can be made to www.yadvashem.org. (*Dateline: World Jewry, May 2010*)

In Memoriam

Avigdor Arikha, Israeli painter and a major figure in modern art, died at the age of 81 at the end of April. His work was influenced by his experience, at age 12, as a Holocaust survivor where he would sketch scenes from the concentration camp onto salvaged scraps of paper. Arikha went on to become one of Israel's most important contemporary artists. He began as an abstract artist but renounced it in the mid-1960s in favor of realism. His portraits of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and writer Samuel Beckett, a close friend, are well known. Born in Romania in 1929, Arikha turned to drawing in order to cope with life in a Ukrainian labor camp. Seventeen of his sketches survived the war and came to the attention of the International Red Cross during a camp inspection. Soon after, he was permitted to leave with a group of children already cleared for release. He and his sister were sent to Palestine and lived on a kibbutz. Arikha was seriously wounded in Israel's War of Independence. Recognizing his talent, supporters in Israel financed him and insisted he go to study at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Arikha's works are in permanent collections around the world, including the National Portrait Gallery in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. (www.washingtonpost.com, 5-5-10)

A new street in Beverly Hills

A street in Beverly Hills, California was officially renamed "Herzl Way" on May 2nd to honor the 150th anniversary of the birth of Zionist founding father Theodor Herzl. Mayor Jimmy Delshad, an Iranian-born Jew, came up with the idea of renaming the street after his personal hero following a visit to Herzliya, Israel, a sister city to Beverly Hills. It is one of the few streets in Los Angeles named after a foreigner and the first time a street has been named to commemorate a historic Jewish leader.

Herzl was born in Budapest, Hungary. He became a writer and a journalist and covered the 1894 trial of French Army Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew famously and wrongly accused of treason and sent to Devil's Island. The trial

exposed Herzl to European anti-Semitism, an experience that pushed him to believe that Jews needed to create their own state. In 1897, he convened the First Zionist Congress, and later served as president of the Zionist Organization. Herzl died in 1904, 44 years before the Jewish homeland he dreamed of declared independence. (*The Forward*, 5-5-10)

More proof of global warming...

The sighting of a grey whale off the coast of Herzliya, Israel has stunned scientists in what is believed to be the first time the giant mammal has been seen outside the Pacific in several hundred years. The whale is believed to have traveled thousands of miles from the north Pacific after losing its way in search of food. "It is...one of the most important whale sightings ever," said Dr. Aviad Scheinin, chairman of the Israel Marine Mammal Research and Assistance Center, which identified the whale. "...there haven't been any grey whales in the Atlantic since the 18th century." Scheinin said the whale probably reached the Atlantic through the Northwest Passage, the Arctic Sea route that connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, which is normally covered with ice but has been melting. "This is very important ecologically because of the change of habitat. It emphasizes the climate change that we are going through," Scheinin said. (*www.telegraph.co.uk*, 5-11-10)

A new beginning

More than six decades after its destruction in the Nazi *Kristallnacht* pogrom of November 1938, the White Stork Synagogue in the Polish city of Wroclaw has been rededicated following several years of renovation. In 1938, Wroclaw was known as Breslau and was part of the German Reich. Before World War II, Breslau was home to one of the largest Jewish communities in Germany. The White Stork Synagogue opened in 1829 and got its name from an inn, which had previously stood on the same spot. The synagogue was turned into a warehouse after the Nazis ransacked it. After the war, Poland's Communist authorities seized control of the synagogue and it

was only returned to the Jewish community a decade ago. Wroclaw now has a very small Jewish community. (*World Jewish Congress*, 5-12-10)

No more fungus among-us?

Israeli scientists from Tel Aviv University are working with carnivorous plants that could heal fungus infections and save lives. Researchers say that when the plant traps an insect, an enzyme is released which contains organic nutrients that have been found to have better healing effects than existing anti-fungal medications. The research teams from Tel Aviv University's chemistry and plant sciences departments have published early results in a respected world biological journal. The study notes the potential to save thousands of lives.

(*Dateline: World Jewry*, May 2010)

Did you know...

-The Philadelphia Jewish Exponent has been named "Best Overall Weekly Newspaper" in the state of Pennsylvania. The honor was bestowed by a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for work done in 2009. (*www.jta.org*, 4-23-10)

- Avner Netanyahu, the 15-year-old son of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, won third place in the 2010 International Bible Contest, which was held on Israel's Independence Day. Sixteen teenagers from around the world took part in the prestigious competition. (Bet our very own Joyce Peckman could have taken top spot; not too long ago, when she was 12 or 13 years old, she was a national finalist in a Bible contest in New York City.) (*The Jerusalem Post*, 4-20-10)

-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Lord Jacob Rothschild and other members of the Rothschild family in mid-April to thank them for their pledge to donate more than 150 million dollars for the construction of a new National Library in Jerusalem's Kiryat HaLeom government complex. The new library will replace the one presently located in an old and outdated building on the Givat Ram campus of Hebrew University. (*www.israelnationalnews.com*, 4-18-10) ◇

Photo Gallery

Max Schrader-Grace in the final stages of preparation for his Bar Mitzvah June 5th. At top he stands before the KJCC Holocaust Torah with mom Ruth. Below and below center he Works with Morah Gloria On his lessons.

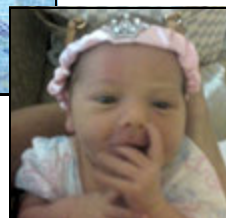


Aboard a sunset cruise on a square-rigger at Gilbert's Marina in Key Largo. Zoe's where she loves to be, at the helm. Gloria and Joyce just enjoyed the sights and the sounds and the sea air. Avast. Aaaargh.

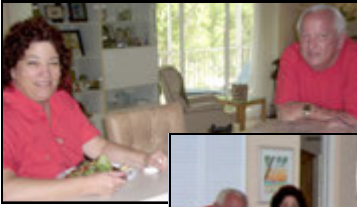
The final Sisterhood gathering of the year took place on Sunday, May 2nd at The Pilot House, left. Following tradition, it was a non-working luncheon, a social outing before the annual summer diaspora.



Amara Ellen was born April 30th to Lisa Romaro and our son, Fred. She weighed 7 pounds, 3 oz. Bob and I were there for the birth.



-Eileen Hermann



At left, below, and below left, scenes from Medina's annual luncheon on May 16th for Yardená's Ulpan classes. Marc, Candy, Bernie and Jerry W. were out of town. Carl Roy doesn't come to class, but hey, it's his house.



KJCC's Sunday School students get to see, literally, the fruits of former labors, as mangoes begin to appear on a tree they planted. Zach makes sure we don't miss seeing a budding pomegranate.



The bottom four photos are from our May 18th Shavuot celebration of the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. Bernie read the Ten Commandments

directly from the Torah, and then read and explained the Book of Ruth. Zach and Moira actually got

sound out of the shofars.





Steve Steinbock, left, is hard at work creating the gate he designed for KJCC's new Meditation Garden.



The KJCC Board and Sunday School students gather at the gate of our Meditation Garden, above, as Gloria leads a prayer of blessing for what we all believe will become a very special place. Most are standing on the new brick entryway. The enlarged photo at left shows a sample of bricks available for purchase by KJCC members.



At left, Bernie and Medina at the oneg they jointly sponsored on May 14th, their shared birthday. (There is no truth to the rumor that they're twins, though they did both grow up in the same town, Far Rockaway, New York. Hmmm.)



At left, Moira Knowles shows her very full tzedakah box to teachers Gloria and Yarden.



Thomas Davis Smith was born March 2, 2010 to former KJCC Bar Mitzvah boy Brian Smith and his wife, Carrie, weighing 6 lbs. 6 ounces. His proud grandparents are Steve and Barbara Smith.



Mother's Day, 2010. Gloria and brother Mark are with their mother Bea, above. Above right, Candy and Alan took time from work on their Tampa house to enjoy a Mother's Day outing. Lee Schur is with family in Chicago, right. Below are assorted motherly products of Joel and Linda Pollack's extended family.



-This Month in Jewish History-

June

1242 – Pope Gregory IX and King Louis IX (Saint Louis) decree all copies of the Talmud to be confiscated in Paris. Study of the Talmud, they believe, is the reason for the Jews' stubbornness. Twenty-four cartloads of Hebrew manuscripts are publicly burned.

1541 – Jacob Pollack, the first important Polish-Jewish Rabbinic scholar, dies. His major contribution is to help establish the Talmudic method of study called "Pilpul." Many are frustrated over the years by the complex hair-splitting and disciplined logic of *pilpul*, and this type of Talmudic study also helps give rise to Chasidism. But it also helps refine and sharpen the Jewish mind and prepare it for eventual entry into the larger European world.

1594 – Roderigo Lopez, a Marrano, is hanged in England. Arriving in England as Francis Drake's prisoner of war, he rises to become Queen Elizabeth's physician. Accused by court intrigue of being a Spanish spy trying to poison the Queen, he is arrested. Initially the Queen refuses to carry out the death sentence, but finally consents. Throughout his trial he is vilified as being a Jew.

1648 – In Poland, bitterness over heavy-handed Catholicism by the Jesuits and taxes collected by some Jews for the nobles helps ignite the Cossack uprising. Led by Chmielniki, their victories over the Polish army encourage the serfs to join them. Jews, hated even more than the Poles, are massacred in almost every town. In ten years over seven hundred Jewish communities are destroyed and between one hundred and five hundred thousand Jews are killed. Many see the Cossack Uprising as a major cause of the messianic movement, which soon followed.

1815 – Napoleon, who has emancipated Europe's Jews by tearing down ghetto walls, is defeated at Waterloo. Fearing a return to

their previous legal status, Jews send a Christian attorney to act on their behalf at the Congress of Vienna. An agreement is reached whereby Jews are "given rights in proportion to accepting the duties of citizenship." It is the first time that Jewish rights become enshrined in European Treaty Law.

1849 – Article 84 of the new Danish Constitution negates discrimination of "any person on the basis of religious grounds." Ninety years later the Nazis will discover that Danes are true to their word.

1888 – The Jewish Publication Society of America (JPS) is founded, its purpose to publish in English books of Jewish interest. Important authors include Israel Zangwill, Leo Baeck, Cecil Roth, Jacob R. Marcus, and Louis Finkelstein.

1920 – The Haganah, the pre-Israel Self-Defense Force, is formed during a meeting of the *Ahdut Avodah* party. It is dedicated to "havlagah," or pure self-defense.

1936 – Leon Blum becomes the first Jew elected premier of France. A socialist, Blum institutes the 40-hour workweek and many important social reforms. Parliament does not support his financial program and his government lasts but one year.

1967 – After weeks of bombardments from the Golan Heights, the closure of shipping lanes by Egypt and the departure of all U.N. observers, Israel attacks in what becomes known as the Six-Day War. Initially, young King Hussein of Jordan does not join the fighting, but when his forces cross the cease-fire line at Government House, Israel retaliates. On June 7, 1967 at 10:15, with the radio confirmation, "The Temple Mount is in our hands," the Israeli flag is raised above the Western Wall, its first time under Jewish sovereignty for almost two thousand years. ♦

“Nusach” and “The Greatest Gift”

Our Ritual Chair Studies the Meaning of Music in Services

by Gloria Avner

I have just finished writing 36 small essays and sending ten voice-mail chants of morning, “minchah,” and “arvit” weekday prayers to Hebrew College in Newton, Mass. When I signed up to take an on-line course in “Introduction to Nusach,” thanks to financial assistance from KJCC, the word “Nusach” was familiar to me, but in a vague way. One of my favorite quotes has long been “When you want to talk to God, pray. If you want God to listen, sing.” I envisioned Jewish music and chanting. It turned out to be much more.

Though this was a course specifically about weekday liturgy, I thought I would learn melodies that would be useful both in teaching Sunday School and in adding to my knowledge of Jewish ritual (for me personally, yes, but also in my role as KJCC Ritual Chair). My goal was to be able to apply at least some of the learning to enriching our Erev Shabbat services. Little did I know that that I would be learning about everything from ancient paths of Jewish migration to history of Siddur development, the amazing intricacies of Hebrew grammar and why and how Jewish services are organized the way they are. In the course of studying the distinct scales and motifs of the three specific Ashkenazi “Nusach” that are used in weekday chanting, my respect for our heritage has grown by leaps and bounds.

A Nusach can refer to a whole way of life as well as a formula for chanting prayer. A Nusach for chanting is a pattern, not just a specific scale; each Nusach is tied to a differ-

ent “all-white-key” scale developed in Medieval times, having specific motifs within that scale that help the chanter decode words into meaning, comprehensible prayers of thanks, beseeching, and lessons for generations of Jews to hear, participate in, and, in doing so, to remember who we are.

I have learned that all rules, patterns, intricacies, and symbols exist to serve one function—the sharing of meaning. Scholars from the 8th century B.C.E. until the present have done their intricate best to take the oral traditions surrounding the gift at the core of our religion—the Torah—and reveal them and their importance to our people. In a pre-literate world the Torah was the record of Jewish history and ethics that united us. It

has served the same purpose through the present day, enabling us to survive every potentially catastrophic event from the destruction of our Temples and the Babylonian exile to the Inquisition in Spain, the pogroms in Russia, assimilation in every culture where Jews established roots, and to the Holocaust.

Those who wished to exterminate Jews and Judaism understood that outlawing the Torah, desecrating it in any manner possible, was key to destroying the culture. It is a tribute to Jewish scholarship that the Dead Sea Scrolls, copied by hand millennia ago, are nearly identical with our Torahs of today.

Here is a summary from discussions I had over many office hours with Cantor Neil Schwartz, the extremely gifted teacher of this course, very generous with rich material, his research, and his time:

***“When you
want to
talk to God,
pray. If you
want God to
listen, sing.”***

We pray to give thanks, to praise, and to petition. Many of our prayers, the *Sh'ma* paragraphs and the *Amidah* in particular, have several sections within them dealing with Creation, Revelation, and Redemption. We pray to the creator of all things, *Adonai*, who has revealed and gifted the Torah and its *mitzvot* to us. We acknowledge our ancestors, our *Avot* and *Imahot*. We pray in a group in order to increase the energy of our prayers and to acknowledge our connection to each other and our culture. We pray at specific times because it helps develop the habit of praying and increases power through regular repetition. We pray in Hebrew because the language connects us to all Jews who came before us and to Jews throughout the world. We chant because music takes us deeper; it also makes words, especially the poetic words of the Torah, easier to say and to remember.

So how does learning “Nusach T’Fillah” make prayer more meaningful? Just as *Ta-Amei Mikra* (the symbols for trope) tell the Torah reader the traditional ways to chant *Parashot*, there are specific ways to chant prayers from the Siddur, many of which come from the Torah. This may sound simplistic, but much of the symbology is about punctuation. Making meaning clear is the first goal. You have to understand basic Hebrew grammar to be able to chant. You must decode what words belong together, what are major thoughts or modifying phrases, and identify the parts of speech in a sentence. Then you can know when pauses occur and which words need the most force. A phrase ending in a comma has a different motif than one where we come to a complete stop. We as congregants recognize these motifs through familiarity; they’re in our ear, whether we think we know it or not. There is in each Nusach one specific motif, or arrangement of notes within its scale, that is used purely for the blessing at the end of the prayer, sealing it and summarizing the main

***A Nusach
can refer to
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prayer.***

point of the prayer. We at KJCC almost always join forces in chanting this “Baruch Atah Adonai” segment. We recognize it almost intuitively because we have heard it time and again.

The Nusach serve another important function. They tell us whether the service is weekday or Shabbat, whether the service is morning, *minchah*, or *arvit*, and which part of the service is being chanted. They differ by holiday, particularly the “Shalosh Regalim.” And for High Holidays. There are also specific Nusach used for chanting different *Megillot*. I know. It sounds daunting. And it was.

We learned Study Mode Minor, Pentatonic Mode, and Low *Ahava Rabah*, all of which are used for different prayers in weekday services. Some of you have heard me chant the Haftorah in *Ahavah Rabah* on Friday Shabbat services. (I intend to keep doing it until as a congregation we are able to do it together.) Much as I like reciting the *v’ahavtah* in Hebrew, *chanting* it not only uplifts us but also totally changes its meaning. By putting the accent on chanting the last rather than second-to-last syllable we recapture the original meaning. Instead of saying “You loved God,” we acknowledge the command and exhortation, “You shall love the Lord your God,” as it is intended in the covenant between God and our people.

There is so much more to share. Here are just two small examples: each Kaddish serves to end a section of the service and to indicate which Nusach will be used in the next section. Additionally, each Nusach, and each motif within the mode, helps convey a mood as well as time and meaning. All of this intensifies the praying experience.

I intend to continue this learning and look forward to studying Shabbat Nusach in the Fall. The Shabbat melodies, more relaxed and decorative than the perfunctorily chanted weekday Nusach, will make possible much more sharing with you. ◇

-This Month in Jewish History-

July

1099 – Godfrey de Bouillon enters Jerusalem at the head of the First Crusade, drives Jews into the synagogue, and sets them afire while marching around the synagogue singing, "Christ, we adore thee." This marks the end of Jerusalem as a Jewish center for centuries.

1263 – Pablo Christiani, a new Christian, convinces King James of Aragon to force a theological debate between him and Moses ben Nachman (Nachmanides). Jews fear that no matter the outcome, they will lose, so they plead with Nachmanides to withdraw. The King orders him to continue. Although the outcome is predictable (the Christian "wins"), the King is so impressed that he rewards Nachmanides with a large cash gift. Two years later Nachmanides is convicted for publishing his side of the debate. Although not severely punished by the King, he decides to leave Spain and settles in Eretz-Israel.

1605 – A Jesuit missionary traveling through China writes a letter describing his meetings with Ai T'ien, a Chinese Jewish teacher. Most of what we know regarding the Kaifeng Jewish community is from this correspondence.

1654 – Jacob Barsimon leaves Holland for New Amsterdam, to become its first Jewish resident. A few months later, other Dutch Jews sailing home from Brazil accidentally join him, when kidnapped by pirates and then rescued by a Dutch Navy ship. Taken to the closest Dutch port, New Amsterdam, they become the original 24 now-legendary New York families called the Grandees.

1656 – Baruch Spinoza is excommunicated in Amsterdam, accused of denying the being of Angels, the immortality of the soul and that the Torah was given by God. Offered leniency, Spinoza refuses to apologize. The council forbids anyone to communicate with him

in any fashion or to read any of his books.

1776 – During the American Revolution there are fewer than 2,500 Jews total within the colonies. More than six hundred fight in the war, including the great-grandfather of future Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo.

1873 – The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the first American Reform group, is launched in Cincinnati under the leadership of Dr. Isaac Meyer Wise.

1882 – *Rishon Lezion* is founded by ten families in Palestine. Baron Edmund de Rothschild, in response to the Russian pogroms and a plea by Rabbi Samuel Mohilever, agrees to help the new *Moshava*. It is the beginning of Rothschild's deep involvement with settlement activities.

1942 – Adam Czerniakow, the leader of the Jewish council of Warsaw, the *Judenrat*, commits suicide. He leaves behind a diary of over 1,000 pages, chronicling the formation of the ghetto up to the beginning of the forced transports. When ordered by the Germans to provide them with a list of names for deportation, his response is a list of his own name written hundreds of times. The day before his suicide, the Nazi officer in charge of the deportation procedure threatens to shoot his wife if he doesn't cooperate. In his suicide note he writes: "I am powerless, my heart trembles in sorrow and compassion. I can no longer bear all this."

1976 – In what becomes known worldwide as The Entebbe Rescue, 256 hostages from an Air France plane are held prisoner at the Ugandan capital's airport. After eight days they are rescued by Israelis under the command of Yonatan Netanyahu, the current Israeli Prime Minister's older brother and the only Israeli to die in the operation. The United Nations condemns Israel for violating Ugandan sovereignty. ◇

-This Month in Jewish History-

August

1243 – After a ritual murder accusation in Bavaria, fifteen Jews are tortured to death. In a purposeful affront to Jewish law, their corpses are left in the street for a fortnight before burial is allowed.

1321 – Jews in France are accused of encouraging lepers to poison Christian wells. This directly leads to the graver accusations of the same kind during the Black Plague a generation later.

1393 – King John I of Portugal, to prevent "backsliding" by converted Jews, prohibits them from living in the same quarter or even eating together. He is known in Portuguese history as John the Great.

1447 – Following a fire in Posen (Poland) where the original charter granting Jews "privileges" had been written by Casmir the Great, Casmir IV renews all of Jewish rights, making his law one of the most liberal in Europe. The charter is revoked less than a decade later.

1670 – Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I evicts Jews from Vienna, sells the Jewish quarter for 100,000 florins and has it renamed Leopoldstadt in his honor. The synagogue and *Bet Midrash* become St. Margaret's Church.

1840 – British Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston, in a letter to his ambassador in Constantinople, writes: "There exists...among the Jews...a strong notion that the time is approaching when their nation is to return to Palestine. I strongly recommend to the Turkish Government...to encourage the Jews of Europe to return to Palestine."

1917 – The Jewish Legion of the British Army is established. Championed by Zev Jabotinsky, it is based on the Zion Mule Corps.

Although initially against the idea, most of the leadership of the *Yishuv*, including Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi, join after the Balfour Declaration. Over 2,700 men from around the Jewish world volunteer for the Legion. Many see action against the Ottomans in 1918.

1919 – Hungary limits the number of Jews in commerce, law, medicine, and banking. An estimated 5,000 Jews convert to Christianity in the weeks before the law goes into effect.

1925 – From an original proposal by writer Nahum Shtif, European intellectuals such as Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud establish YIVO (the Yiddish Scientific Institute) in Vilna, Lithuania (then Poland). Its goal is to promote scholarly research in Yiddish, especially on Jewish life and history in Eastern Europe. It also standardizes Yiddish spelling and gathers thousands of documents on Jewish culture and folklore from much of Europe.

1930 – After the 1929 Arab riots in Palestine, Sir John Hope-Simpson is sent by Colonial Secretary Lord Passfield to look into Arab economic complaints. He decides that Palestine has no industrial prospects, and recommends the cessation of all Jewish immigration and a settlement freeze. His report forms the basis for the infamous Passfield White Paper.

1943 – Led by a small group of prisoners using primitive weapons and pistols, inmates at Treblinka attack the guards and burn down the barracks. Between 300 and 500 prisoners escape, though most are either captured or turned over by Polish peasants. The German government decides to close the camp.

1944 – Anne Frank, 15, is arrested with her parents and sister in Amsterdam. Anne is sent to Bergen-Belsen, where she dies in March 1945. ♦

A Sad, Sad Story

The Period of Communal Mourning From Tammuz to Tisha B'Av

by Gloria Avner

It all started on the 17th day of Tammuz (June 29th this year), over 2,000 years ago. That is the day the walls of Jerusalem's sacred Temple were breached, leading ultimately to the Temple's destruction on the ninth day of Av, Tisha B'Av (July 20th this year). For these three weeks, every year, we embark on another Jewish journey, a process not unlike the counting of Omer. This time, though, we are counting tragedies. We go from the minor fast of 17 Tammuz through a period known as "*bein ha-mitzrayim*," "between the straits" (as in dire), an increasingly mournful time, culminating in the second most serious fast in the Jewish calendar, just behind that of Yom Kippur.

Tisha B'Av marks the time when both our Holy Temples were destroyed, and exile, persecution and spiritual darkness descended. But there is more. Here is what happened, starting in Biblical times and moving on to the present.

The Mishnah, the foundational canon of Jewish oral tradition, tells of five tragedies that befell our ancestors on each of the fast days (*Mishnah Ta'anit* 4:6):

- *On the 17th of Tammuz* the tablets [containing the Ten Commandments] were broken; the daily sacrifice was discontinued; the walls of Jerusalem were breached; Apustamus, a Greek officer, burned a Torah scroll; and an idol was erected in the sanctuary of the Temple.

- *On the Ninth of Av* it was decreed that the generation of the desert would not enter the Land of Israel; the first Temple was destroyed; the second Temple was destroyed; Betar, the last Jewish stronghold after the destruction of Jerusalem, was conquered.

These are the bare bones of the tragedies.

Books could and have been written on each.

As we leave Tammuz behind and enter into Av, we become less and less joyful. In fact, joy itself, and any kind of soothing, happy-making luxury, from getting married to applying lotions to wearing new clothes to getting haircuts and making love, are all prohibited.

The last nine days of these three weeks, culminating in the actual fast of *Tisha B'Av*, are an even deeper period of mourning, during which traditional Jews avoid eating meat. As the 9th comes closer, the restrictions become more and more serious, until the complete 24-hour fast itself arrives, when we sit on low stools, observing "shiva" for the whole community and the tragedies that have befallen us.

Tisha B'Av is observed as a day of communal mourning, expressed through fasting and the abstention from pleasurable activities and extraneous diversions. A whole literature of dirges, beginning with the Biblical Book of Lamentations (a book of poetry bemoaning the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon), has been created to serve the needs of the Jewish community at this time.

We go within. We fast, just as Esther did, and we hope and we pray, that we, too, shall be spared from impending death and destruction. It is not the same fasting and praying we soon will be engaged in at the end of the Ten Days of Awe when we observe Yom Kippur. That is a time for *individual* prayer and fasting, for focus on individual consequences of behavior, for individual redemption. This is a time for *communal* fasting, for mourning what has befallen our people at this season of the year, over and over again. And for doing our best to make sure such does not happen again. ◇

Stained Glass of KJCC

We worship in a sanctuary adorned by beautiful art that tells a rich story all by itself, of our history and our ideas.

*O*ne of the enduring qualities of Judaism—at least since 586 B.C.E., when the first Temple was destroyed, the elite of Judah were deported to Babylon and, in the ultimate expression of adaptability in the throes of turmoil, synagogue Judaism was created—is its lack of dependence on place. There is no central site of worship. Anywhere with an Ark and a Torah can become a synagogue; ten adults constitute a community, and ritual worship can begin. Many of us remember, or have seen in

our travels, the tiny, dark, claustrophobic little slits of structures that served our parents or grandparents in Europe or Philadelphia or New York or Baltimore.

But that doesn't mean Jews don't like grand buildings full of light and space and beauty. For many years the ban on graven images led rabbis to accept architectural art but not visual art. We were instructed to keep our God in our hearts and minds and imaginations, but not before our eyes. But in the modern age rabbis have relented. Many synagogues now boast elaborate works of visual art. There are still no depictions of

God, but we now see many of the symbols of Jewish history or the familiar icons of Jewish life.

It's been just over eighteen years—chai—since the current KJCC sanctuary was dedicated. Inserted into its roofline windows is a

beautiful and original matched collection of stained glass art created by Miami artist Lisa Ruggles. We all see the huge Shield of David above the front door; it needs no explanation. But how many of you know that the others all represent one of Israel's tribes? How carefully have

you looked at the detail and symbolism of our stained glass? With this issue of Chai-Lights we begin a series discussing our stained glass windows, and begin with the triangular glass art that sits on either side of the bemah, to the left and right of the ner tamid.



One of two beautiful, back-lit stained glass windows above the bemah at KJCC, by Miami artist Lisa Ruggles.

A striking feature of both stained glass pieces above the *bemah*, as well as in several others around the sanctuary, is the bold and vibrant depiction of the sun. It is, of course, heaven's light illuminating the earth, but it is also emblematic of the famed Florida sun-

shine pouring through our sanctuary windows.

On the left, as the congregation faces the Ark, two animals of great symbol swim in the sun's rays—a fish and a dove. In ancient cultures the fish was occasionally a symbol of immortality. In Mesopotamian mythology there was a fish-monster that was killed by their god Marduck, a story similar to the slaying of the Leviathan by the Biblical God. Because they seemed inexhaustible, fish became used as a fertility symbol, which led to their also becoming symbolic of life itself. Jacob blessed his children, that they should multiply like fish in the sea. One legend of the



This menorah carving is from Beit She'Arim in Israel, 3rd century C.E.

Messiah says that it will come in the form of a giant fish from the sea. It's easy to see that from symbolizing fertility the fish has also come to represent abundance, and from abundance, prosperity.

Fish are also prevalent in designs of Havdalah (the brief ceremony ending Shabbat each week) spice boxes. The ceremony closes with the words "May He Who separates between the sacred and the everyday, forgive our sins and cause

our children and our money to multiply like the sand." Being a symbol for abundance, the prevalence of fish in Havdalah designs makes perfect sense. Fish are also closely identified



The other stained glass creation above the bemah in KJCC's sanctuary. Note that there are six lights, not seven.

with Purim. The plates used for sending food gifts (*mishloah manot*) are often shaped like fish. Even the month in which Purim takes place is symbolized by fish; its zodiac sign is Pisces.

The dove has long since been a universally understood symbol of peace. So this window incorporates three major wishes of Jewish thought and practice: light, the source of life, emanating from the heavens, to warm and enlighten; abundance and prosperity represented by the fish, and peace, a concept and longing so important to the Jewish people that as a word it also means hello and goodbye.

The window design above the bemah to our right is also several symbols in one. The most immediate image is that of a tree, a potent symbol in Judaism as well as the mythology and literature of every other known culture. And its symbolism is always the same: on a basic level it is life itself, a living and replenishing provider of food; on the next level it represents and satisfies other needs, for shelter and shade and privacy and fuel. Ultimately the tree serves the spirit as well. To the mystics it is the unique earthly resident with its roots firmly in earth and its

arms reaching and sometimes entering the heavens. Its structure, with a central core and related branches diverging off and extending from that core, is surely the world's most oft-applied metaphor.

But look closely at our window, and you'll see that there are six branches extending from the tree, and each has a flame at its tip. So the tree is also a candelabrum, a menorah, the ultimate symbol of Judaism. A menorah? With only six candles and not seven? After the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 C.E., a rabbinic tradition developed to not copy anything that had existed in the Temple. Menorahs (or, more accurately, *menorot*) for hundreds of years were depicted with only six candles lit; the seventh would be capped with something other than flame. It is only recently that rabbis have decided to again depict *menorot* with seven lit candles or oil cups.



One of the most famous of all menorah depictions, it's on the Arch of Titus in Rome, one of the items being looted by Romans from the destroyed Temple in 70 C.E.

It is said that there were seven *menorot* in the Temple, the *Beit HaMikdash*. The Kohanim, tenders of all things ritual, lit the *menorot* every evening and cleaned them out every morning, replacing the wicks and the olive oil used for the flame. Only one of the seven, according to the Talmud, was left burning all day. (Although the Roman-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus claimed that three

were left burning.) The one left burning was the westernmost one, called the *Ner Elohim* (the lamp of God). The *Ner Tamid* (literally the "forever" lamp or candle) now illuminated in every synagogue is in honor of the Temple's *Ner Elohim*.

So why do we at KJCC have a menorah above our bemah and the Ark? Because the *Ner Elohim* stood before the Ark in the Temple in Jerusalem.

The menorah appearing on the emblem of the modern State of Israel was copied from the relief of the Arch of Titus in Rome, which had been erected to commemorate the successful suppression of the Jewish revolt, the conquest of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple. (Looked at carefully, the relief clearly depicts Roman soldiers looting the menorah from the Temple. There's also a great irony to the huge and grandiose arch, in that little Judea in three wars almost fought mighty Rome to a standstill, lasting far longer and inflicting more damage than the great Mediterranean power Carthage had not very long before. There was no arch erected after the conquest of Gaul or Britain.)

So on today's Israel flag, the menorah copied from the Arch of Titus is clearly a symbol of defiance, and of continuity. Despite Rome and its symbolic brethren, and exile, and the disbelief of history, the Jewish nation lives and continues to pursue the possibility of redemption and offer itself as an example, to be, as proclaimed in Isaiah, "a light unto the nations."

Next time you're at KJCC, glance up at the stained glass images above the *bemah*. They're beautiful, yes, but they also represent some of the ideas at the very core of Jewish worship. ◇



This menorah is on a coin from the last Hasmonean king, c. 40 B.C.E.

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September 2010

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President's Message Alan Beth



Welcome back! September is here and that means the High Holidays. As I write this many things are going on: Gloria is working hard to organize the High Holidays and Joyce is working hard preparing our upcoming Onegs and Sisterhood events. What strikes me as wonderful is that both are currently over a thousand miles away, preparing the season for us here at KJCC. Many of us who leave the Keys in the summer feel the same way; however far we travel we always keep KJCC with us.

We have had a busy and active summer. For the first time we will have a rabbi, Rabbi Danny Young, lead High Holiday services along with Cantor Mark Halpern (see page 27). There have been larger-than-usual turnouts for Friday night services all summer. Erica has been giving health and exercise classes (but we men are not allowed!).

We extend our special thanks to Rabbi Richard Agler, who led two interactive Shabbat morning services in July. A visitor to the KJCC, Helen Chuckrow—a cantorial tutor—honored us by working with the Rabbi: both read and chanted directly from our Holo-caust Torah. Thanks to Bernie, Stuart and Mark Wasser for their work at our annual July 4th Shabbabacue, including cooking outside in the pouring rain. Last year our grill finally rusted out and we had to toss it. Then along came superheroes

named Steve, Jane and Harry Friedman, who presented the KJCC with a gorgeous (and better) replacement grill.

Many people also came that day to help our founding matriarch Pauline Roller celebrate the 30th anniversary of her 65th birthday! What a great day. There were so many people there, I was sure they all thought it was Kol Nidre. (A little seasonal Jewish humor!)

Sisterhood has kept the place alive and thriving; special thanks to Erica, Gene, Georgia, Kathy, Sofy, Carol and Zoe. I have to confess that last week I overate at the Oneg hosted by Joe and Kathy Shabathai (the best challah I have ever had).

By now, you should all have received your membership renewal packages. (Please re-join). Preparing, packaging and mailing is the type of work that quietly goes on behind the scenes, like the monthly Yahrzeit reminder letters. Thanks to Linda and Joel, and our Corresponding Secretary Roberta McNew, for this vital work.

We can all look forward to a unique High Holiday experience, beginning KJCC's next 30 years with both Rabbi Young and Cantor Halpern. My family and I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year.

B'shalom,
Alan

September 2010

22 Elul - 22 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors.</div>			1	2	3 Alan Beth	4 S'lichot At KJCC— 5:30 pizza and movie; 8:30 service
5	6 Labor Day	7	8 Erev Rosh Hashanah <hr/> Dinner at KJCC 6:00	9 Rosh Hashanah 1st Day Tashlich 4:00	10 Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Steve Steinbock & Gloria Avner	11 Shabbat Tshuvah service 9:30 a.m., Havdalah 7:45 p.m.
12 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17 Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre	18 Yom Kippur Yizkor Service
19 KJCC Sukkah construction 9:00 a.m. (a mitzvah)	20	21	22 Erev Sukkot	23 Sukkot	24 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur 6:30 Service	25
26	27	28	29	30 Shemini Atzeret	October 1st: Shemini Atzeret Observed at KJCC Yizkor service	

Nosh

Brian Smith, Moving Up

Brian Smith has recently been promoted by his employer, the New England Patriots. (For the non-sports-minded among us, that's a pro football team.) After serving the last three seasons as a pro scout, Brian now becomes assistant director of college scouting.

Brian originally joined the Patriots in 2000 and assisted the coaching staff for his first four seasons. He was then the team's director of operations from 2004-2005, before serving as a special assignment scout in 2006 and a pro scout from 2007-2009. He is also, of course, one of KJCC's own, a former Bar Mitzvah and the son of Steve and Barbara Smith.

From Bill and Freda, Moving On...

Bill and Freda Ferns, whose lentil soup and hummus and great generosity have long nurtured and delighted all of KJCC, are moving north in Florida to Ormond Beach. (Freda's new e-mail: l8freda@gmail.com) What follows are excerpts of a note they sent to Alan:

We would like to thank everyone for their support, especially in patronizing the several restaurants that we had operated. It is comforting to know that the community is there for you.

...you will always be in our hearts. We feel very fortunate to have known you all. We are very grateful for the friendship...from the very first day we landed in the Keys 22 years ago, you guys took us under your wings, and we had a wonderful journey together.

*Hugs and kisses, until next time,
Bill & Freda Ferns*

To our Dear Friend Yardena

We know that although the distance between us is great, please understand you are foremost in our thoughts and close in our hearts. We wish you a complete and speedy recovery, and we miss you.

Love from all of us at the KJCC.

TREE OF LIFE

To Honor

Pauline Roller

On her 95th Birthday

July 4, 2010

By Linda & Joel Pollack

Ivan and Jean Bader

April 1, 1986—2011

25th Wedding Anniversary

Joan's Been Shopping

As most of you know, Jim and Joan Boruszak spent much of August in Israel. As a result of that trip, the KJCC Gift Shop is about to get a major new look and a major new infusion of merchandise. Look for Joan's own descriptions in the next issue of Chai-Lights, along with a new Gift Shop ad. For now, as a preview (rated G, for all audiences), in Joan's own words: "We want to call it SHOP ISRAEL. It will have beautiful new mezuzahs, purses, hand-made note paper, kepahs, matzah covers and Shabbat challah covers, and tallit (so far). We will also have a bargain table."

YAHZEIT PLAQUE

In Memory of

Isaac Cohen

3/6/1956 - 8/6/2008

Beloved Brother and Friend

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

The Mann Family

on the death of

Sidney Mann

*Long-time KJCC member and resident of Ocean Reef
and Shaker Heights, OH*

September Birthdays

1st.....	Freda Ferns
1st.....	Wendy Shatz
2nd.....	Lloyd Wruble
4th.....	Chase Barrett
4th.....	Debby C. Block
6th.....	Steven Greenbaum
7th.....	Morton Silverman
7th.....	Stellar Levy
8th.....	Jeffrey Kominsky
8th.....	Kurt Kluger
8th.....	Mitchell Kominsky
8th.....	Susan Horn
9th.....	Jacob Klimpl
10th.....	Gerri Emkey
10th.....	Thomas Dillon
13th.....	Andy Tobin
13th.....	Lisha Lane
14th.....	Lili Werthamer
15th.....	Lorraine Rose
16th.....	Larry S. Schur
18th.....	Shirley Krissel
19th.....	Barbara Bernstein
19th.....	Brenna Nobil
19th.....	Steven Schur
19th.....	Vippi Pollack
22nd.....	Fred Hudson
23rd.....	Lauren Schur
23rd.....	Maryon Gould
26th.....	Cory Wasser
26th.....	Joan Kay
26th.....	Melvin Prober
28th.....	Jonathan Line
29th.....	Bernard Solas

BOOK PLATE

Presented to the KJCC
By Arthur Plutzer

In Honor of Pauline Roller

On the Occasion of her 95th Birthday

Chazak, Chazak, V'nitchazek

September Anniversaries

		Years
4th	Jim & Lynn Nobil.....	24
8th	Ronald & Deborah Kaplan.....	14
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov.....	26
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith.....	32
10th	Bill & Freda Ferns.....	21
30th	Tom & Marsha Garrettson.....	20

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of Pauline Roller

As she celebrates her

95th Birthday

July 4th 2010

By Muriel & George Swartz

Sign Up for Aliyahs

Because this will be such a special High Holidays at KJCC, the first where we'll have both a rabbi and a cantor, Alan has said he wants as many members as possible to be able to participate, to have the honor of an aliyah, or to open the Ark, or hold the Torah, or walk with the Torah, or dress the Torah, or in other ways be part of the service. If you'd like to participate, and haven't already signed up, please contact Alan as soon as possible, at his KJCC e-mail, president@keysjewishcenter.com, or call KJCC at 852-5235. He'll tell you what honors are still available and offer you your choice.

The opportunities are all first-come, first-served. So if you're interested, please act now, because the list is quickly being filled.

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

Joan Stark and Joel Bernard

on the death of

Joan's father, Sidney Stark

KJCC GIFT SHOP

COME TO THE KJCC GIFT SHOP FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS!



WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

HOUSE GIFTS

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH GIFTS AND CARDS

WEDDING GIFTS AND CARDS



Yes, we have Yahrzeit candles - Traditional or electric!

plus JEWELRY, MEZUZAHs, SEDER PLATES, MATZOH SWEEPERS,

CHALLAH PLATES, CHALLAH KNIVES AND MORE

If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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. Quantities to fit your needs and can be 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.

Meditation Garden - Participate in our newest venture. A beautiful garden is in progress and you can be part of this exciting new project by making a donation for an engraved brick, an engraved bench, or for plants in honor or memory of a loved one or event. Call Steve Steinbock for information, 394-0143.

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yahrzeit 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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353

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 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.

In Memoriam September 2010

In Memory Of

Sadie Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

In Memory Of

Toby Mitchell

By Joel & Linda Pollack

In Memory Of

Lorraine Martell

By Skip & Rene Rose

In Memory Of

Fred Roemer

By Harvey & Susan Schwaid

In Memory Of

Freda Shipman

By Ira & Shirley Stein

In Memory Of

Natalie Kominsky

By Randy & Eileen Kominsky

In Memory Of

Samuel D. Savage

By Marjorie Present

In Memory Of

Anna Applebaum

By Myron & Myrna Rubin

In Memory Of

Gertrude B. Schwaid

By Harvey & Susan Schwaid

In Memory Of

Blanche Taks

By Mel Taks

In Memory Of

Anne Hendin Margulies

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

In Memory Of

Louis A. Savage

By Marjorie Present

In Memory Of

Jacob Kaufman

By Linda Rutkin

In Memory Of

Mollie Silverman

By Morton & Gene Silverman

In Memory Of

Arthur Beerman

By William & Barbara Weprin

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 KJCC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.



Sisterhood Joyce Peckman

Summer began with a bang-up 4th of July Shabbabaque. We celebrated the 234th birthday of our country, along with the 95th birthday of our own Pauline Roller. (Who not only was one of KJCC's founders, she almost single-handedly managed the kitchen for years.) Men's Club got the Hebrew National hot dogs and manned the grill (Mark Wasser and Bernie braving the occasional rain), Sisterhood provided the veggie burgers and birthday cake, and a capacity crowd celebrated the double occasion. It was also the first use of our beautiful new red propane grill, donated by Steve and Jane Friedman.

The Sabbath bride was welcomed in style every Friday night, with thanks to Gene Silverman, who was supervising hostess the entire month of July, and to Erica, Bea and Nancy, who shared the responsibilities during August. Thanks also to Georgia, Kathy, Erica and Marc, who were there almost every week helping, and thanks to everyone who assisted with clean up.

When we had the opportunity to hold Saturday morning services with Rabbi Agler, Zoe and her crew provided two wonderful brunches for those who attended. Marc Bloom sponsored a pizza party before the July 30th service, in honor of his and Molly's and Rachel's birthdays. Joe and Kathy Shabbathai sponsored the Oneg Shabbat on August 6th, and provided a double-sized, Kathy-made challah that was (I hear) probably the most delicious one the lucky people who were there had ever tasted.

On a recent Sunday morning, Erica, Carol, Georgia and Kathy got together in a marathon session of organizing the kitchen – a

long overdue and much-needed task. Everyone who helps in the kitchen, at least for a while, will owe them a debt of gratitude when we can actually find what we're looking for!

We will be working hard to make the High Holiday celebrations a good start to a sweet year. In the spirit of *mishpacha*, Sisterhood will organize a real family Rosh Hashanah meal before Wednesday evening (Erev Rosh Hashanah) services. We have enthusiastic and experienced cooks who will prepare a traditional *fleishich* meal of soup, brisket, chicken, farfel, and *tzimmis*, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more. Erica Garrett is coordinating with Zoe's help, and RSVP is a must. Since this takes a lot of planning, we request that everyone let Erica or Zoe know by Sept 2nd whether or not they will attend. Erica's office phone is 305-853-1003 and e-mail is hippiejap@hotmail.com. There is no set charge, but to offset the many costs involved we request a voluntary donation of \$18 for each person over 12. Please try to get your checks to Nancy Kluger by Sept 6th; you can give them to Nancy, drop them off at KJCC or mail them to KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Lauren Sax is organizing the other High Holiday onegs and the post-Yom Kippur break-the-fast. Please give her a call to let her know how you can help. Whether it's bringing a dish or dessert, or helping set up, or making phone calls, she'd love to hear from you. Reach her at sljjsax@aol.com or on her cell at 305-753-7623.

So, *Shana Tova*, and my best wishes for a safe, healthy, and prosperous year to all of you and your loved ones. I'll see you after Sukkot.

The first Sisterhood meeting of the New Year will be Sunday, October 3rd. I'm giving you plenty of notice, and I hope to see everyone there! ♦

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

Book Plates
Plutzer, Arthur Pauline Roller's 95th birthday
Swartz, George & Muriel Pauline Roller's 95th birthday

Book Plates
Schwaid, Harvey & Susan Dr. Howard Glazer

Chai-Lights
Kwalick, Teresa
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Smith, Steve & Barbara

General Fund
Alter, Barry
Anonymous Rabbi Young
Begam, Delores Pray for us, please
Chuckrow, Helen
Gross, David & Patti Rabbi Young
Hayden, Beth Rabbi Young
Kahn, Lawrence & Bette Boruszak granddaughter
Hayley's wedding
Rabbi Young

Kluger, Kurt & Nancy
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Miller, Steven & Tonia Sledd
Pearlman, David & Audrey Family Fund
Rakov, Neal & Cathy Rabbi Young
Rubin, Myron & Myrna Best regards to all
Ruthen, Melvin & Joyce Aunt Pauline's 95th birthday
Silverman, Mort & Gene Rabbi Young
Solos, Bernard & Elaine
Terner, Salomon & Mary
Tobin, Andrew
Wiener, Steve & Joyce Pauline Roller's 95th birthday
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

General Fund
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Sachs, Joseph & Susan Irving Bernard; William Folks

Holocaust Education Fund
Alter, Barry
Roy, Medina
Smith, Steve & Barbara
VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia

KJCC 30th Anniversary
Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Gross, David & Patti
Hartz, Steve
Jacobson, Melvin
Kaplan, Ronald
Krissel, Michael
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Solos, Bernard & Elaine
VanArtsdale, David & Pat
Wohl, Milton & Joan

Meditation Garden
Beth, Alan and Candy Stanlake

Boruszak, Jim & Joan
Boxer, Shirley
Margulies, Stan & Jenny
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Rakov, Neal & Cathy
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Schwaid, Harvey & Susan
Silverman, Mort & Gene
Steinbock, Steve & Carol

Meditation Garden
Biskar, Rosie
Cimkowski, Carol & Marianne
Kay, Joan & Harvey

In Honor of
KJCC 30th Anniversary
KJCC
Louis & Shirley Boxer
Stan & Jenny Margulies
Will & Madelyn
Pollack Family
Rakov Family
Sax Family
Schwaid Family
Their 55th Anniversary
Pauline Roller's 95th birthday

In Memory of
Arnold Biskar
Stephen Cimkowski
& M. Susan Cimkowski
William & Sylvia Kay
Irv & Cele Rosen

Kwalick, Teresa
 Peckman, Joyce
 Roy, Medina
 Roy, Medina
 Roy, Medina
 Sheinker, Miltra
 Stein, Ira & Shirley
 Steinbock, Steve, Rose & Karen
 VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
 Vinicur, Dale's sons: Matt, Jason & Gabe
 Vinicur, Sam

Bill Kwalick
 Leslie M Peckman
 Laurie Beth
 Leon Kirschenbaum
 Dale Vinicur
 Warren J. Sheinker
 Freda Shipman
 Ben Steinbock
 Dick Jacob
 Dale Vinicur
 Nathan Miskin

Scholarship Fund
 Kwalick, Teresa

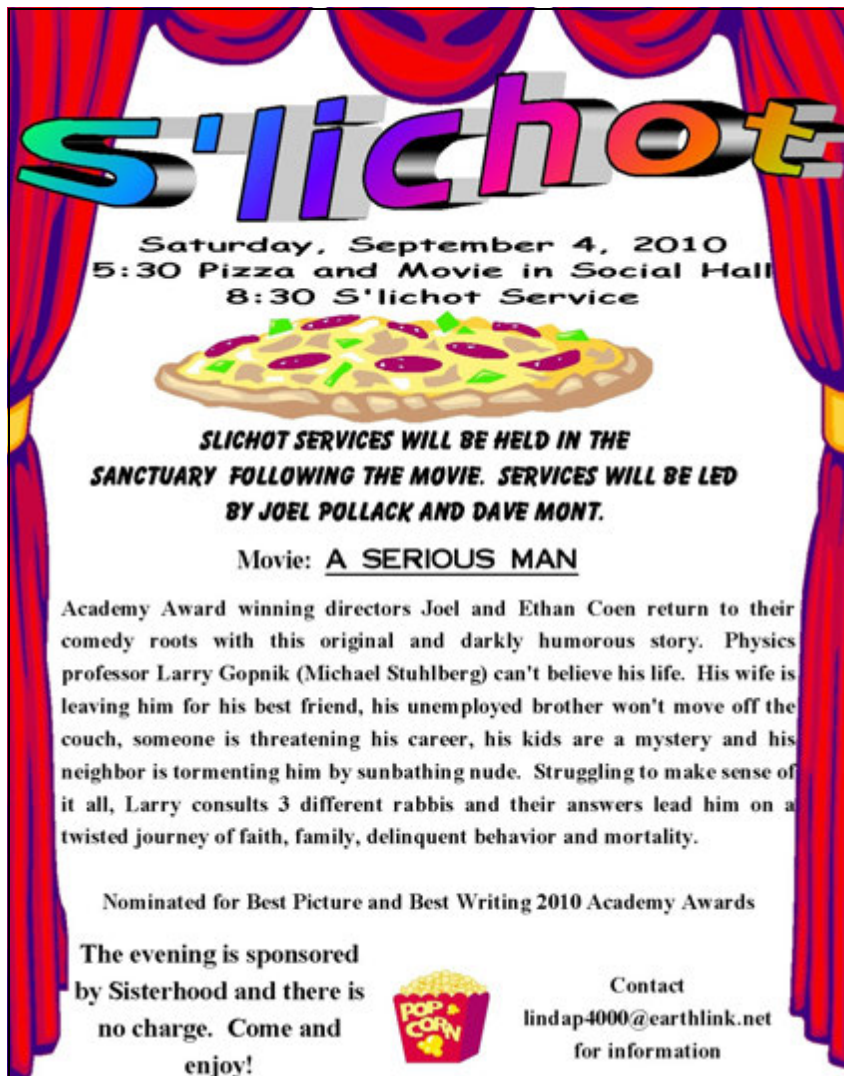
Scholarship Fund
 Steinbock, Steve & Carol

Alter, Barry
 Boruszak, Jim & Joan
 Gould, Maryon
 Peckman, Joyce
 Pollack, Joel & Linda
 Roy, Medina

Mishaberach for Yardena Kamely

In Memory of
 Bill Kwalick

In Honor of
 Pauline Roller's
 95th birthday



S'lichot

Saturday, September 4, 2010
5:30 Pizza and Movie in Social Hall
8:30 S'lichot Service


**SLICHOT SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE
 SANCTUARY FOLLOWING THE MOVIE. SERVICES WILL BE LED
 BY JOEL POLLACK AND DAVE MONT.**

Movie: A SERIOUS MAN

Academy Award winning directors Joel and Ethan Coen return to their comedy roots with this original and darkly humorous story. Physics professor Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg) can't believe his life. His wife is leaving him for his best friend, his unemployed brother won't move off the couch, someone is threatening his career, his kids are a mystery and his neighbor is tormenting him by sunbathing nude. Struggling to make sense of it all, Larry consults 3 different rabbis and their answers lead him on a twisted journey of faith, family, delinquent behavior and mortality.

Nominated for Best Picture and Best Writing 2010 Academy Awards

The evening is sponsored
 by Sisterhood and there is
 no charge. Come and
 enjoy!



Contact
 lindap4000@earthlink.net
 for information

Tree of Life
 Pollack, Joel & Linda—in
 honor of Pauline Roller's
 95th birthday

Bader, Ivan & Jean—To
 honor their 25th Wedding
 Anniversary

*Sara Cohen Memorial
 Tzedukah Fund*
 Boruszak, Jim & Joan
 Goldberg, Joseph & Susan
 Smith, Steve & Barbara

Note: due to space limitations, the Yizkor Book and Yahrzeit Listings do not appear this month as scheduled. They will run next month. KJCC is very grateful to have so many contributors, who all get an extra half a mitzvah for having to wait a month to see their names.

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A Natural Solution

Two scientists from Tel Aviv University have developed a “bioremediation” technique that may hold the key to the final cleanup of the BP oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The two biologists identified a naturally occurring variety of sea-borne bacteria, grown in their lab, which digests oil. Following decades of research, the scientists have developed a solution to clean the small percentage of residual oil left behind, under rocks and forming a thin film on the water, after the majority of the spill has been sucked up and contained. “Even when cleanup crews reduce the amount of oil at sea, there will probably be enough left behind to kill birds and wildlife,” said Professor Eliora Ron, adding that at this point in the process, the only solution is bioremediation – using nature itself to do the final cleanup. (www.israel21c.org, 8-5-10)

If I Were a Rich Man...

Israel ended 2009 with 8,419 millionaires, nearly 43 percent higher than 2008, according to Merrill Lynch Israel. Worldwide, the number of millionaires reportedly increased in 2009 by slightly more than 17 percent. Israel had the third highest rate of increase behind Hong Kong, at 104 percent, and India at 51 percent. The number of multimillionaires in Israel also rose in 2009 by 14 percent. (www.jta.org, 6-28-10)

JNF's Emergency Campaign

At the end of June, 300,000 trees were destroyed as fires raged across Israel. Over 750 acres burned. Arson is suspected and, because of Israel's severe heat wave, conditions worsened. A Jewish National Fund (JNF) spokesperson said that “it marked the single largest day of fires in Israel since the 2006 war with Hizbollah, and that it would take 50 years to restore the forests.” JNF has

launched an emergency relief campaign and hopes to raise a million dollars to help reverse the damage done by this recent forest fire. JNF, Israel's national foresters, has planted more than 240 million trees since 1901 to “protect the land, green the landscape and preserve vital ecosystems.” To join in this effort, contact Nancy Kluger, 852-4353, to participate in KJCC's Trees for Israel program. (www.jnf.org, 7-1-10)

In Memoriam

Reginald Levy, the pilot praised for keeping his cool during a 1972 hijacking by Palestinian militants, died August 1st. He was 88. Levy flew for Sabena Airlines when he took off from Brussels bound for Tel Aviv on May 8, 1972 – his 50th birthday – with 90 passengers aboard. Midflight, the plane was hijacked by four armed members of the group Black September, who ordered Levy to land at Israel's Lod (now Ben Gurion) Airport and threatened to blow up the plane if Israel did not release more than 300 Palestinian prisoners. Even though Levy's wife was among the passengers – it was their anniversary and they planned to celebrate with dinner in Tel Aviv – he managed to keep the hijackers calm. Levy was able to give the Israeli authorities detailed descriptions of the attackers, including their weapons and positions. Israeli commandos disguised as airplane mechanics stormed the plane, killing two of the hijackers and capturing the others. (Who were among those commandos? One was Ehud Barak, now Israel's defense minister, another was Benjamin Netanyahu, the current prime minister.) Although several passengers were injured, none were killed. (www.washingtonpost.com, 8-6-10)

A Message From the King

According to researchers at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, a tiny clay fragment, estimated to be 3,300 years-old, was recently discovered outside Jerusalem's Old City walls. It is believed to be the oldest example of writing ever found in the city. The fragment is most likely part of a message from the court of Abdi-Hefa, mentioned in Egyptian letters as the King of Jerusalem, to his counterpart in Egypt and could prove the Jerusalem mentioned in ancient writings actually existed in the same location as the Jerusalem of today. The fragment, less than one square inch in size, was discovered during sifting of fill from beneath a 10th century B.C.E. tower, the period of King Solomon. It is inscribed in cuneiform, or wedge-shaped symbols, in ancient Akkadian. Philology professor Wayne Horowitz and his colleagues deciphered the text. Tablets with diplomatic messages were routinely exchanged between kings in the ancient Near East. (www.haaretz.com, 7-12-10)

The Latest ADL Audit

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States remained at a "sustained and troubling" level in 2009, according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which annually compiles statistics of anti-Semitic assaults, vandalism and harassment. The 2009 audit, released at the end of July, counted a total of 1,211 incidents against Jewish individuals, property and community institutions across the United States. "The fact that Jews continue to be singled out for acts of hate on an average of three times per day in this country is a disturbing reality that we have to confront," said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director. (www.adl.org, 7-30-10)

In the Name of Stephen Tyrone Johns

A program to provide fifty outstanding high school students from the Washington, DC area with an intensive seven-week educational internship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has been established in memory of Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns. Officer Johns died in June 2009 while protecting museum visitors and staff from an armed

attack by an avowed racist and anti-Semite. The program, The Stephen Tyrone Johns Summer Youth Leadership Program, is "designed to help young people develop skills to become leaders in their communities who will stand against hate. Those chosen to participate study the lessons of the Holocaust, lead tours and discussions, and work closely with their peers from around the country, creating a network of young people who will reach out to others and promote human dignity." R.I.P., Officer Johns. (www.ushmm.org, 7-16-10)

Citizenship Granted

Israel will grant citizenship to the Indian woman who saved the life of Moshe Holtzberg, the two-year-old boy whose parents were murdered in the terrorist attack on the Chabad House in Mumbai, India, in November 2008. Six people – four Israelis, an American Jew and a Mexican Jewish woman – were killed in the attack on the Chabad center. Sandra Samuel, the boy's Indian nanny, managed to escape with the child. Following the attack, Samuel came to Israel with the boy and continued caring for him at his grandparents' home in Afula. Interior Minister Eli Yishai called the decision to grant citizenship to Samuel a humanitarian step that "must be taken for somebody who saves a Jewish life." (www.haaretz.com, 7-11-10)

A Pledge From the U.S.

Pending Congressional authorization, the United States will donate \$15 million to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation. The announcement was made by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the Schindler Factory Museum in Krakow, Poland on July 3rd. The contribution will go to "preserve the site of the concentration camp and demonstrate America's commitment to Holocaust education, remembrance and research." The U.S. is encouraging other nations to contribute to the fund to preserve the site for future generations. Some 1.1 million people perished at Auschwitz, about 30 miles west of Krakow in south-central Poland. More than 1.3 million people visited the site in 2009. (www.cnn.com, 7-5-10)

Happy People

In a Gallup World Poll four-year survey of 155 countries that measures well-being, Israel tied for 8th place with Australia, Switzerland, and Canada as the “happiest” country. Denmark, Finland and Norway led the list and the United States tied with Austria for 14th place. “The Scandinavian countries do really well,” said Jim Harter, a chief scientist at Gallup. “One theory is that they have their basic needs taken care of to a higher degree than other countries.” The highest-ranking Arab country, the United Arab Emirates, came in 20th. Israel’s neighbors ranked as follows: Egypt and Syria tied at 115th; Jordan was 52nd; and Lebanon 73rd. The survey was taken between 2005 and 2009. (www.forbes.com, 7-14-10)

PunkTorah

PunkTorah, a non-profit organization, has recently launched 3xdaily.org, a website which aims to explain the traditional three daily prayers – *Shacharit*, *Mincha*, and *Ma’ariv*. Also included are blessings after meals, the psalms, and the *Shema*, among others. The site was created in order to “give unaffiliated and progressive Jews a chance to learn more about and participate in the Jewish daily prayers.” The website claims that “most of the time, when we approach Jews who may not be involved in an ‘orthodox’ movement, they have no idea that we are called to pray three times a day. We are invited to keep this connection with G-d open and flowing throughout the day.” (*The Forward*, 5-19-10)

Saving the Olive Trees

Ancient olive trees in the Hevron area of Israel – some of them up to 2,000 years old – have been saved by a group of volunteers from both the Jewish and Arab communities of the city. The trees were endangered by a parasitic plant that was quickly multiplying, threatening to devastate the area. The volunteers went from tree to tree and pruned off the invaders. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 7-12-10)

Did You Know...

-The unofficial song of America’s once-favorite pastime, “Take Me Out to the Ball game,” was the product of a Jewish-Episcopalian collaboration: Jewish songwriter Albert Von Tilzer (born Gumbinski) wrote the melody and Jack Norworth wrote the words. The song is believed to trail only “Happy Birthday” and “The Star-Spangled Banner” as America’s most performed songs. Von Tilzer died in 1956. (www.jta.org, 7-6-10)

-Cpl. Elinor Joseph is the first Arab female combat soldier in IDF history. She is a Christian Arab born and raised in an integrated neighborhood of Jews and Arabs in Haifa. She believes that being a combat soldier means that she is granting all Israeli citizens, including Israeli Arabs like her parents, a better, quieter life. “There was a Katyusha [rocket] that fell near my house and also hurt Arabs. If someone would tell me that serving in the IDF means killing Arabs, I remind them that Arabs also kill Arabs.” (www.dover.idf.il, 7-26-10)

-Some 1.6 million tourists visited Israel in the first half of 2010, setting a record. It represents a 39 percent increase over the same period in 2009 and 10 percent above 2008, Israel’s previous record year, according to a news release from the country’s Tourism Ministry. (www.jta.org, 7-12-10)

-Jerusalem was voted the number one Best City in Africa and the Middle East and Tel Aviv No. 3 by the readers of Travel + Leisure magazine. Jerusalem reached the top spot for the first time since 2000. Tel Aviv made it to the top three for the first time. The results are published annually in the magazine’s August issue. (www.jta.org, 7-11-10)

-After \$100 million and three years of renovation, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem has reopened, firmly reestablishing itself as Israel’s national museum and the most important repository of Jewish culture in the world. The museum’s holdings include some 500,000 objects, most significantly the Dead Sea Scrolls held in the Shrine of the Book. (www.jewishjournal.com, 7-26-10) ♦

Photo Gallery

On May 22nd, Teresa and Medina co-sponsored a Havdalah, the last of the season, at their neighborhood park on the Bay. It was, if you'll remember, a breezy, chilly spring, which made candle-lighting a challenge, but the setting was beautiful and Gloria's service, as usual, was warm and moving and brief.



May 23rd saw the awarding of certificates to the Sunday School students for completion of their school year. Prez Alan, Education Director Susan, Morah Yardena and Morah Gloria led the ceremony. (Photos continue next page).



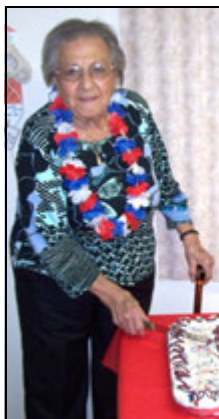


As usual, parents played a large part in the festivities. All the photos are courtesy of Moira-the-shofar-blower's dad, Richard Knowles.



The two top photos are courtesy of Stuart Sax. On Sunday, May 30th, as he does every Memorial Day, Stu joined the Jewish War Veterans as they placed flags in Miami's Mt. Nebo Cemetery at the graves of veterans. At left in the lower photo is Josh Siegel, an active-duty Marine on leave who, as Stu said, "was helping to honor those who served before him." Those present represented six decades of Jewish veterans from six different wars.

The photos below are from one of many parties celebrating Pauline's 95th birthday, this one on June 26th. Think herding cats is hard? Try getting thirty Jews to leave their food and pose for a picture. But a wonderful time was had by all, and everyone loves Pauline.





At top is a table shot from the June 26th party for Pauline. Joyce and Candy, left below, had taken Pauline to lunch earlier because both would be leaving town for the summer before the round of parties.

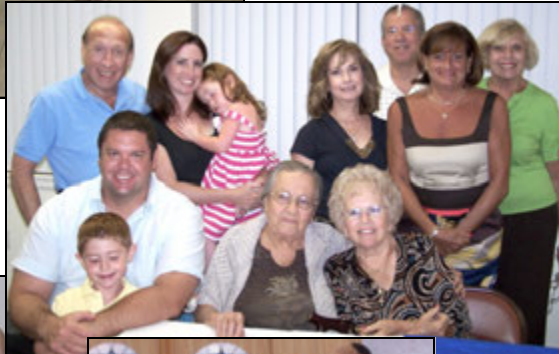
The Pauline-fest continued at the July 2nd Shabbabacue at KJCC, which was also the debut of our beautiful new propane grill, a generous gift to KJCC from the Friedman family: Steve, Jane and Harry.



The Shabbabacue this year was sponsored by Men's Club. As you see, Mark Wasser did most of the cooking. It also rained. But Bernie just happened to have brought his current med-student intern along, so she was dispatched to keep Mark and the food somewhat dry.



Yet more photos from the July 2nd Shabbacue at KJCC. Below center, Pauline poses with family, many of whom had traveled very far just to honor her. At left below, Pauline holds Thomas Davis Smith, son of Brian and grandson of Steve and Barbara.



On July 17, KJCC was honored by the first of two Saturday services led by visiting Rabbi Richard Agler of Boca Raton. It isn't often we get to actually open and read from our Holocaust Torah.

At right, with Rabbi Agler, visitors Eric Tappert and his mom Helen Chuckrow. Helen, a cantorial tutor, chanted directly from our Torah and also performed the day's haftorah. It was her way to thank us for warmly welcoming Eric for High Holy Days last year.



After the service, at the Oneg, left, Rabbi Agler and Alan (!) sing while Zoe sees to the supply of wine.



Photos from the July 24th Saturday service led by Rabbi Agler. At top, with three ex-prezes and our Holocaust Torah. At left, tearing the challah at the Oneg. It was a challah for the ages, handmade from scratch by Kathy Shabathai, shown here with husband Joe.



Most challah recipes call for two. Rather than halve all the ingredients, Kathy just made one big one. The glorious result is at right.

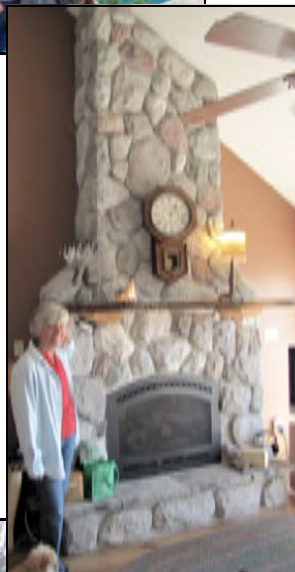
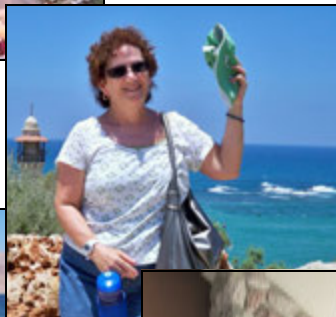


The print below, of and from Jerusalem, was donated to KJCC by Stuart and Geri Smith. Look for it in the lobby.



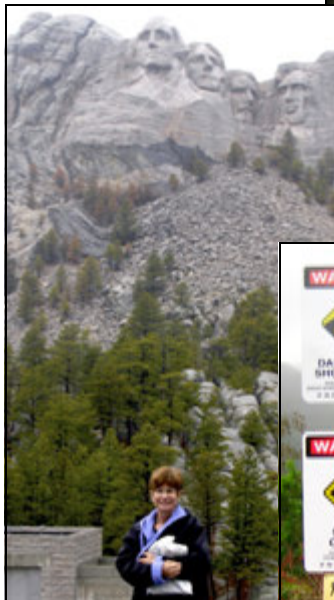
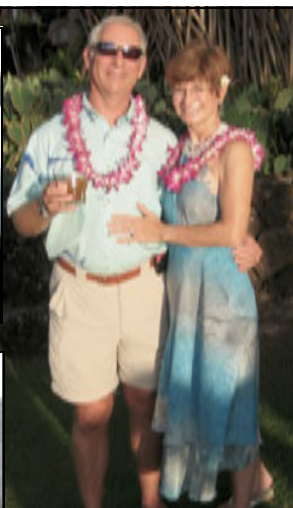
Rabbi Agler had two able helpers for the Oneg prayers after the July 24th service. At left is Moira Knowles, and at right is Minnie Ruzycski, granddaughter of Joe and Kathy Shabathai. In the center bottom photo, Bea and Alan proudly display at the August 6th Oneg the new challah cover Bea brought KJCC from Israel after her granddaughter Shyella's wedding there.

We asked for summer photos, and so summer photos it was...



At top is Erica in Toronto, Joe and Kathy (and friend Kate Garcia) and Dave and Georgia at sea in the Atlantic, Joyce on the Mediterranean at Haifa and, below, at the Red Sea, and with Keith and Rebecca in the Galilee. At right we have Alan mountain biking in Michigan's U.P. Candy is boating on Lake Superior with Mason and Bailey, and standing before the fireplace she and sister Rene built at their rustic U.P. cabin.





At top, Gloria and David in Maine, and the pond nearby. At top left, Patti Gross photographs a ray while diving in Hawaii, where she also poses with husband David. In the two center left pictures, Patti is in South Dakota's Black Hills, at Mt. Rushmore (nope, that's not a touristy fake photo gimmick, it's the real thing) and hiking in Hawaii. Plus two milestone birthdays: Maryon opens cards in Massachusetts at her 85th, and Mary Lee with her children for her 75th.



High Holidays 2010

We bring you a story, some thought food about the season's words, some words about the season's food, a touch of Sukkot, and a new rabbi.

Once again this year, Gloria Avner, the KJCC Religious Committee chair, has chosen a story for us to help illuminate the profound ideas that underlie the Days of Awe.

We are a people who love stories: telling them, listening to them, and reading them. We laugh, we cry, and in the process of enjoyment, we learn. Stories are our teaching tools, left to us in the Talmud as a legacy from our ancestors, a gift that helps define us. Last year at High Holiday time, I shared a story with you about "tzedakah," generosity to those in need, and another about "tefilah," the power of prayer.

This year we offer a story illuminating the third pillar, "t'shuvah," repentance, a word we shout out with the other two, in unison, as we sit together asking forgiveness. As we call out these words, we strengthen our community, reminding each other and ourselves that there are three ways to mitigate one's wrongful deeds, and that it is never too late to do the right thing. We thank Eric Kimmel for his retelling of a tale that came to us originally in the Talmud's "Tractate Taanit."

All three stories can be found in Eric's book, "Days of Awe," which I will leave in our KJCC library.

-Gloria

Rabbi Eleazar and the Beggar: A Story about Repentance

(No human being is perfect. We all make mistakes, and when we do it is important to set right the wrongs we have done; asking forgiveness from those we have injured is part of the process. Forgiving is difficult

some-times, especially in the case of people we dislike or those who have hurt our feelings. Refusing to forgive can be a way of getting even. The rabbis realized this. Looking at a world filled with endless hatred and violence, they understood how important it is to be able to bend, to

	High	Holiday	Sc
Saturday	Sept. 4	5:30 p.m.	
Wednesday	Sept. 8	6:00 p.m.	
Wednesday	Sept. 8	8:00 p.m.	
Thursday	Sept. 9	9:30 a.m.	
Thursday	Sept. 9	4:00 p.m.	
Friday	Sept. 10	9:30 a.m.	
Friday	Sept. 10	8:00 p.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 11	10:00 a.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 11	7:45 p.m.	
Friday	Sept. 17	7:00 p.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18	9:30 a.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18	11:00 a.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18	11:00 a.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18	5:45 p.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18		
Saturday	Sept. 18		
Sunday	Sept. 19	9:00 a.m.	

be able to forgive when we actually may not feel very forgiving. That is why they taught, "Always be gentle as the reed, never unyielding as the cedar." Forgiveness is not only for the sake of those who ask it of us. It is also for our own sake.)

In the beginning of the month of Tishri, Rabbi Eleazar journeyed from the Academy at Yavneh to his home in Migdal Gedor to spend the holidays with his family. Along the way he passed through the village of Tekoa. The people of Tekoa were honored to have such a

famous scholar in their midst. They conducted Rabbi Eleazar to the synagogue and begged him for a "d'var Torah." He obliged with a sermon. He spoke of the potter at his wheel, the weaver at her loom, the blacksmith at his anvil. He told the inhabitants of Tekoa: "Just as

these artisans shape the raw material according to their needs and inclinations, so too does the One Who Made Us All mold each of us to His purpose."

Now, among those who came to hear the sermon was a deformed beggar who lived in a ruined tower outside the village. Ashamed to enter the synagogue because of his appearance, he stood listening outside the door. Rabbi Eleazar's words touched his heart. The beggar hurried home and waited beside the road. When the rabbi rode by on his donkey, he approached and asked a blessing. Startled by the man's appearance, Rabbi Eleazar gasped without thinking, "Heaven shield me from such ugliness!"

Rabbi Eleazar blushed with shame. Not only had he humiliated an unfortunate, he had violated his own teaching to cherish all creation. He turned to the beggar with lowered eyes. "I have wronged you. I spoke without thinking. I am deeply sorry. Forgive me."

But the beggar's humiliation rankled. "I will forgive you when the One Who Made Me forgives you."

Rabbi Eleazar got down from his donkey. He took off his sandals, tore his robe, threw himself down on the ground, and heaped handfuls of dust on his head. "Forgive me. I cannot go from this place until you do."

"Come or go as you like. It is all the same to me," the beggar replied. "But as for forgiveness, as I said, I will forgive you when the One Who Made Me forgives you."

So Rabbi Eleazar remained lying in the dust at the feet of the beggar, who ignored him.

In Migdal Gedor, the hour of evening prayer was rapidly approaching with still no sign of Rabbi Eleazar. Fearing the worst, his four sons and his daughter set out to look for him. They found their father lying in the dust a mile from Tekoa, clothes torn, head covered with dust, sprawled at the feet of a hideous beggar.

"Father!" they cried, rushing toward him.

"Whom are you addressing thus?" The beggar asked them.

"Are you blind? Do you not recognize our father, our teacher, the great Rabbi Eleazar?"

Schedule 2010

Movie/Pizza S'lichot Service

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Rosh Hashanah (Day One)

Tashlich at Ocean Pointe

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Erev Shabbat (short service)

Shabbat Tshuvah

Havdalah at Ocean Pointe

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre

Yom Kippur

Children's service

Yizkor

Minhah Torah/Story of Jonah

Nei'ilah/Ma'ariv, Havdalah

Break-the-Fast Dinner

Sukkah construction (a mitzvah)

The beggar replied, "Are you his children? Do you follow his example? Do you mock the poor when they ask your blessing?"

"Do not speak lies. Our father would do no such thing," said Rabbi Eleazar's oldest son.

Rabbi Eleazar raised his head from the dust. "The man does not lie. It is true, every

word. I am guilty. I beg his forgiveness."

Rabbi Eleazar's second son turned to the beggar. "Why will you not forgive him?" The beggar replied, "He has not offended me. He has offended the One Who Made Me. When

"I will forgive him when the One Who Made Me forgives him."

He forgives him, I will."

Rabbi Eleazar's third son spoke next. "What more do you require? Our father admits his error. He humbles himself before you. You must forgive him."

The beggar turned his back. "I will forgive him when the One Who Made Me forgives him."

Rabbi Eleazar's fourth son scowled at the beggar. "Scoundrel! Be warned. If you think your life is miserable now, it will seem like paradise compared to what will come if you do not forgive our father this instant."

The beggar stubbornly repeated what he had already said before: "I will forgive him when the One Who Made Me forgives him."

Then Rabbi Eleazar's daughter came forward. She spoke to the beggar gently. "My friend, the One Who Made You has already forgiven our father. He is always ready to forgive. His mercy, like the rain from Heaven, falls on all who seek it. Our father requires nothing from you. Instead, he afflicts himself for your sake. He understands the bitterness of withholding forgiveness, of storing up malice like stones. He will not leave this spot until you accept his apology and drop the

bitter burden from your shoulders. Come, say with me the words 'I forgive.' Begin the new year with a clean heart."

The beggar, whose life since birth had been an endless round of abuse and misery, felt himself moved in a way he had never known before. Rabbi Eleazar's daughter offered him her hand. He took it. They approached Rabbi Eleazar together. The beggar bent low to lift the sage from the dust. "I forgive you, Rabbi," he murmured. "Can you ever forgive me?"

Rabbi Eleazar answered: "It is already done." Then he arose and called for a new robe, which he placed not on his own, but on the beggar's shoulders. He and his children lifted the man onto his donkey and together, with song and rejoicing, they continued to Migdal Gedor. ♦

Camp, Eat, Give Thanks, and Be Merry

Sukkot – A Holiday of Joy

by Gloria Avner

Autumn, early or late, can be a great time to be out of doors. To camp and welcome friends, families, and strangers (even our own ancestors, from Abraham to David), to share a meal in an impromptu, impermanent home whose roof is the sky crossed by a few limbs of a tree seems like a small thing, from a small point of view. But when you have just gone through 40 days of introspection, ten days of awe, intense prayer, begging for forgiveness of misdeeds, and fasting, we are feeling clean, happy to be alive, independent of possessions, and it is good to have even rain and wind in our hair. It is good to reconnect with our earth-honoring roots, and to bless and enjoy all forms of the earth's fruits.

Sukkot is called *z'man simhateinu*, the

Rabbi Young & Cantor Halpern to Lead KJCC High Holiday Services, Year 5771

As you remember, one of the questions we asked in last year's Membership survey was whether you would like to have a rabbi officiate our High Holy Day services. A healthy percentage of you said yes, so we actively researched what it would take to obtain a part-time rabbi. Those of you who were there will surely remember the service last spring when Stuart and Lauren Sax, through the good offices of Gloria Avner, our head of ritual, invited Rabbi Danny Young to come to KJCC to lead a service, specifically a Shabbat service. The service was very well received, and Rabbi Young was well liked by all who attended. To our great pleasure, Rabbi Young was available this fall. So this year, these High Holidays, I am thrilled to announce that Rabbi Danny Young, along with Cantor Mark Halpern, will be conducting the High Holiday services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at KJCC.

Obviously, hiring a rabbi, even part-time, is expensive for the KJCC. We did not want to increase the membership dues, so several of our members stepped forward and agreed to underwrite the rabbi's charges. I would like to personally thank and recognize the following individuals for their most generous contributions:

Paul & Barbara Bernstein
David & Toby Goldfinger
David & Patti Gross
Beth Hayden
Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein

Kurt & Nancy Kluger
Neal & Cathy Rakov
Stuart & Lauren Sax
Mort & Gene Silverman

*Thank you,
Alan Beth*

time of our joy, and the activities, rituals, and foods we choose should focus on happiness. Serve everyone's favorite foods, wear new clothes, and even exchange some presents. The Pilgrims (the ones recently debarked from the Mayflower in Massachusetts) were so impressed with the holiday of Sukkot, they based their Thanksgiving celebration on it.

Often we tend to think that the most "important" holidays are the more serious ones, such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Sukkot reminds us that *mitzvah gedolah l'hiyot b'simcha*: it is a great mitzvah to be happy. Shake your lulav in all sacred directions; admire the beauty and aroma of your etrog. Help build your Synagogue's Sukkah (Sunday, September 19th at 9:00 a.m. at KJCC). *Hag Sameach*--have a joyous holiday! ◇

What's in a Word?

by Gloria Avner

A bit of Hebrew learning came to me this summer as I listened to a talk by Rabbi Darrah Lerner in a temple member's home on Mt. Desert Island, Maine. Her topic was "Fifty Words Every Jew Should Know." As the sun set over Beech Mountain and Somes Sound, the giant floor-to-ceiling windows filled with mauve, gold, and purple, a background worthy of the richness of the topic, even though we barely covered fourteen words.

The more I study Hebrew and become familiar with the roots of words, the more I see how each of our words contains not one but many layers of meaning. One three-letter

root (or “shoresh”), with tiny changes, endings, and prefixes can fill a whole page in a dictionary. We are nothing if not subtle and complex. Within our roots is our story.

The Rabbi started with the word Torah. Yes, it means Jewish law. But new to me was the fact that it also means to aim, as in archery—to direct, to throw, to seek direction. Torah, our foundational document, literally points us in the right direction and sets us on the correct path.

Her second word, “Halacha,” we understand to mean Jewish law. Seventy percent of the Talmud is spent interpreting “Halacha.” Within the word for law, however, is the same root, “Holech,” as for the verb “to go” or “to walk.” “Lech Lecha” says God to Abraham: “Go away from here.” So begins God’s covenant with the Jewish people. Monotheism and the laws relating to proper human conduct are not just the law. The laws are also the “way,” the way to walk a fruitful life.

We talked about “avar,” “avayra,” and “ivri” (Hebrew), all coming from the same three-letter root meaning “to cross over.” As a people we are called the “Ivrit,” or Hebrews, because we are the ones who crossed over from worshipping myriad idols to practicing monotheism; we are also the people who crossed the Sea of Reeds, with God’s help, from slavery to freedom.

Words four through eight are words that will be on our minds and in our mouths frequently in the coming “Days of Awe.” Most of them refer to different ways in which we “stray” from the “path.” “Chet,” sometimes translated as “sin,” really means we “missed the target,” another archery metaphor; we failed to achieve our highest potential. Usually such an error is unintentional. When we stray off the path, even unintentionally, we miss our goal. “Pasah” is deliberate transgression, trespass, or rebellion. “Avon” is the heaviest leaving of the path, an act of deliber-

ate iniquity. “Kippur” refers to the Divine covering over or cleaning up the mess.

There are consequences for getting off the path—punishments inflicted by self, others, and nature. But what a generous religion we have! There is always a way to get back. The very word for redemption, “T’shuvah,” comes from the root meaning “return.” We return through prayer, acts of kindness, and asking forgiveness of those we have wronged. We come together for “Selichot” the week before Rosh HaShanah (Saturday, September 4th, at 5:30 p.m. at KJCC). “Selicha” means “I’m sorry.” On this night we ask together for Divine pardon. With sincere prayer and acts of generosity we can return to the path, the way of Torah.

We talked last about the four-letter, all-vowel word that is the unpronounceable name of God. The Rabbi posited something intriguing. What if the four-letter word really is pronounceable, and it is a form of the verb “to be” in a tense that is beyond our determination? What if God is Breath, a state of being without specificity?

The other roots, both nouns and verbs, will have to wait for another time. I am more than willing to share the fifty-word list. Ask. For now, I will end with “sefer,” the word for “book.” We are the People of the Book, but in this same root, with tiny permutations, are found the words “story,” “relate,” “telling,” “counting,” and “census.” We are always telling ourselves and our children our story. It is how the People of the Book survive.

We have such an audacious theology. What we put in the Divine Mouth is what we want God to say. Our telling. Our story. Does God pray? What would we want God to pray for? I was moved by Rabbi Darrah’s suggestion: we would pray, “that God’s mercy is greater than God’s justice.”

L’Shanah Tovah. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a Good Year. ◇

***“Kippur” refers
to the Divine
covering over
or cleaning up
the mess.***

Finding Meaning in High Holy Day Services

The rabbi who will lead KJCC services this year gives us a brief glimpse of who he is and the rich experience we can look forward to.

Every year as the High Holy Days approach I am reminded of a powerful lesson I learned at my first student pulpit in Victorville, California. After my initial year in Israel I was sent to lead services in Victorville, a small desert town on the way from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. The congregation boasted some fifty families, most of whom turned out for the High Holy Days. As a young student rabbi I desperately wanted to prove my competence and show them that I had mastery of, and knew how to lead, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

After several calls back and forth with the soloists to discuss the music and the pacing of the service, we developed a “running sheet”—a plan for how the services would flow. I diligently followed the running sheet and presided over what I felt was a complete and well-executed service, for I had followed all the cues.

The following year I returned to Victorville, no longer a new face, no longer a stranger to their customs. Yet a strange thing happened: in leading the services I found myself making more mistakes. I was not always on the right page; I was not necessarily ready with the next page instruction. I felt like the services my second year were less polished than my first!

I must confess that I was surprised when congregant after congregant came to tell me how much more meaningful that year’s services had been than the prior year’s services.

As I reflected, I realized the reason why the services didn’t run as smoothly: now comfortable with the liturgy and the community, I allowed myself to pray.

Getting lost in the moment provided a more meaningful High Holy Day experience for me, and it inspired a more meaningful journey for the congregation. I carry that lesson with me as I work every year to find an appropriate balance between form and substance, between structure and spontaneity.

Lest you think this is all about me, however, I want to make explicit my reason for sharing this lesson. When we gather for services we participate in a communal experience. We may not feel the freedom to linger over a particular passage that resonates strongly with us. We may not give ourselves permission to “opt out” for a while and share

a moment or two of personal reflection.

If the worship experience is just about keeping up, it will fall short of its potential to reach and inspire. It is only when we allow ourselves to be touched by the words, the ideas, the melodies of the Days of Awe that the worship experience can be deep, reflective or transformational.

I look forward to sharing this search for meaning and inspiration with you during the High Holy Day season!

*L’shanah Tovah Tikateivu,
May you be inscribed for a good year,
Rabbi Daniel Young*



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner A Good Start to a Sweet Year

On Wednesday, September 8th, at 6 pm before evening service, we will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of soup, brisket, chicken, farfel and tzimmiss, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more.

Voluntary donation is \$18 per adult.

Reservations are necessary. Contact Dr. Erica Garrett by September 2nd at hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-853-1003 if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood at PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.



The Making of a Bar Mitzvah Boy

“/

feel great,” said a beaming Max Schrader-Grace as a stream of friends, family, and KJCC *mishpocha* filed out of the sanctuary to congratulate his parents, Eric and Ruth. He was glowing and grinning, and it wasn’t just from relief that his Bar Mitzvah was over and a party lay ahead.

Called to the Torah wrapped in his new “Tallit,” Max had chanted his portion like a “chazzan,” a professional cantor, his pronunciation perfect, his timing unrushed, and his voice strong and confident. Everyone in the room was proud of him. As his coach and one of his KJCC Religious School teachers for the past five years, I could not have imagined a better outcome to all his hours of study and his family’s preparation and support.

Major thanks are due to



A proud moment for Morah Gloria.



Max carrying our Holocaust Torah, for the first time as a full member of the KJCC community.

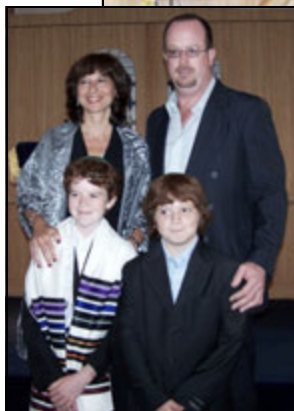


With parents Ruth and Eric, at one of life’s momentous events for a Jewish boy.

Dave Feder for recording Max’s *parshah* as a study tool and for coordinating the Torah service. It was an unusual service for KJCC, our second Saturday afternoon “Minchah”/Bar Mitzvah service in two years. We wish Max, his parents, and all relatives and friends, many years of “nachas.”

I will not be surprised when Max, now a full member of our community, becomes one of our future service leaders. We of his KJCC *mishpocha* look forward to it.

-Gloria



More of Max's special day: During the service; signing the certificate (he said it was the first time he'd ever signed his name); at lower right, with parents, grandparents and the prototypically irreverent little brother.



A FAMILY REUNION IN ISRAEL

by Joyce Peckman

It's Sunday morning, and I'm taking the train from Tel Aviv to Nahariya, to find my way to Kibbutz Beit HaEmek in the northern Galilee, where I'm invited to lunch with a woman I haven't seen in 40 years. This is not the Long Island Railroad. Security is better than at the airport. As bags go through x-ray screening, I pass under a metal detector, then through a turnstile.

Inside is a modern station with booths selling falafel, coffee, and cold drinks. I buy my ticket, then pass through an aperture into a corridor lined with vendors of bright clothing, exotic musical instruments, artwork, and hand-worked leather goods.

Down a steep escalator are the platforms, where waiting passengers can purchase penny candy, juice, soda, bottled water or snacks from vending machines. The trains are similar to Amtrak, with a spacious bathroom in each car, and the seating in sets of four facing small tables.

My train originated in Beersheva, and pulled into Tel Aviv full. Someone got up to give a seat to an old man, and I lucked into another. Surrounding me are standing students and soldiers. Across from me, an officer--two gold bars and the weight of the border on his shoulders--leans his head on the wall and sleeps. A teen-aged yeshiva girl sits in the aisle reading, leaning against someone's suitcase. In the open area near the bathroom, more students take up the floor. People talk quietly into cell phones or to each other. Listening, I become aware that Hebrew, like English, has its dialects.

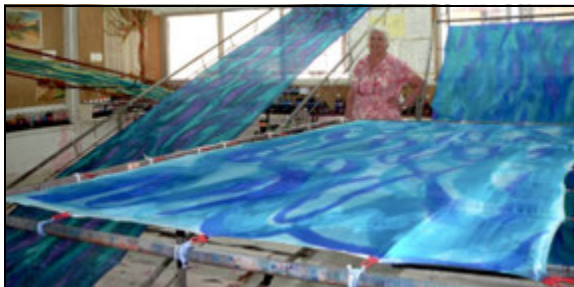
North of Tel Aviv we pass factories, stone and stucco homes, plowed fields, orchards, and, near Benyamina, grape vines. Then near

Hof HaCarmel, we approach the shore, and suddenly the Mediterranean is on my left. At Haifa, people empty out, and their seats are quickly taken. Just north of Haifa, at Lev Hamifratz, is an army base, and there is another exodus. Dozens of young soldiers pass my window, smiling, walking quickly off the platform. Several are obviously Ethiopian, and some have the look of the stereotypical Russian. In another setting, I would think them Cossacks.

After almost two hours we arrive at Nahariya, the last stop. My rudimentary Hebrew can't get me to a *sherut*, the inexpensive shared taxis, so I pay 40 shekels for a taxi to the kibbutz.

Beit HaEmek was built in 1949 in a strategic area, surrounded by Arab villages. The relationship is cordial, and their part-time clinic is manned by Arab doctors and nurses. There are lovely ancient olive trees, carefully tended gardens, schools and homes built in the 1950s, and a lovely new dining hall. In an age where many kibbutzim are having financial difficulty, Beit HaEmek is holding its own. Many of the residents work off-site. There is income from agriculture, they make medical filters and are the home of Galilee silk, which is renowned for hand-painted women's *talisim* and challah covers as well as beautiful clothing and scarves. In addition, the pool/park area is open to the public for a fee during the summer, and was filled with swimming, picnicking families.

Over home-brewed herbal iced tea and cake, Lucy--now Orit--looked at old photos and talked about life. Two American girls had been in adjoining barracks rooms in a kibbutz *ulpan* a lifetime ago. One married an Israeli and stayed. One ended up in Key Largo. ♦



Orit with the silk at Kibbutz Beit HaEmek.

On Our Dream Vacation to The Galapagos Islands

My wonderful week with Steve, sea lions and Darwin's finches

by Carol Steinbock

The days flew by. Our recent ten-day trip to the Galapagos Archipelago aboard The National Geographic Islander, a 48-passenger catamaran, was a most extraordinary adventure. The ship was small but very comfortable. (Steve would say the bathroom was too small).

The crew included four licensed naturalists, all of whom were extremely knowledgeable and wonderful to be with. You could tell they love what they do. Each evening they prepared us for the next day's events, where we were going and the wonderful sights we would see.

We had done some homework before we left the Keys. We watched videos, read some books and looked at pictures of the birds, reptiles and mammals we hoped to see. But absolutely nothing could have prepared us for the experience of walking within feet, and often inches, of a blue-footed booby (yes, its feet really are a very pretty blue), magnificent frigate bird, albatross, land and water iguana, sea lion, baby seal, giant tortoise, Sally Lightfoot crab, penguin, pelican and flightless cormorant, not to mention the Darwin finches (13 species).

We could go on forever recounting the details of all we saw, heard and learned but, for this article, we must keep it brief. (Ed.

Note – pshaw; they were under no such mandate.)

After flying first to Quito and then Guayaquil, Ecuador, we took a smaller plane to Baltra Island, where we went by Zodiac to board the Islander. Baltra was our first introduction to the unique volcanic islands and the fearless creatures that inhabit them. On the dock, we walked within a couple of feet of two sun-

bathing sea lions that ignored us completely.

That first day on board, we were the only passengers (read *fools*), as others on the ship watched, to brave the 72-degree water for a quick dip in the ocean, and I do mean quick.

We traveled to North Seymour, a tiny island, where we hiked across the lava rocks to see frigate birds and blue-footed boobies so close you would have stepped on one if you didn't look where you were going. Wonder-

fully, it was mating season so we were treated to the boobies doing their mating dance, the cutest thing I (Carol) have ever seen. Next, we cruised to Bartolome, another tiny island. There, we hiked up a winding wooden path to the summit for a magnificent view of the surrounding islands and lots of water everywhere.

This island is uninhabited

except for some lizards, sea iguana and a few grasshoppers.

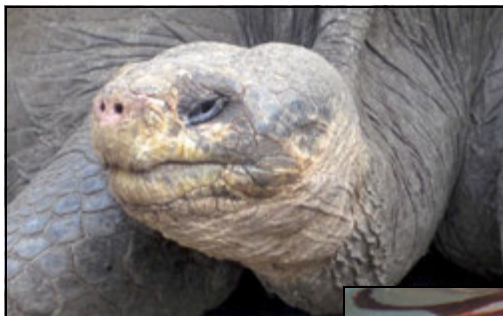
This is probably the right place to give some of the stats: The Galapagos Islands are 600 miles off the coast of South America and are a National Park under the jurisdiction of Ecuador, which wholly controls how many visitors can go to which islands and when. The human population of the islands is approximately 32,000, occupying only three of



Steve aboard The Islander.



Perhaps this was what Darwin first saw from HMS Beagle.



A gallery of the wildlife found on the Galapagos and snapped by Steve and Carol. Yes, that is a penguin in the center photo.

coffee, juice and fruit. It was just a great space to sit around and socialize on the rare occasions when we had free time.

As we arrived back onboard ship after an excursion, there was always a table in the "lobby" with drinks and snacks to tide us over until dinner.

The crew was always pleasant and helpful. On a personal note, the soles of my sandals separated after one of our hikes. I spoke to the Engineer and before I knew it, they were repaired better than new.

A young woman on our trip, a fellow passenger, commented about all the excursions to go on and

added that you could stay on the ship, then said "but I don't know who would want to do that." In other words, every island had something new and wonderful to experience that should not be missed.

For those who are interested, we will be sharing our adventure with you, showing the video made from our trip, as well as photos

and short clips we took ourselves, at the KJCC within the next few months. We might even supply pizza

the 29+ islands: Santa Cruz, Floreana and Isabella. The Galapagos were never part of the continental mass and lack any naturally occurring land mammal predators, one of the reasons its native species are so fearless.

On and under the water, we were treated to numerous sightings of a multitude of creatures. As we crossed the Equator, we watched a pod of dolphin (at least 150) and a whale repeatedly breaching, to our great delight. Closer to land, we saw sea turtles, large eagle rays and smaller golden or mustard rays swimming just below the surface. I will never forget the group of baby fur seals who were playing. It looked like recess at day care. And then there were the flamingos we watched feeding just yards away, reminding us of the Keys but closer than we have ever come to them at home.

We snorkeled with sharks, many varieties of cold water and tropical fish as well as having many close encounters with playful sea lions under the water.

As for the ship, not only were the cabins comfortable, but also the food served in the dining room was delicious and different every day, mostly Ecuadorian recipes (and this from Carol, one of the pickiest eaters). Of course, the desserts were out of this world. The comfortable and spacious lounge was where we had our evening meetings, our pre-breakfast



and soda.

We only hope all of you get to make this trip yourselves.

Best,
Steve & Carol

-This Month in Jewish History-

September

301 C.E. – San Marino, one of the smallest nations in the world, just inland from Rimini on Italy's Adriatic coast, and the world's oldest republic still in existence, is founded by Saint Marinus. During World War II the 15,000 people of San Marino provide a refuge for 100,000, including a large number of Jews.

1192 – The Third Crusade ends, as English King Richard I (the Lion-Hearted) and Muslim Caliph Saladin sign a peace treaty allowing Christian pilgrims access to Muslim-held Jerusalem. Saladin, the great ruler and general, had readmitted the Jews to Jerusalem in 1190.

1434 – The Council of Basle (Switzerland) institutes new measures against Jews, who are prohibited from entering universities and are forced to listen to conversion sermons. The council encourages Christian study of Hebrew in order to "combat Jewish heresy."

1485 – Pedro Arbues, the inquisitor for Spain's Aragon province, is murdered in church by a group of Marranos as retaliation. The perpetrators have their hands cut off and are then beheaded and quartered. Arbues is canonized.

1492 – In one of the signature events in all of Jewish history, Jews are expelled from Spain and its domains by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

1504 – Michelangelo's David, among the greatest of Renaissance works of art, is unveiled in Florence. The unclothed statue, however, has a slight flaw: David is uncircumcised. Oops. Historians have long wondered whether the error was from not knowing or from not wanting to offend officials of the Church.

1609 – Rabbi Judah Loew Ben Bezalel, the

Maharal of Prague, dies. His greatest claim to fame is a fictional creation called the Legend of the Golem, a medieval version of the now-familiar Frankenstein story, in which the Maharal breathed life into a human-like figure by affixing a slip of paper with the Tetragrammaton to his forehead, called forth to protect the Jews whenever they are in danger. The legend endures as a staple of Jewish literature.

1658 – Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England, dies. It is Cromwell who welcomes Jews back to England after their banishment 350 years before. By 1657, the Jews of London feel secure enough to purchase a building to become their synagogue.

1789 – President George Washington appoints Alexander Hamilton as the first Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton, born out of wedlock, reportedly to a Jewish woman, receives his early education from Jews in the West Indies.

1869 – Siegmund Salzmann is born in Budapest, Hungary. After visiting the Alps in 1923, he writes the children's classic "Bambi" under the name Felix Salten. In 1933 he moves to Switzerland to escape the Nazis and sells the rights to the story, making no money from the Disney movie released in 1942.

1921 – The first Moshav, Nahalal, is founded in the Jezreel Valley, an area of abundant but often-stagnant water. (Nahal was the Biblical name of a local town connected with the tribe of Zebulun.) The first fifteen years or so of settlement are spent draining the water to eliminate the malarial swamps in the region.

1945 – On Rosh Hashanah, Bess Myerson becomes the first (and only) Jew to be crowned Miss America.

An Israeli Wedding

with a KJCC Connection

by Shyella and Nissan Mayk

On Wednesday, July 14th, Shyella Mayk and Amit Shuker got married in a garden in Herzliya, Israel. Shyella, the granddaughter of Bea and Marty Graham and daughter of Israel and Nissan Mayk, agreed to share some thoughts and photos with all of KJCC.



Shyella and Amit

The Mikvah

At 9:30 p.m. on the night before the wedding, fourteen women escorted Shyella to the Hilton beach where, using flashlights, Nissan led a *mikvah* service along the original “natural *mikvah* waters” of the Mediterranean. The theme was “how we measure happiness in our lives.” Aloud, to family and friends,



At one of the dizzying amount of activities before and after the wedding, Bea and Nissan and Shyella and sister Liati visited the Rosh Hanikra caves bordering Lebanon.

Shyella said these words:

Tonight I will be re-born anew, so I must remove the old. I remove fear of what I do not understand. I can begin as a new soul; I will be as pure as Eve. With mikvah, I find the way of purity of purpose, of mind, body and soul, to sanctify the gift given to me: I am a woman.

*As each woman read parts of the history and meaning of the service, and added her own thoughts about happiness, the *mikvah* ceremony unfolded, until, just before immersion, each woman whispered to Shyella her own personal prayer “request” from the bride, a special “techine” for Shy to say between her immersions when there would be no separation, either physical or spiritual, between the bride and G-d. When Shy emerged, transformed through *mikveh* and in a pristine state of one about to become a bride, everyone encircled her, singing and dancing in the warm sands of Eretz Yisrael.*

The Wedding Day

The wedding day arrived warm and sunny (it never rains in Israel in the summer). While the girls got their hair and makeup done, photographers were capturing pre-wedding scenes and friends were popping in and out of Shy’s



Bea kvelling.



Shy with sister Liati, above, at right with flower girl and cousin Fayechesca, below with parents Israel and Nissan. Below right, Amit delivers an emphatic blow to the glass at the end of the ceremony.



apartment. Suddenly the elevator door opened, and a tall, dark

Guests began to arrive—almost none of whom, Israelis included, had ever been to this incredible oasis of antiquities, sculptures, foliage, koi ponds, and—yes—peacocks! In the grape arbor, at a Viking-sized hand-hewn table, a group gathered for the *ketubah* signing. Two men and two women, mentors and friends of the bride and groom, were the chosen witnesses to sign the artistic *ketubah* portraying *Shivat haMinim* (the Seven Species). As the rabbi explained the significance of the marriage document, Shy and Amit signed as well. Food and drinks flowed, friends and family oohed and aahed, and as the sun set and darkness blanketed the gardens,

multi-colored lights twinkled on, setting the scene for the processional.

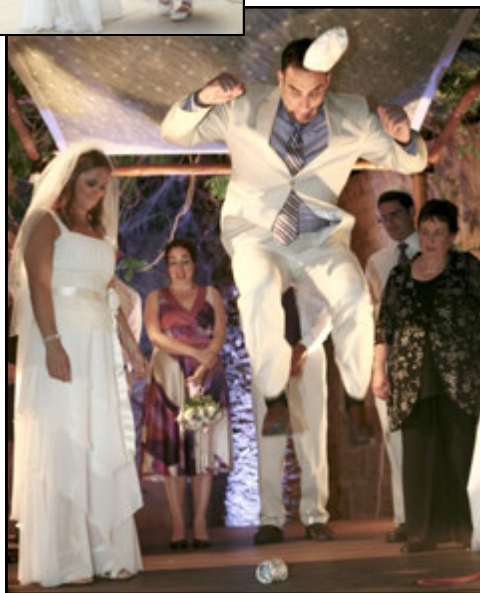
The service was inclusive; friends and family said and sang the *Shevah Brachas*, including Israel, the bride's father, who chanted the Sixth *Bracha*. In a surprise per-



and handsome Amit, dressed in a light beige pinstriped suit, wearing a lavender shirt and shades of purple and lavender tie, strolled purposefully down the

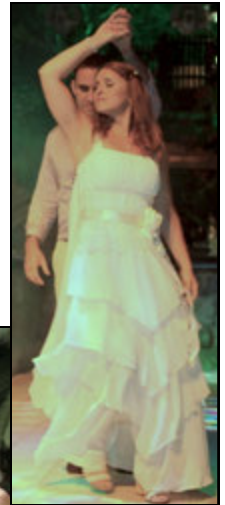
long hallway to snapping cameras and clapping friends. His eyes lit up with love when he saw the vision of perfection waiting for him with open arms! (Ed. Note: Mom Nissan wrote this last sentence.)

Then there was the dash through Tel Aviv rush-hour traffic a few kilometers north to Derech Eretz in Herzliya for the wedding.





In the garden in Herzliya, below: Doron Hai, Liati Mayk-Hai, Israel Mayk, Amit Shuker, Shyella Mayk, Bea Graham, Nissan Graham-Mayk.



The first dance.

formance, mixing traditional Ashkenazi and Sephardi melodies, Liati and Doron “wowed the crowd” (and pleased the bride and groom) with their unique, dynamic performance of the Seventh *Bracha*! Finally,



Joyce, at left with son Keith and daughter-in-law Rebecca, and dancing with Bea at right, was among the many who journeyed far to share the joy.



Amit, joyous and ever-the-athlete, leapt high in the air and—kippah flying—smashed the glass and hugged and kissed his bride until everyone rushed to the *chuppah* and the party officially began! ♦



Shy with savtah Bea, above, and at right in a photo we’re sure Amit will be looking at and smiling about for at least the next sixty years.



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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
monthly newsletter of the
Keys Jewish Community Center
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President's Message Alan Beth



I know it sounds strange to say, but I thoroughly enjoyed the High Holiday experience this year. Everything! Having both Rabbi Danny Young and Cantor Mark Halpern on the Bima not only looked good but sounded good as well. On Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Rabbi Young took the time to come down into the congregation to engage us and encourage us to consider difficult questions, to challenge our thoughts. Some subjects were indeed controversial, like the question: Who is a Jew? To have a rabbi at the KJCC spark and ignite our thoughts is exactly what many of us had hoped for. This question – who is a Jew? – is a divisive and a controversial question being debated all over the world.

Our KJCC is unique in this situation. We are the only synagogue for over 120 miles. We have always tried to include every mode and manner of Judaism, which may be why we've always been so open and welcoming. It is not within our nature to exclude anyone that walks through our doors, and especially someone that claims they are Jewish and seeks to share Jewish worship. This makes me so tremendously proud of the KJCC.

I would like to once again thank all those who made the High Holiday experience a success. To start naming names of all those that helped and should be thanked would

exceed the word count allowed by my editors. I look back and think of the S'lichot movie night, the wonderful Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner where our chefs cooked for 63 seated guests, all our services – Shabbat, Havdalah, Tashlich and of course all the High Holiday services. The number of people involved this year to ensure so many successes was greater than ever: preparing the house; tending to and guiding both cantor and rabbi; monitoring phone calls; getting our message out in newspapers, on the web; the Onegs and break-the-fast dinners, feeding our congregation both with food and spirituality.

Then we heard the blast of the Shofar, reminding us why we are all here as Jews and why we do the work. No organization this size could function without volunteers. Every activity, every program, depends on the generous donation of time by our volunteers. Whether working on specific projects, participating in committee work, or being at the highest level of leadership, nothing would get done without our volunteers.

If you are a member, a donor or a volunteer, I would like to close with four words: thank you to you.

October 2010

23 Tishrei - 23 Cheshvan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors.</div>				1 <i>Jim Boruszak</i> <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8 <i>George Swartz</i>	9
10 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Blood Drive At KJCC	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Steve Steinbock</i> & <i>Yardena Kamely</i>	23
24 31 Boo	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Stuart Sax</i> 6:30 Service	30

Nosh

Department of Corrections

Last month we offered KJCC condolences on the passing of Sidney Mann. It should, of course, have read Sheldon Mann. Our apologies to Gerty.

Have an aquarium you don't need?

The marine biology classes at Coral Shores High School are looking to have aquariums donated, which don't need to be pristine, but do need to be intact. All sizes are welcome. If you have an old (or new, for that matter) aquarium you'd like to donate, let us know (chailights@keysjewishcenter.com) and we'll forward your offer to the right person.

The Garden needs mulch

There are lots of ways to contribute to KJCC's new Meditation Garden – donations of bricks or benches or the sponsorship of plants and plant areas or your time, yes, but Garden designer and chief workman Steve Steinbock offers another possibility: decorative mulch, of which we're going to need a lot. If you'd like to donate a bag or two or ten of red mulch, contact Steve at 394-0143.

October Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Jonathan & Arlene Line.....	34
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein.....	16
12th	Harvey & Susan Schwaid.....	58
15th	David & Toby Goldfinger.....	51
23rd	Michael & Suzanne Gilson.....	9
28th	David & Lois Kaufman.....	31
31st	Harvey & Judith Klein.....	56

Oneg Sponsors for October 2010

October 1st—Joyce Peckman

TREE OF LIFE

In memory of

Theresa Steinbock

Your loving son, Steve

Anyone for a bridge stroll?

Mark your calendar: November 13, 2010 is the Annual Walk across Jewfish Creek Bridge. This is a 5 km walk for charity. It would be great if we could get a large group together and do this walk across the bridge representing the KJCC. I'm thinking we should get T-shirts made, and would welcome ideas on what they should say/logo, etc. FYI – the road to Miami will be shut down for several hours and they will turn the southbound lane into two-way traffic. So, our walk will be very safe from any motorized vehicles. Go to jewfishcreekbridgerun.com for more details.

Let me know if you would like to join in the walk. You can contact me via e-mail at president@keysjewishcenter.com

Thanks,

Alan

BOOK PLATE

In honor of

Teresa Kwalick

A fine friend

By Carol Steinbock

Board Meetings and Bloodmobiles

The KJCC board meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 10th. The bloodmobile will also be conducting a blood drive at KJCC on that day in the KJCC parking lot. Convenient, isn't it?

October Birthdays

2nd.....	Michael Gilson
4th.....	Michael Krissel
6th.....	Joel Bernard
7th.....	Jordan Feig
9th.....	Matthew Kaufman
11th.....	Cynthia Arsenault
11th.....	Ian Bader
11th.....	Olivia Landes
12th.....	Benay Krissel
13th.....	Salomon Turner
13th.....	Sean Bader
14th.....	Barbara Gintel
14th.....	Paul L. Friedman
15th.....	Alan Field
15th.....	Matthew A. Silverman
16th.....	Jacqlyn L. Burnett
16th.....	Kiersten Persoff
16th.....	Ronald Kaplan
17th.....	Stacey W. Seewald
20th.....	Barbara Knowles
21st.....	Alexander L. Burnett
21st.....	Michael J. Sundheim
21st.....	Sammy Knowles
22nd.....	Joseph Shabathai
22nd.....	Susan Roberts
24th.....	Marnie Gershowitz
24th.....	Stacy Temkin
29th.....	Adriana Sherman
29th.....	Jane B. Kwalick
29th.....	Patricia Schocket
29th.....	Shyella Mayk
30th.....	Franklin Greenman
30th.....	Katie J. Schur
30th.....	Mark Hitzig
31st.....	Brittany Schur
31st.....	Susan Cooper

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to
The Mann Family
on the death of
Sheldon Mann
Long-time KJCC member and resident of Ocean Reef
and Shaker Heights, OH

Celebrate or Honor a Loved One

Those who attend Friday night services at KJCC are familiar with the Onegs provided. After services members stay to enjoy coffee, soda, dessert and the conversation and company of friends. Not only are the attendees truly appreciative of the effort, but sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat is a wonderful way to celebrate any occasion or to remember a loved one. Your generosity and celebration/remembrance will also be noted right here in Chai-Lights. Contact Joyce Peckman at 451-0665 or 240-1000 for more information.

In a synagogue in 1663...

An entry in probably the second-most famous diary of all time, that of Englishman Samuel Pepys, describes his visit to a synagogue on Simchat Torah. "...after dinner my wife and I, by Mr. Rawlinson's conduct, to the Jewish Synagogue: where the men and boys in their vayles, and the women behind a lattice out of sight; and some things stand up, which I believe is their Law, in a press to which all coming in do bow; and at the putting on their vayles do say something, to which others that hear him do cry Amen, and the party do kiss his vayle. Their service all in a singing way, and in Hebrew. And anon their Laws that they take out of the press are carried by several men, four or five several burthens in all, and they do relieve one another; and whether it is that every one desires to have the carrying of it, I cannot tell, thus they carried it round about the room while such a service is singing. And in the end they had a prayer for the King, which they pronounced his name in Portugall; but the prayer, like the rest, in Hebrew. But, Lord! to see the disorder, laughing, sporting, and no attention, but confusion in all their service, more like brutes than people knowing the true God, would make a man forswear ever seeing them more and indeed I never did see so much, or could have imagined there had been any religion in the whole world so absurdly performed as this."

New Members

The KJCC *mishpocha* has grown by two. Ira Braun and Lyn Nadel of Miami have joined our ranks. Welcome and we hope to see you often.

Dog management, Jewish-style

(Medina found a book at Goodwill in North Miami Beach that, among others, had the following examples of how to teach obedience to a Jewish dog.)

1. The Jewish "sit" command: "What, it would kill you to sit down for one lousy second?"
2. Using situational martyrdom when the dog disobeys: "Fine. Do what you want. I hope you have a nice life."
3. When, no matter what you do, the dog won't get off the couch: "I don't know why I bother," or in extreme cases, "Why don't you just tear out my heart and eat it?"

It isn't just for Passover anymore

We have all been taught the story of how the Jews were in such a big hurry to exit their persecution that they couldn't wait for their bread to rise. The result was matzos, which we eat in place of bread for eight days each spring. But did you know that that box of unleavened bread could actually save your life?

Recently, while sitting down at her dining room table to partake of a bit of that crunchy cracker, Rosie Biskar was shocked when the hanging light above her suddenly fell from the ceiling. What could have been a disaster was averted when the fixture missed Rosie's arms and, instead, put a big dent in her box of egg & onion matzos.

So on your next trip to the supermarket, pick up a box of matzos for eating and another for insurance!

-Stuart Sax

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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. Quantities to fit your needs and can be 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.

Meditation Garden – Participate in our newest venture. A beautiful garden is in progress and you can be part of this exciting new project by making a donation for an engraved brick, an engraved bench, or for plants in honor or memory of a loved one or event. Call Steve Steinbock for information, 852-6152.

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

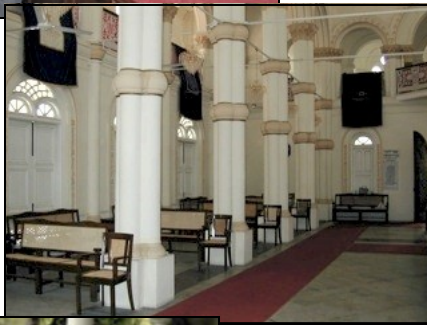
JNF Trees In Israel – A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Nancy Kluger, 852-4353

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 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.

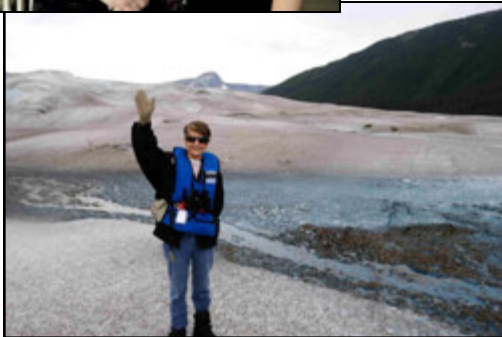
Photo Gallery



The top four photos were sent in by the peripatetic Schwaida's, of a synagogue in Singapore built in 1905 by one man. Note the center bemah. (Imagine a Yom Kippur service on those benches.) The shul is home to over thirty Torahs, many encased in silver. There's even another synagogue in the city, but it's closed for renovation. The man in the photo is the cantor.

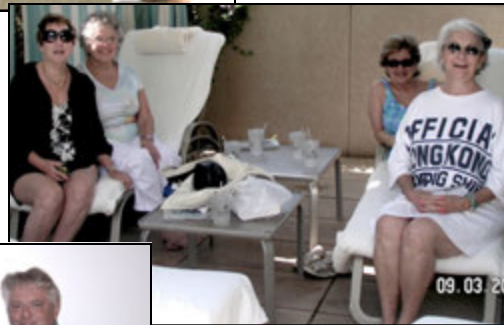
Andrea Kluger shakes hands with New York mayor Michael Bloomberg at a Gracie Mansion party thanking all the summer interns who'd worked for the city. She's begun her senior year at Vanderbilt, but by now Nashville is certainly way too small.

At bottom we have the intrepid Teresa Kwalick, standing atop the Taku Glacier in Alaska.

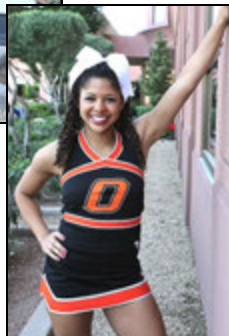




The top three photos are of the Mahjonggettes during their annual away Mah Jongg-a-thon. No one will talk, but the rumor is that one of them fully paid for her trip through table winnings.



The two photos at right were taken during a visit to KJCC at the end of August by Ilanit Goldberg, KJCC member Deb Weiss' rabbinical student daughter. Ilanit addressed the congregation about her recent mission to Senegal. In the center photo are Ilanit's friend Rivka, Ilanit, Deb, and Bernie Ginsberg, who led services that night. To the right are mother and daughter before the KJCC bema.



The bundle of energy in the two bottom photos is Nicci Hudson, granddaughter of Jim and Joan Boruszak. These shots are from Sports Illustrated, who'd named Nicci national cheerleader of the week.



The five photos at top are of Steve Steinbock and Stuart Sax at work on the KJCC Meditation Garden. Stu installed all

the engraved bricks from our first order. Steve is in the middle of the long process of planning and planting. There will be silver buttonwoods as a barrier along the outside edge, to make the garden private and conducive to quiet reflection. Inside there will be different "rooms," with different plant themes, and paths connecting the rooms.

At bottom is the new Sunday school class on their first day back, September 12th. It was also the day Yardená returned, after a long summer (though it was winter there) spent in Chile.

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

<i>Book Plates</i> Steinbock, Steve & Carol	<i>In Honor of</i> Teresa Kwalick	<i>Scholarship Fund</i> Kluger, Kurt & Nancy Steinbock, Steve & Carol	
<i>General Fund</i> Andracchio, Sunny Berk, Zoe Goldfinger, David & Toby Graham, Bea Klimpl, Michael Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein Mackler, Debra Nitto, Iona ("Joanna") Sax, Stuart & Lauren Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine Squire, Walter & Sara	<i>In Honor of</i> Rabbi Young Rabbi Young Thank you! Rabbi Young	<i>Tree of Life</i> Steinbock, Steve & Carol <i>Yartzeit Contributions</i> Alter, Barry Coltman, Ellen & Barney Conklin, Rita & Wes Conklin, Rita & Wes Cooper, Murray & Claire Cooper, Murray & Claire Dorf, Barry & Natalie Feinberg, Arthur Graham, Bea Gross, Mollie Grossman, Stuart Gould, Maryon Gould, Maryon Horn, Ronald & Dorothy Horn, Ronald & Dorothy Kaplan, Ronald Kaplan, Ronald Kwalick, Teresa Kwalick, Teresa Kwalick, Teresa Marmar, David Roy, Medina Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Tallent, Ralph & Lillian Taramona, Hermine Temkin, Robert & Susan Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy	<i>In Memory of</i> Theresa Steinbock <i>In Memory of</i> Franne Alter Evelyn Coltman Mark Hitzig Sam Hitzig Mark Sands Sarah Sandberg Dorothy Schafer Harriet Feinberg Saul Elson Emanuel Gross Margaux Rene Grossman Richard Gould Jeanette Gould Jacob Ratchik Samuel Horn Catherine Kaplan Sidney Kaplan E. Enrique Astray-Caneda Esther Kwalick Irwin Kwalick Dorothy Marmar Leon Kirschenbaum Mollie Cohen Erik Persoff Meyer Cohen Wally Steinberg Rose Wainer Sam Wainer Ida Estrin Robert Robinson Phillip Temkin Rose Fine
<i>General Fund</i> Peckman, Joyce Pollack, Joel & Linda	<i>In Memory of</i> Sidney Stark Jerry Tabasky		
<i>Holocaust Education Fund</i> Steinbock, Steve & Carol			
<i>Jewish National Fund</i> Boruszak, Jim & Joan Graham, Bea	<i>In Honor of</i> Stellar Levy's Graduation Stellar Levy's Graduation		
<i>Meditation Garden</i> Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein	<i>In Honor of</i> Brieze & Stellar		
<i>Meditation Garden</i> Sachs, Joseph & Susan Sachs, Joseph & Susan Singer, Mary Lee	<i>In Memory of</i> Joel Baker Louise Baker Robert Singer & Jon Singer		
<i>Oneg Fund</i> Pollack, Linda & Joel	<i>In Honor of</i> Chanukah Shabbat Dinner		

Yartzeit Memorial Plaques
Margulies, Stanley & Jenny

Yizkor Book

Alter, Barry
Bader, Ivan & Jean
Ban, Stephan & Eva
Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark
Boruszak, Jim & Joan
Boxer, Shirley
Calev, Barbara
Cianciolo, Carol
Coltman, Barney & Ellen
Cooper, Alan & Susan
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Emkey, Gerri
Feinberg, Arthur & Patrice Gerard
Gilderman, Larry & Stephanie
Gitin, David
Goldfinger, David & Toby
Goodman, Jamie & Laura
Gould, Maryon
Graham, Bea
Greenbaum, Marilyn
Gross, David & Patti
Grossman, Ken and Jerri
Grossman, Stuart
Hartz, Steve
Hermann, Bob & Eileen
Horn, Ronald & Dorothy
Incociati, Estelle
Isenberg, Henry & Patricia
Jacobson, Melvin
Kaplan, Frank
Kaplan, Ronald
Kay, Harvey & Joan
Kluger, Kurt & Nancy
Krissel, Michael
Kwalick, Teresa
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein
Margulies, Stan & Jenny
Marmar, David & Pamela
McNew, Rick & Roberta
Olsen, Gerald & Sheila
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Present, Marjorie
Roy, Medina
Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Memory of
Isaac Cohen

Schur, Lee
Schwaid, Harvey & Susan
Sheinker, Miltra
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine
Silverman, Mort & Gene
Smith, Steve & Barbara
Smith, Stuart & Geri
Singer, Mary Lee
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Swartz, George & Muriel
Tallent, Ralph & Lillian
VanArtsdalen, David & Pat
Weber, Larry & Judy
Weihl, Alfred & Sue Ann
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Did You Know ???

...that you can honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion and share your joy with the whole congregation by sponsoring an Oneg?

...that you can place an advertisement in Chai-Lights for an *entire year* beginning at only \$120?

... that you can remember a loved one with a yahrzeit plaque? A candle will be lit on the memoriam date and at Yizkor services four times a year, including Yom Kippur.

**Contact Linda Pollack at 852-8575
for more information .**

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman

*also cooked, dusting off
some of her bubbe's*



Before we left Key Largo in June to head north, Candy and I interviewed Pauline about the beginnings of the KJCC. She spoke at length about the women of Sisterhood, and the great efforts and energies they put forth to ensure that the building we now take for granted would exist. She mentioned disagreements between members, but focused on the camaraderie and cooperation towards a common cause. As we concluded, she spoke about her fears for the continuance of the KJCC as its founding members grow older, because in the end, it is not the building, but the active members that ensure the life of a congregation.

Our High Holidays this year should have put her fears to rest. The women of Sisterhood echoed the dedication and energy of our founders as they provided for the congregation during this active and holy season.

Erica Garrett, cognizant of the fact that many of our members have no family nearby with whom to share a holiday meal, first conceived and then spearheaded the first-ever KJCC Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner. Kathy Shabathai immediately joined the team, and soon the positive energy flowed in from many others. Kathy shopped up a storm at Costco, then baked challahs for the entire holiday. Gloria and Bernie cooked the briskets, Gene Silverman and Linda Perloff made chopped liver (Gene's was vegetarian, and several were overheard asking for the recipe), Zoe contributed tsimmes and potatnik (and lots of her patented high energy, and yes, many of us would like to borrow some), Jane Friedman made enough vegetable lo mein to feed an entire army unit, while Georgia brought pounds of exquisite homemade apple strudel. Erica, of course, not only directed but

old recipes. Marc, in his usual wonderful way, made coffee. I'm sure I've left someone out, but I'm writing this in Denver, so I apologize.

I was told of a Monday night cooking event, featuring Erica, Zoe and Gloria peeling onions and crying, with Kathy setting up the room and everyone laughing through tears at Bernie's nonstop jokes. On Wednesday, sixty people filled the hall and together shared a first-class, traditional holiday meal. Hearty congratulations to us all.

Linda and Joel Pollack once again capably coordinated pizza and movie for S'lichot. Meanwhile, Lauren Sax was quietly coordinating almost everything else. We had lovely onegs after each Friday night service, each Rosh Hashanah service, and on several Saturday mornings. The Yom Kippur break-the-fast is a major responsibility, and Lauren Sax coordinated that as well. If you enjoyed it, thank Lauren, who has been effusive in her praise for the time and energy of all of Sisterhood during this busy time of year. But she asked me to offer special thanks to Marc Bloom for his constant concern and hours of work. If the kitchen is the province of Sisterhood, then Marc Bloom is its prince.

All of you who devote your time and energy to the KJCC are worthy of being "signed and sealed" in the Book of Life, Health and Sustenance. You have my personal thanks and best wishes.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be on Sunday, October 3rd at 9:30 a.m. We will be planning this year's events and discussing Oneg Shabbats for the coming year. Please contact me if you wish to add anything to the agenda. My email is joyce@adoctorsbag.com.



SHOP ISRAEL

Check your KJCC Gift Shop and
buy Israel.



Magnificent crystal mezuzahs designed by the artist
Udi from the Blue and White gallery in the Cardo in
the Old City of Jerusalem - Wonderful wedding gifts!



Multi-colored over-the-shoulder fabric purses and
challah covers from Rifkas in the Old City of Jerusalem



Also: Silver star necklaces with multi colored
stones and hand made parchment note paper
from Zickran Yaakov.



Beautiful talit and kepahs from Jaffa



Individual orders can be
accommodated.

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A New Monument

Renowned architect Daniel Libeskind has been chosen to design and create a Canadian monument to the Holocaust-era ship the *St. Louis*. The monument will be housed in Canada's Immigration Museum in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The now-famous steamship fled Nazi Germany in 1939 with 907 Jewish passengers, bound for Latin America and hoped-for asylum. No country in the region, including Canada and the United States, would accept its passengers and the *St. Louis* was forced to return to Europe just as war broke out. It is estimated that at least one-third of its passengers were killed in the Holocaust. Libeskind has titled his proposal "The Wheel of Conscience." He is the son of Holocaust survivors and the creator of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin. (www.jta.org, 8-30-10)

Agent Wiesenthal?

A new biography of Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Nazi hunter, asserts that he was often on the payroll of the Mossad, Israel's spy agency. Tom Segev, author of the new book, "Simon Wiesenthal: The Life and Legends," was granted unprecedented access to Wiesenthal's papers – some 300,000 of them previously unavailable to the public – by Paula Kreisberg, Wiesenthal's daughter. While rifling through the papers, Segev came across names of people he did not recognize. He discovered that they were Mossad agents and handlers and then proceeded to interview three of them. Segev, an Israeli columnist for Haaretz newspaper, is the author of several other books, mostly about Israeli history. This new information, he says, suggests that "the oft-held view that Israel was not a major player in tracking down Nazis needs to be re-evaluated." Wiesenthal died in 2005 at the age of 96. (*The New York Times*, 9-2-10)

A Record High

A Hebrew University demography professor announced that there were more Jewish births in the past year in Israel than any other time since 1948. According to data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics on the eve of the Jewish New Year 5771, the State of Israel has now reached a population of 7.645 million. The professor attributed the increase to various factors, including the high birth rate in the religious community and the increase in the general public due to "life satisfaction." Despite the global economic crisis, Israel has enjoyed a relatively positive economic status compared with other countries, which impacts on the fertility rate. Immigration is another factor affecting the population increase.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 9-7-10)

"Black Sabbath"

The Idelsohn Society for Musical Preservation released an album of African-American renditions of Jewish songs recorded long ago. The New York-based organization released "Black Sabbath: The Secret Musical History of Black-Jewish Relations," a 15-track album which includes Billie Holliday's rendition of "My Yiddishe Momme," Cab Calloway singing in Yiddish and Nina Simone and Eartha Kitt singing in Hebrew. Johnny Mathis' 1958 rendition of Kol Nidre leads the album. (www.jta.org, 8-19-10)

"100 Voices"

A new documentary chronicling the journey of a group of American cantors to Poland was screened simultaneously in nearly 500 movie theaters throughout the United States on September 21st. According to the press

release, "100 Voices: A Journey Home" is "a remarkable visual tour of Jewish life in pre-war Poland, a history of the cantorial art of chazanut, and a hopeful vision of the resurgence of Jewish life." The American cantors traveled to Poland last year to sing in Europe's largest concert hall, located in Warsaw. The film also shows a memorial service at the gates of Auschwitz paying tribute to the 1,300 cantors who perished in the Holocaust. The film ran from September 22nd to the 28th in New York and Los Angeles, making it eligible for Academy Award consideration. (www.jta.org, 9-7-10)

World Kosher BBQ Championship

On a Sunday in late August, Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth, (ASBEE) the oldest Orthodox synagogue in Memphis, Tennessee, hosted its annual Kosher BBQ Contest, attracting 42 competitive teams of cooks from around the South and as far away as New York. In 1989, a group of Jewish men had asked the well-established local barbecue-cooking contest to offer a non-pork category. When they said no, two men of the ASBEE congregation started their own competition. Each team is judged in five categories – team name, design, brisket, ribs and beans. Team "Fleish Gordon" of Brooklyn didn't take home any trophies, but they won the pickle-eating contest. Rabbi Klein of "The Rabbi and His Bris-Kit Team" of Tennessee is a mohel; his team's slogan was, "The tip's on us." Other teams that competed were "The LeBron Flames" and the "Miami Meat Team." "The Barfield Basters" were the big winners. (Next year we'd like to see our own Bernie Ginsberg enter his world-famous brisket. We're sure he'd take 1st place). (*The Forward*, 9-1-10)

A New Cluster Bomb

Chemotherapy can bring debilitating side effects, such as nausea, liver toxicity and a battered immune system, to cancer patients. Now researchers at Tel Aviv University have found a new way to deliver this life-saving therapy. The technology consists of a "nano-sized vehicle with the ability to deliver chemo-

therapy drugs directly into cancer cells while avoiding interaction with healthy cells, increasing the efficiency of chemotherapeutic treatment while reducing its side effects." Dr. Dan Peer and Professor Rimona Margalit led the research. "The vehicle is very similar to a cluster bomb," explained Dr. Peer. The nano-medical device can be used to treat many different types of cancer, even some types of brain cancers. The nano-vehicle itself is made from organic materials, which fully decompose in the body once the vehicle has performed its function, making the treatment safer than current therapies. The finding was recently reported in the journal *Biomaterials*. Clinical trials should begin in two years or less. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 8-25-10)

Back to Haiti with the U.N.

At the end of August, a team of fourteen Israeli police officers left for Haiti to serve as part of a multinational force set up by the United Nations. This delegation marks the first time Israelis will serve in active duty on a U.N. force. The police officers will remain in Haiti for an extended period of time. Haiti continues to suffer greatly from the devastating earthquake in January 2010, which left more than 200,000 dead and almost one million people homeless. "You are Israel's true face," Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon told the officers. "This mission will demonstrate to friends and foes alike that Israel is always willing to contribute and volunteer anywhere and at any time." (*World Jewish Congress*, 8-26-10)

A Top Spot for Science Research

The Scientist, a magazine geared toward scientific researchers, has named two Israeli universities among the top ten best workplaces in the world for scientific researchers. The Weizmann Institute of Israel was ranked second in the list of 10, just beneath the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Hebrew University of Jerusalem placed fifth on the list. This is the third time the Weizmann Institute placed second on the list. It was also listed as the very top place for scientific researchers to work in two previous

years. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 6-30-10)

Thanks, Hugo

High on the list of embattled Jewish communities is that of Venezuela. Violent crime, a failing economy and anti-Semitic attacks are the primary reasons why, over the past decade, the Jewish community has shrunk by half. "Ten years ago we had 18,000 members," said Salomon Cohen. "Now we have about 9,500." Cohen, 55, is the head of the Confederacion de Asociaciones Israelitas de Venezuela (CAIV), an umbrella group that represents the country's Jewish community. Part of the problem is that President Hugo Chavez is a strong ally of Iran and an avowed enemy of Israel. He severed ties with Jerusalem in 2009. (Jerusalem Post, 9-1-10)

Who Counts Them All?

At the end of August, 31,000 storks flew from northern Israel to rest in the Negev and near the Dead Sea before heading for their winter homes in eastern Africa. Jonathan Meyrav, project manager for the Israel Ornithological Society, a part of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) said that the migration, which began in early August, will likely take six weeks. All told, 350,000 storks are expected to fly over the country from north to south. SPNI suggested that farmers in the Beit She'an area plow their fields in order to uncover the rodents that plague them, providing the birds with a tasty in-flight meal. As it has every year for nearly thirty years, SPNI and the Israel Air Force are surveying the birds for scientific purposes and also to prevent collisions between birds and jets. More than 500 million migrating birds of different types are expected to pass through Israel's skies this winter. (Jerusalem Post, 8-25-10)

New Life

The 150-year-old "Anne Frank" chestnut tree, that grew outside the small window of her Amsterdam hiding place and to which she referred often in her diary as a symbol of life and hope, was toppled by a storm on August

23rd. A global campaign to save the rotting tree had been launched in 2007 after city officials deemed it a safety hazard and announced plans to cut it down. City workers caged the trunk in a steel structure to protect it, but the recent storm proved too strong. Shortly after the storm, however, a green shoot was seen growing from the splintered trunk. The trunk will be left where it fell to give the shoot a chance to flourish and grow. (www.jta.org, 8-24-10)

Do Jews Give More?

Jews habitually complain how expensive it is to be Jewish, especially when it comes to synagogue dues. But according to a new survey by The Forward, Christians contribute as much per person to their churches as Jews do to their synagogues. They just do it differently. (The Forward, 9-17-10)

In Memoriam

-Seymour Pine, the Jewish deputy police inspector who, in 1969, inadvertently helped start the gay liberation movement, died on September 2nd. He was 91. Pine led the raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village. He later apologized for his role in the raid. Pine was commander of NYPD's vice squad when he led eight officers into the illegal club. The supposed reason for the raid was to crack down on prostitution and other organized crime activity, but it was common practice at the time for police to raid gay bars and harass customers. Word of the raid filtered into the street, hundreds of protesters gathered outside, and a movement was born. (The New York Times, 9-7-10)

-Benjamin Kaplan, who for 25 years taught law at Harvard, died recently at the age of 99. He also served on the Massachusetts Supreme Court. Kaplan helped draft the American portion of the indictment of Nazi war criminals tried at Nuremberg. He joined the staff of United States Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson in 1945 when Jackson had been named chief prosecutor for the United States at Nuremberg. Kaplan oversaw the legal staff in Washington that was gathering evidence for the case. Two current U.S.

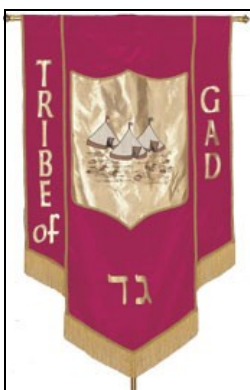
Stained Glass of KJCC

Part two of our look at the story behind the art in KJCC's sanctuary.

If, once inside the KJCC sanctuary and standing facing the Ark, you lift your gaze to the Ner Tamid (the eternal light) and the two stained-glass windows above the bemah and then pivot gently to the right, the next stained-glass window you will see will depict three middle-eastern-style tents. The style is familiar, as tents such as these have been used in the Middle East, especially by its many nomadic tribes, for thousands of years.

Beginning with this window, continuing clockwise around the full periphery of the sanctuary until we once again reach the bemah, the stained-glass windows all depict symbols and icons of the tribes of Israel. The window with the tents is in honor of the tribe of Gad; from ancient times that tribe's symbol had been tents in the form of a military encampment.

Gad was the seventh son born to Jacob. His mother was neither Leah, Jacob's first wife, nor Rachel, Jacob's second. He was born to Zilpah, Leah's handmaid, since Leah had stopped conceiving after bearing her fourth son. (Leah, you'll recall, was not the woman Jacob wanted for his wife. He'd wanted Rachel, the younger sister, and was tricked into marrying Leah. He had to wait seven years, toiling the entire time for Rachel and Leah's father, Laban, before he could also marry Rachel. Apparently he warmed up to the wife he didn't really want.)



The Tribe of Gad KJCC window, one of the series by Miami artist Lisa Ruggles, lit by natural sunlight.

Since Rachel had yet to conceive, she'd offered her own handmaid, Bilhah, as a wife to Jacob so he could continue siring sons. After Bilhah produced Dan and Naphtali, Leah offered Jacob her own handmaid, Zilpah, who produced Gad and Asher. (After four sons contributed by handmaids, Leah resumed production, with sons Issachar and Zebulun and, though we rarely hear of her, a daughter, Dinah.) According to Jewish tradition, Zilpah is buried in the Tomb of the Matriarchs in Tiberias, along with Bilhah, Jochebed, the mother of Moses, and Zipporah and Elisheva, the wives of Moses and Aaron.

Gad took seven sons with him when he, his father and brothers left for Egypt because of the famine in Canaan. By the time of the census taken in the second year after the Exodus, adult males numbered over 45,000. The tribe, according to the Book of Numbers, had "a very great multitude of livestock." When Moses, after forty years of wandering and preparing his people (ample details of this

period available elsewhere), brought them around Canaan to the eastern bank of the Jordan river just north of what we call the Dead Sea, two tribes liked the land they saw there, the lands of Jazer and Gilead, and asked Moses if that could be their patrimony instead of some land they hadn't seen across the river. (The specific quote from Leviticus was "One handful of enjoyment on this side is better than two on the other.") This land was good for grazing, and they were rich with cattle and sheep. The tribes were Reuben and Gad. At first Moses was angry, but both tribes agreed to still help their brother tribes conquer the land across the river, in fact agreed to lead the attack. That satisfied Moses, who allowed Reuben and Gad to first build fortified cities for their women and children before going off to war. Moses died on and was buried in the territory he granted to Gad.

Across the river or no, Gad became deeply involved in the politics of the new confederation of Hebrew tribes, even before joining the first kingdom c. 1050 B.C.E. with Saul as king. After Saul's death, Gad joined the more northerly tribes in making David, then the



king only of Judah, king of a re-united Israel. But David's heirs were not David, and upon the accession to the throne of his grandson Rehoboam, c.930 B.C.E., the northern

tribes split off to re-form Israel as the northern kingdom. Gad joined in. Only Benjamin and Judah remained in the southern kingdom of Judah.

Gad's location, across the Jordan River and exposed on the north, east and south, was never secure from invasion or attack. Gadites be-



Gad's warrior shield.

came constant warriors, which explains the use of the tent encampment as their symbol. According to a description in 1 Chronicles, Gadites were "...men of war fit for the battle, who could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions...the least of them commanded a hundred men and the greatest, a thousand."

But the period of great and powerful empires was about to begin. For years Israel had been fending off attacks from Syria to their north and Moab to their south. Now they had the bad luck to be in the sights of the newly ascendant empire of Assyria, which emerged as if spontaneously from the area around the Tigris and Euphrates. Assyria struck hard, marching through Syria toward the sea, and Israel was no match.

According to the Talmud, Gad and Reuben, being on the east side of the Jordan and therefore the most exposed, were the first to fall to the advancing Assyrians. In 722 B.C.E., the northern kingdom of Israel ceased to exist. The ten tribes who lived there were dispersed or exiled or enslaved or killed, and disappeared to history. Unlike the kingdom of Judah, which was defeated 136 years later by Babylon, Israel had no Ezra or Nehemiah or an enlightened conqueror that would bring its elite to home territory and allow it to maintain or even further develop its culture. The territory of Gad was re-absorbed, after almost 500 years, by the neighboring Amorites

-This Month in Jewish History-

October

832 B.C.E. – Most consider this the traditional date of the inauguration of the first Temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon.

732 – At the Battle of Tours near Poitiers, France, Charles Martel (the grandfather of Charlemagne) defeats a large army of Moors, stopping Muslims from spreading into Western Europe. The territory south of the Pyrenees, mostly today's Spain, remains in Islamic hands for much of the next eight centuries. The rest of Europe remains Christian. This demarcation has profound effects on the development of the two main strains of western Judaism, Sephardic and Ashkenazi.

1165 – Maimonides and his family arrive in Jerusalem, leaving Spain due to the conquest of Cordoba by the Almohades, a group of Muslim fundamentalists. The family settles for a while in Fez, Morocco, where the Rambam writes his commentary on the Mishnah. They stay briefly in Eretz Israel before settling in Egypt, where he becomes physician to the great Muslim Sultan and general Saladin.

1272 – Pope Gregory X condemns the ritual murder libels aimed at the Jewish people. In addition, since Jews are not permitted to bear witness against Christians, the Pope refuses to allow testimony by a Christian against a Jew unless it is confirmed by another Jew.

1289 – Birth date of Louis X, King of France from 1314 to 1316. In 1306 his father, Phillip the Fair, confiscates the property of his Jewish subjects and banishes them from the kingdom. The son, once king, sees that this has been a bad business decision for France. The confiscated property now has less value than the taxes Jews had been paying. Also, Christians, the replacement moneylenders, consistently charge higher rates of interest. So the man known as Louis the Stubborn permits Jews to return.

1886 – Johannesburg, South Africa is founded. Many Jews living in Cape Town move to Johannesburg because of the discovery of diamonds and gold. Barney Barnato and Sammy Marks are two of the more famous Jewish entrepreneurs. Marks amasses a fortune from gold and diamond mining, then assumes civic responsibilities as a negotiator during the Boer War and as a member of Parliament. Barnato, born Barnet Isaacs in the Whitechapel slum of London, founds the De Beers Consolidated Mines company.

1927 – The three Jewish Warner Brothers introduce the era of synchronized sound in moving pictures with the opening of "The Jazz Singer." Al Jolson is cast in the lead instead of the show's Broadway star, George Jessel, when Jessel demands an additional \$10,000 to sing in the film. The movie earns profits of \$3.5 million on an investment of \$500,000, and establishes Warner Bros. as a major American film studio.

1948 – Before fighting has even stopped in the War of Independence, Golda Meir, newly appointed Israeli ambassador to the Soviet Union, goes to the Grand Synagogue in Moscow for Rosh Hashanah. At best, the usual 2,000 Jews are expected at services. Instead, she is greeted by a joyous crowd of 50,000, at a time when such behavior might lead to Stalin's Gulag.

1973 – At a meeting with Prime Minister Golda Meir and several senior advisers, Moshe Dayan says that recent Egyptian and Syrian military concentrations on the Suez Canal and Golan Heights are "unusual" but not an imminent threat. Three days later, the Yom Kippur War begins when Egyptian forces cross the Suez Canal. Some 200,000 Israeli soldiers, most of whom are frantically mobilized reservists, face 300,000 Syrians and 850,000 Egyptians. ♦

Jim and Joan's Excellent Israeli Adventure

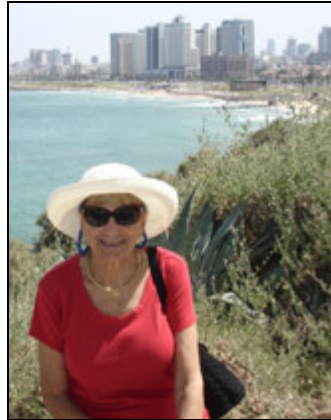
Jim and Joan planned a month-long vacation in Israel. They didn't make it that long. Lots went wrong, but it was a great trip. Joan explains...

by Joan Boruszak

Our Israeli adventure started perfectly. El Al was beyond our expectations. Actually our expectations had been very low, but El Al has grown up and was as good, if not better, than any airline we have flown. Little did we know what was to follow!

Before we left Florida, Jim had bought a GPS with an Israeli chip so we could find our way in our rental car. The first test of the GPS was to find our apartment in Bat Yam; however, Jim didn't trust the GPS to know what it was doing – so we got lost. The poor "lady" on the machine kept saying, "recalculating."

Alas, we found the apartment. Better we should not have! There were "just" a few problems: filthy floors, dirty microwave and pots, beds had not been changed, soaking wet towels on shelves in closet, filthy towels and sponges in the bathroom and kitchen, broken and dirty furniture, and no Wi-Fi as promised. Then there was the caretaker. He showed us to the wrong parking space and gave us the wrong code to get in the building. Jim and I looked at each other and wordlessly agreed that this was not for us!



Joan in Jaffa. Tel Aviv is behind her.

We drove down to the ocean to check out hotels there. We had a great breakfast at the Dan Tel Aviv – but no rooms were available. There we were – two old, homeless foreigners, with all our worldly goods in the car, happily wandering the streets of Tel Aviv during the busiest season of the year. We passed a small hotel on Mendeli Street, just a block from the ocean. We had stayed at this hotel forty years ago and remembered laughing as we had to climb over the bed to get to the bathroom. It looked clean and modern, so we decided to check it out. Fortunately, they had an opening, and the hotel had been totally rehabbed. It turned out

to be a great choice, but we would have to leave by the 18th, as it was completely full after that date. We settled in to begin our adventure.

Jim connected the computer and turned

it on. Our first message was quite a shock! El Al had cancelled the entire flight for our return home on the 31st of August. That was 29 days away!! Here is where we turned "rotten eggs into egg salad." Since we were now living in a hotel and not an apartment, we de-



Jim in the Arab quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem.



cided to go home at the end of our stay in this hotel. It was a good choice as we could do everything we had planned, just not leisurely. Since the airline had made the change, we had no problem with a new date.

Wednesday morning we woke up to a beautiful new day. It started with a great Israeli breakfast: herring, smoked fish, Israeli salad, tomatoes, halvah, varieties of breads, varieties of cheeses, dol-mades (stuffed grape leaves), coffee cake, cereal, eggs, and coffee. It was every bit as good as breakfast at the Dan. With a full stomach, it was time to tour. We walked from our hotel to the old Camel Market, a mile or so. The Camel Market is filled with aromas of fruit, fish, vegetables, meat and chicken. They are all laid out in stalls, with sellers shouting to get people to buy, just the way Mideast bazaars

are depicted in old Hollywood movies. There is also much more than food there. Clothes are stacked everywhere, from underwear to dresses to shoes to toys to religious items. Jim had forgotten his swimming suit, so he was able to get one there. Mobs of people rush to buy. There are old people, baby strollers and mothers, Chasidim, and young

people. Some are pushing shopping carts. Some are carrying shopping carts. Some are just carrying bags. Everywhere there are people rushing and shouting. One can spend hours there just people-watching. We bought some figs, peaches, and plums (besides the



The photo at top is the Market on Friday morning in Jerusalem. It's exactly the atmosphere you'd imagine.

In the center photo, Joan stands at the entrance gate of the old city of Zichron Yaakov in northern Israel. (No, she's not holding the red pole with the directional arrow on top.)

In the lower right picture, Jim and Joan stand with Joel, a friend and confrere of their great nephew. It was Joel who, during the recent boarding of the Turkish ship bound for Gaza to unload weapons, was the first commando down the rope from the helicopter. He was badly injured by crowbars, but more than held his own.



swimming suit). After all that we needed our nap. Then we had dinner at a restaurant on the beach and watched the sun go down over the Mediterranean.

On Thursday we decided to trek down to the beach. We rented a lounge chair with an umbrella. The water was



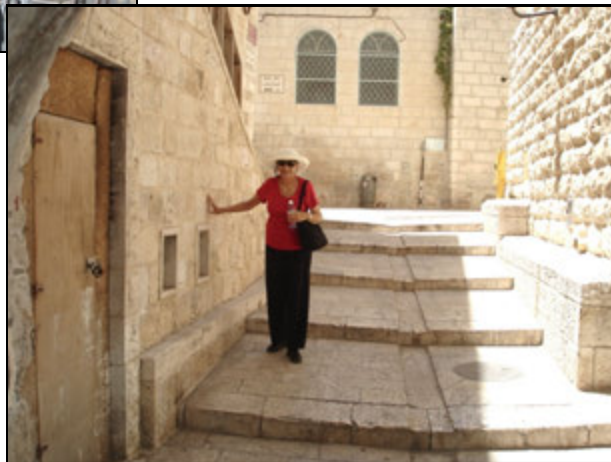
The plaza at the Western Wall. The entrance to the tunnels are at left.

calling us. Jim was much braver than I. He went all the way into the waves. I was careful not to get knocked down by them. The water was beautifully warm. After that we had lunch at another restaurant on the beach. The rest of the day was spent with a niece and her baby and with our great nephew. He had just returned from a ship in Somalia where he had been guarding against hijackers. It seems that ex-Israeli soldiers are hired for this job. Hijackers prefer to avoid them. Actually they aren't ex-soldiers, just soldiers in-between assignments.

Our next, very important, point of interest was Jerusalem. Since things had started wrong, we decided to treat ourselves with three days in Jerusalem at the King David Hotel. I was hoping that Paul Newman's ghost (you know, Ari Ben Canaan from Exodus) would come see us – but no! There is no other place in the world like Jerusalem! The city is golden and hilly. Our favorite site is the old city, connecting to the Western Wall. People there are from everywhere. The Chasidim are there, some studying, some begging for money. Priests from almost every Christian denomination are there. Tour groups fill the streets. We saw several groups from the Birthright program that our grandchildren had been lucky enough to attend. We

had lunch in our favorite Armenian restaurant.

Our favorite store in all of Jerusalem is the Blue and White Art Gallery in the Cardo. This is the oldest store in the Old City. Elyada Merioz and his family were the first Jews to return to the Old City and they opened a museum there. It is now owned by his son Udi and his son-in-law Israel. They have works by such artists as Agam, Chagall, and Ben



Joan in the Armenian Quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem, an Eastern Orthodox enclave.

Avram. Udi is now a well-known artist in his own right. (We now have some beautiful mezuzahs designed by Udi in our own KJCC gift shop. Ask me and I'll be happy to tell you each's story.)

One cannot go to Jerusalem without at least one visit to the Wall. There is a strange, mystical feeling that comes to you as you approach it. I know that, as many times as I have been there, I am emotionally overcome with the feeling that I must do this for so many people who dreamed of seeing it, but never would. The Wall is filled with little pieces of paper left by visitors through the years. One of my sons was lucky enough to go there when the first group of soldiers went in 1967. He was 13 years old. His note is somewhere there, mixed with so many oth-

ers from many years.

Another fascinating place in the Old City is the Shook. It is crowded with Arab stores filled with souvenirs, clothes and carts of food. Donkeys and children run through the narrow, hilly streets. The alleyways run in many directions and getting lost is a definite possibility. One also has to be careful not to stop at a shop because it is difficult to get away without buying.

Jim had been so anxious to go to the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem on Shabbat morning. He settled himself in the great hall downstairs. I settled myself in the great balcony four flights up. Women with baby strollers were also in the balcony. How they got there, I will never know. There was an escalator, but it didn't work past the second floor. We arrived just in time to hear one of the Cantors and the twenty-voice male choir. Jim was thrilled. The Ark was filled with about twenty-five to thirty Torahs. A boy from New York was being Bar Mitzvah. Someday, maybe, old ladies and baby strollers will be welcomed on the first floor.

On a beautiful Sunday morning we decided to drive to the wine country. We had lunch in Zichron Yaakov and wandered through a charming town. As usual, we shopped – for the KJCC gift shop. We came upon a place where they made a variety of items with parchment paper. We purchased some note cards. It was hard to find a winery open, but we did find a wine store connected with a Carmel winery. Obviously, we could not bring any home, but we did purchase some for gifts for our family there.

Another place where we found items for our KJCC gift shop was a small shop in Jaffa that sold religious items. Jaffa is a beautiful

fishing area in the south end of Tel Aviv. It was originally Arab and had several good fish restaurants. We were there several years ago, right after I started taking Hebrew les-

sons from Yardena. I loved practicing Hebrew by reading signs in the restaurants and shops. I spent several minutes pouring over one sign, only to discover it read, "calamari."

Israel has gone through many changes since our first visit forty years ago. One of the most obvious is in the demographics. On this visit, we were overwhelmed by the number



Joan visits the Carmel Winery in Zichron Yaakov south of Haifa, Israel's first winery.

of young people and children. Everywhere we went there were mobs of young adults with three and four children, and very often they were expecting more. I don't think I mentioned how beautiful the women and how handsome the men were.

It is a constantly changing country, and has so much to offer the world. We look forward to spending more time there in the future and watching this exciting place take its place as one of the great countries of the world, for it really is. ◇



A dentist's sign in the old city of Jaffa, with two languages plus a universally understood symbol. He or she must welcome tourist walk-ins.

High Holidays 5771 at the KJCC

We began our second thirty years by having both rabbi and cantor. There was S'lichot, and Tashlich, and Havdalah, and a nature walk. There was food at the beginning and at the end. Enjoy it all again here.

High Holidays – looking back and forward

by Gloria Avner
KJCC Ritual Chair

In Hebrew we don't say "Happy New Year." We don't say "New Year" at all. We talk instead of the "Head of the Year." We want to start at the top, not the tail, so as a people of symbol and metaphor, we reinforce the wish with a custom of eating a fish head on Rosh HaShanah eve. We wish each other a "good" year, a "Shanah Tovah." We want to walk into a fresh year with clear heads and consciences, followed closely by our hearts.

Every year during the "Days of Awe," we look deeply at our behavior and resolve to do better. We acknowledge our failures and admit that we have hurt others, the planet, and ourselves. We apologize and promise that we will act differently. But how do we really effect change? We are creatures of habit. The outside is easy—we shop, buy new clothes, and make declarations of intent. We attempt to go deeper by performing acts of kindness, giving charity, and



praying for help. This year we asked for help early—serious help. This year, 5771, brought more "newness" to KJCC than we have experienced since moving into our sanctuary.

We took a risk and voted to change our behavior. We decided as a group to do something really different: to look to a rabbi for education, insight, and upliftment at this key



It all began with pizza and a movie at S'lichot. The pizza was a hit, the movie, "A Serious Man," by the Coen Brothers, a little less so.



The only one to uphold male cooking honor was Bernie, who made his famous melt-in-your-mouth brisket. It was all a very auspicious beginning to the tenor, tone and taste of High Holy Days.



In the top four photos, the cooks who prepared the sumptuous Erev Rosh Hashanah meal. The dinner was Erica's idea, and it was an overwhelming success.



port that this thirty-year-old congregation, our KJCC mishpocha, performed a High Holy Day miracle. We have become a wise "young adult." In a tribe known for having at least three



holy time, and to have him share leadership duties with our cantor.

What was the risk? Some thought we would lose our identity. We are a polyglot mix who enjoy our lay leaders. I am happy to re-



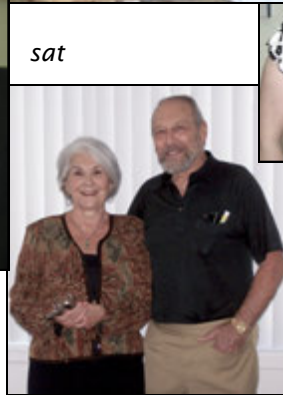
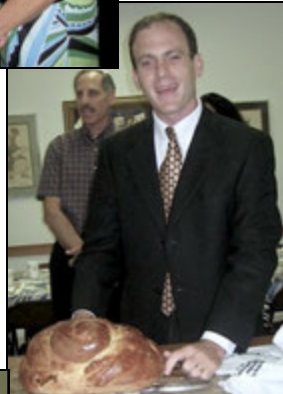
opinions when two members are present, our Keys tribe of 170, the only synagogue in a 126-mile stretch, managed to worship harmoniously during Ten Days of Awe, participating fully and graciously in services led by Reform Rabbi Danny Young and Orthodox Cantor Mark Halpern.

Our identity survived. Our people thrived.

We, who had gotten along without a rabbi for thirty years, decided to heed the request of the 40 percent of our members who answered Alan's questionnaire with a "yes, we'd like a rabbi to lead us on High Holy Days." Rabbi Young, who had already led a service for us and whose warmth and approach we liked, was chosen. More than ten families generously pitched in to underwrite the cost so there would be no financial drain on the shul.

The photos surrounding this article tell much of the story. If you were at services you saw and heard two men in white robes on the bimah. In addition, our lay leaders participated. This year we heard more stories. We learned things (like how do you know if you have a minyan without counting: ask each person present to read one word of Ma Tovu; if you get to the end, you have ten).

We were invited to participate in discussions on serious topics. The Rabbi came down from the bimah and moved among us as we tack-



led, among other topics, the question, "What is a Jew?" The question of matrilinear descent vs. patrilinear, mixed marriages, conversion, commitment, and the future of Judaism made for lively discussion, which continued beyond the actual service.

What else was new this High Holiday season? Lots. From a desire to begin the year meaningfully, sharing a Jewish meal with mishpocha before services, came a new ritual that blossomed from a ten-person-home-event seed idea into a sixty-three person sit-down brisket dinner. Also new was the fact that it was prepared mostly in the KJCC kitchen, by a tearful (all that onion chopping) and cheerful crew supervised by Erica. Our rabbi



at the head of the table and officiated at HaMotzi and Kiddush. Our New Year began, as it should, spiritually,

sat



deli-



*ciously,
and*



Rabbi Danny Young led us all in the "Shehechyanu," then led us into the sanctuary for Erev Rosh Hashanah services to begin the reflective portion of the Days of Awe.



*joyfully.
After the
service, more
of us assem-
bled, dipping*



ples in honey and enjoying more strudel than could (or should) be consumed at three sittings. Surely both dinner and oneg foreshadow a year of great sweetness and abundance.

New members are rejuvenating us. They are shopping, cooking, singing, organizing, cleaning, smiling, attending and assisting at services, helping us to expand and enrich our programming. Older members are maintaining continuity of care, volunteering cheerfully for all kinds of duties whenever asked. Our youngest members are showing up



After first-day Rosh Hashanah services at KJCC, there was Tashlich at Ocean Pointe, where we symbolically cast our sins into the sea. Prez Alan refuses to be diverted by the potential loss of his hat.

Below, Rabbi Young leads the blessing of the bread after the Saturday Shabbat Tshuvah service.



for services, volunteering to blow shofars, and returning to the pulpit for aliyahs. Two new students from Quebec have joined our school and Max, our latest Bar Mitzvah boy, has returned to Sunday School as a tutor.

Eco-Spiritual highlights included Tashlich, Shabbat Tshuvah, Havdalah, and Yom Kippur afternoon's reflective walk with the rabbi. So three times during the High Holy Day season, we sought and found spiritual sustenance outside

ap-



At the Oneg after Friday night's short service, we celebrated Mort Silverman's birthday. Gene even brought two kinds of cake.



our sanctuary walls. The



groups were not large, but en-

thusiastic.

On the first day of Rosh HaShanah, after four hours in the synagogue, we met at the gazebo on the end of the dock at Ocean Pointe, with big hunks of challah about to become heavy with the weight of our misdeeds. The Tashlich service, prepared by

Rabbi Danny and led by Cantor Mark, was short, sweet and moving. The setting was fine, clear sky over radiant blue waters. After prayers and song, we flung our sins into the sea. This brought response from the "sin-gulls,"

who cried out their own chant, instantly made a minyan, and gobbled every crumb of our year's worth of bad behavior.

Havdalah, perhaps because of the way Gloria does it, has become one of the beloved rituals at KJCC. At this one, after Shabbat Tshuvah, Medina held her cell phone so her Mom Bianka could join us in the music and blessings.



After the morning service of Yom Kippur, Rabbi Young led a group of non-nappers on his nature walk at Ocean Pointe, the idea being to reflect on our complete dependence on nature and connection to the land. So it was fitting beyond words to have to change our plans due to rain. But in true, historic and indomitable Jewish fashion, we waited out the rain and did have our walk.



gain, after hours in shul on Saturday morning (not to mention Wednesday night, Thursday morn, Friday morn, and Friday

Ritual Chair Gloria, Cantor Mark, Rabbi Danny, and Prez Alan — the main planners and toilers, whose diligent preparation and prodigious work made High Holy Days so exceptional for the rest of us.



service, one of our favorites – Havdalah – under a starlit sky, again surrounded by sea (oops, and mosquitoes).

We turned to nature one more time after a nearly five-hour morning Yom Kippur service. Eighteen of us gathered, again at Ocean Pointe. We

night) for a delightful Shabbat Tshuvah service, we made the



Alan presenting Cantor Mark with a plaque of appreciation for fifteen years of service to KJCC. Joel Pollack, who legend says brought Mark into KJCC in the first place, spoke just before, clearly from the heart, to set the stage for the presentation.

experienced sun, mugginess, clouds, showers, downpour, and return to sun. A nature return, or tshuvah. The Rabbi's wonderful written guide on the relationship of Judaism to nature throughout Jewish history is available to any who ask. We read, discussed, walked, sat under cover, walked, read, reflected, and discussed some more. Commitment to Tikkun

Olam, repair of the world, became a natural outgrowth of our discussion. This part of our Yom Kippur experience was unique, addressing roots that go back to



shift from sanctuary to seaside and Cantor Mark conducted another short



Rachael Bloom was one of a quintet who blew the shofar to signify the end of Yom Kippur. It was on to the food.



our earliest years as a land-connected people.



Hopefully, this will become another of our annual rituals.

An emotional moment for the entire congregation came in a Kol Nidre eve presenta-



Sisterhood, led by Lauren Sax, made sure that delicious food awaited all of us at the end of Yom Kippur. There were soon lots of smiles, even from some faces new to KJCC. The cake above, which highlighted the dessert table, didn't last long. Ties were loosened and jackets came off. Marc's coffee flowed. And, yes, Rabbi Young did remind us that all this bounty comes from a generous and giving earth. He then joined us in joyous sustenance.





shofars' final wakeup call, TEKIAH G'DOLAH!! To his left stood Rabbi Danny and Rachael. To his right were Zach and Moira and Cantor Mark. All five raised a shofar to their lips and created a unique KJCC symphony. We were ushered into a new year



by all generations.



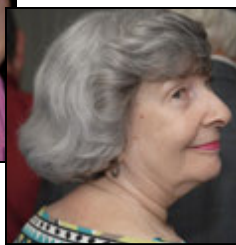
If you were not here for the High Holidays, and the changes large

tion, preceded by a moving introduction by Joel Pollack, of a plaque honoring Cantor Mark's fifteen years of service to KJCC.

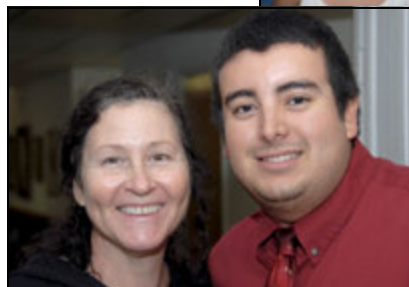


and small, we are sad you were not with us. But not to worry. Enjoy the photos and the stories. Join us next year. Encourage your friends to join

Another qvell-inducing moment was a Yom Kippur aliyah shared by four of our post b'nai mitzvot, two going as far back as eight years and one as recent as three months ago, all called to the bimah at once and confidently chanting the Torah blessings.



us, too. It is wonderful to hear the powerful sound of our group chanting responsive readings when the shul is full. Our community



The last image the whole congregation will remember is that of Jim Boruszak, our reliable Kohane, on the bimah calling out the

Chai-Lights sends great thanks to Mary Lee Singer, who shot many of the Erev Rosh Hashanah photos, and to Kathy Shabathai, who took most of the images you see here from the Yom Kippur break-the-fast.



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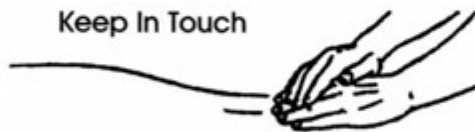
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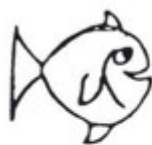


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November 2010

24 Cheshvan - 23 Kislev 5771

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Old Jews Rock - page 27

A Nice Jewish Girl in Africa - page 30

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President's Message Alan Beth



Lately, I seem to be living up to the saying: open mouth and insert foot! So here comes my public apology. (Ironically enough, my goof-up happened during Yom Kippur services, on the very day itself!) Here's what happened: as you know, I usually give speeches over the High Holidays each year. During one of my speeches I attempted to list all of the activities held at or by the KJCC in the past year, i.e. Havdalah, Friday night dinners, Yiddishkeit, 30th Gala, Meditation Garden, education, lectures, etc. etc. (too many to list, which is wonderful), and of course thanking all the volunteers by name for all that they did.

Well, needless to say, I forgot someone. The person I forgot helps out so much, contributes so much and does it all without ever being asked. You might say, well, Alan, you simply forgot this person. Truth is, I actually had them at the top of my list, and did not see the name when I was reading. (Note: I will not reveal the person's name here, but you should know that I offered my apology immediately afterwards.)

So, in reflection, let me ask you: is this not what we are all guilty of in some fashion? Do we not also forget the people that are important

to us in our everyday lives? Do we not take for granted, and forget to thank, all those that help us and for all the things they do? Now, we freely offer thanks to total strangers who go out of their way to do simple tasks or courtesies for us, like opening a door as we approach or bagging our groceries. But we forget the ongoing daily activities and tasks it takes to make the house run, or the house become a home, or a building transform into a community center or even a synagogue.

As you know, I am from England, where we celebrate neither the Fourth of July nor Thanksgiving Day. So, not having grown up with these holidays and their special meanings, I cannot relate to them as you can. However, I *can* relate to the principles of giving thanks for all that we have, for celebrating one's freedom and for living in this wonderful country. The essence of Judaism is to treat others as you would like to be treated. A big part of that is to recognize the contributions of others and to thank them.

Candy, Joseph and I wish you and your families a healthy and Happy Thanksgiving. And thank you.

November 2010

24 Cheshvan - 23 Kislev

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Jim Boruszak & Gloria Avner <i>Ulpan Students</i>	6
7 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Daylight Savings Ends	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12 Bernie Ginsberg KJCC Potluck Dinner 6:30 p.m.	13
14 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	15	16	17	18	19 Joel and Linda Pollack <i>David Gitin</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanks- giving Day	26 Joyce Peckman 6:30 Service	27
28	29	30	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></div>			

Nosh

Welcome New Members

The KJCC would like to welcome new members Jonathan Lever of Key Largo and Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly of Islamorada. We hope to see all of you often.

Calling All Members

Just a reminder that everyone is welcome, and encouraged, to attend both the Sisterhood and KJCC Board meetings. Your input is vital to the running of our community center. This month's Sisterhood meeting will be on Sunday the 7th at 9:30 a.m. The Board will meet on Sunday the 14th at 9:00 a.m. Both provide coffee.

November Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Jeffrey & Patty Schocket.....7
14th	Donald & Nancy Zinner.....23
26th	Roger & Danna Levy.....43
27th	Stanley & Jenny Margulies
28th	Robert & Eileen Hermann.....42
30th	Randy & Eileen Kominsky.....30

Celebrate or Honor a Loved One

Those who attend Friday night services at KJCC are familiar with the Onegs provided. After services members stay to enjoy coffee, soda, dessert and the conversation and company of friends. Not only are the attendees truly appreciative of the effort, but sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat is a wonderful way to celebrate any occasion or to remember a loved one. Your generosity and celebration/remembrance will also be noted right here in Chai-Lights. Contact Joyce at 451-0665 or 240-1000 for more information.

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to
Gloria Avner and her family
on the death of Gloria's uncle
Perry Gerber

Get Your Garden Bricks Here

The first group of commemorative bricks has already been laid at the entrance to the new KJCC Meditation Garden. (If you haven't already stopped by to look, please do.) Steve Steinbock, head of our Garden Committee, is now collecting orders for the second group, which will be installed at the entrance and also along the first brick path into the Garden. If you wish to honor a loved one, or remember a special person or moment in your lives, or just offer support to KJCC, bricks are a graceful and enduring way to do it. And they'll be part of a Garden that's shaping up as something very special. Standard bricks are \$125, double bricks \$200. Concrete benches are \$750. Contact Steve at 394-0143 for details on engraving, or go to the KJCC web site, keysjewishcenter.com.

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to
Susan Gordon and her family
on the death of Susan's father
Simon Skolnick

Attention Poker Players...

Bernie Ginsberg, president of KJCC's Men's Club, cordially invites everyone (members and non-members, men and non-men, experts and beginners) to join in on what is rapidly becoming one of the best-attended and most enjoyable social events at KJCC: poker night.

The place is the Ruth Richardson Social Hall at KJCC. The time is 7:30 p.m., and the date is the first Wednesday of every month (assuming Bernie isn't in California or New York or Israel or Gibraltar). It's a very low stakes game. The idea is to have fun, not clean everyone out.

Hebrew Classes are Beginning

As you receive this, Ulpan Hebrew classes will have just resumed at KJCC. Intermediate and Advanced classes are on Thursday night, with beginner classes Friday morning. Contact Yardena, 393-1768, if you'd like to join in.

November Birthdays

2nd.....	Brian Boruszak
2nd.....	Emma Neidenberg
2nd.....	Hannah Werthamer
2nd.....	Jeremy M. Schur
2nd.....	Madalyn F. Tobias
2nd.....	Matt Temkin
3rd.....	Ivan Bader
3rd.....	Katherine Shabathai
4th.....	Herbert Grossman
4th.....	Zoey Barrett
5th.....	Milton Wohl
7th.....	Joel Stein
7th.....	Michele Lindenbaum
8th.....	Jean Bader
8th.....	Nico Wilbur
11th.....	Cathy Dutton
13th.....	Marilyn Greenbaum
13th.....	Marjorie Present
13th.....	Mark Wasser
13th.....	Tami Antelman
14th.....	Larry Wolfe
14th.....	Rae Wruble
16th.....	Lorelei Alexander
16th.....	Sofy Wasser
17th.....	Jason Orans
18th.....	Ross Alexander
19th.....	Georgia Landau
19th.....	Michael E. Schur
22nd.....	Christopher Gould
22nd.....	Gloria Avner
22nd.....	John Greenbaum
23rd.....	Alec Gilderman
24th.....	Arthur Lee Willner
24th.....	Will Travis Pollack
25th.....	Nancy L. Cohn
25th.....	Robert Hermann
26th.....	John Greenbaum
26th.....	Ruth Schrader-Grace
28th.....	Nicole Hudson
29th.....	Benjamin Rakov
30th.....	Fred Hermann
30th.....	Steven Horowitz

BOOK PLATE

In fond memory of our friend

Jerry Tabasky

By Ron and Dorothy Horn

A Haunting New Book for our Library

A new book has been added to our KJCC library. The book is "While Other Children Played," by Erna Gorman. Erna only recently felt she could tell the story of her life as a "Hidden Child" during World War II. It is a harrowing and inspiring story of family, fear, and survival, and a must read for those who did not live through those terrible years. For those who of us who were children living in this country then, it is a reminder of what could have happened to us.

-Joan Boruszak

Holistic Open House During EcoWeek

During the week of November 1-7th, 2010, the Florida Keys will host the first-ever Eco-Week. A Healthy Living Fair will take place on Monday, November 1, from 4-7 p.m. at the Murray Nelson Center in Key Largo. There will be food and activities about green, healthy and holistic living. For more information on the EcoWeek events go to www.EcoWeekFloridaKeys.com.

In conjunction with this event, Garrett Chiropractic and Wellness Center will host a holistic open house on Thursday, November 4, from 4-7 p.m. at MM 90.2 bayside, in the Turek Building. Offerings will include organic smoothies and free spinal screenings. Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett will be there and available to help you learn more about holistic health. Beginners are encouraged to attend.

Visit Your New KJCC Gift Shop

Joan has completely restocked the KJCC Gift Shop with new items, focusing on gifts from Israel. Make sure to stop in and see all the new offerings. Especially with Chanukah just around the corner.

More Nachas for the Boruszaks

There's a lot going on lately in the high-energy Boruszak clan. Last month we ran photos of Nicole Hudson, Jim and Joan's granddaughter attending Oklahoma State, who'd been named national cheerleader of the week by no less than Sports Illustrated. Now her mom Beth Hudson, a registered nurse for twenty-five years, has been named chief nursing officer for the Baylor Institute For Rehabilitation in Waco, Texas. Possessed of an impressive list of accomplishments and credentials, Beth has long worked in rehabilitation medicine, is a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse (CRRN) and also a Certified Adult and Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (CA/CP-SANE). She's been a nursing administrator for the past eight years. By his own admission, Jim is "popping his buttons" with fatherly pride. (It certainly doesn't hurt his pride that she's also a graduate of the University of Illinois.)

A New Host for Havdalah

Jim and Joan Boruszak have graciously volunteered to host a Chanukah Havdalah at their clubhouse at the Coral Harbour Club, MM 88 Oceanside on the old highway. The date will be Saturday night, December 4th, as together we acknowledge the transition from Shabbat to the secular week. Dinner—cold cuts and salad—will be provided beforehand. Please R.S.V.P. early to Joan at 852-0833, so they'll know how many to expect. Look to your e-mail for the actual time.

-Gloria

Oneg Sponsors for November

November 5th — Yardena's Ulpan students in gratitude for her safe return.

November 19th — David Gitin in honor of Gloria Avner's birthday.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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. Quantities to fit your needs and can be 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.

Meditation Garden – Participate in our newest venture. A beautiful garden is in progress and you can be part of this exciting new project by making a donation for an engraved brick, an engraved bench, or for plants in honor or memory of a loved one or event. Call Steve Steinbock for information, 852-6152.

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yahrzeit 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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353

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 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.

The Next Big Fundraiser is...

This from your dedicated and dutiful KJCC Fundraising Committee: December's issue will feature details on the next big KJCC fundraiser, called "Get Outta Town." This will involve a raffle where the winner chooses from several vacation packages for an exciting weekend away from the Keys. Destinations under consideration include Broadway shows in New York City; a VIP tour of the wine country in Sonoma, CA; a VIP weekend at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY with a horse race named in your honor; a jazz and dining experience in New Orleans; and the Ultimate Sports Fan Getaway to the event of your choice. It's okay to begin getting excited now.

BOOK PLATE

In loving memory of

Jerry Tabasky

By Susan Horn
and Dot Brooking

Your Sunshine Committee Needs Baskets

Rene Rose, who quietly and gracefully runs one of KJCC's most important committees — the Sunshine Committee (ask anyone who's received a hand-arranged basket of fruit by Rene and Skip how it made them feel) — has asked that we again put out a call for small and medium wicker-type baskets she can use for her deliveries of love and cheer. Contact Rene at 852-3959, or better yet drop them off for her at KJCC.

To my mishpucha...

I want to thank everyone for their overabundant love and support during this difficult time in my, Mark and Cory's lives. My dad's stroke was unexpected, as they usually are, and his passing was in a way a blessing from God as he suffered very little.

Every night after spending the day with my dad at the hospital, I would come home and read all the loving e-mails and Facebook entries from all of you, and I can't begin to express how comforting this felt.

A special thanks to Roberta & Rick McNew and Stuart & Lauren Sax for attending the funeral services. The mass was beautiful and peaceful.

Upon returning home to the Keys, I received a gorgeous fruit basket delivered personally by Skip & Rene Rose on behalf of the congregation. Thank you, KJCC, for all your love and support....you fill my heart with love.

The picture is of my father and mother at the KJCC for Cory's Bar Mitzvah. He was so happy and proud of Cory. He simply adored Cory....he would always remind me of when we lived in Miami Beach and he'd pick Cory up from school since I had to work, and Cory would tell him....see Abuelito, that's my synagogue (the Sephardic Congregation on Arthur Godfrey Road). Daddy would tell me that Cory was destined to be Jewish, as he always yearned for it, and Daddy was exceptionally proud of Cory for achieving it.

We will all miss my father's presence, but I know in my heart that his spirit surrounds us with all the love in the world. Thank you, Daddy, for giving me such a wonderful life....I will forever love and miss you.

With lots of love,
Sofy Wasser



Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



Until next summer, Sisterhood meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of every month in the KJCC Ruth Richardson Hall. It is an integral part of the life and functioning of our synagogue. There is never a separate membership fee. Every woman who is a member of KJCC is automatically welcome to join us for breakfast in Sisterhood and play an active part in the planning of our events as well as helping run the events themselves. Our meetings, in fact, are mostly about planning the various activities and services we provide KJCC. (Mostly, not entirely, because we do – admittedly – enjoy each other’s company a little while we’re there.) We are in the middle of planning events for the upcoming season now. On November 7th you’ll have that extra luxurious hour of sleep when we move the clock back, so you should be rested and ready for our second meeting of the season. Quite a few ideas were put forth at the first meeting. We’d like your input too, so please join us.

Our first event of the season will be a Friday evening potluck dinner, at 6:30 p.m. on November 12th. We are re-instituting the \$5 donation. (For those who prefer not to carry money on Shabbat eve, contact me about prepayment.) Please call or e-mail Erica Garrett and tell her what you’re willing to cook or prepare; she’ll be coordinating the dishes, as she’s done so ably for several recent KJCC dinners. The menu will be dairy or vegetarian – no meat please. If you don’t consider yourself a cook, but still want to contribute, Erica can give you some ideas. Her phone number (her chiropractic office, where Zoe will probably answer) is 853-1003, e-mail at hippiejap@hotmail.com. These dinners are always fun - a great way to meet or reunite

with friends. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone there and beginning our new season in great joy. Services will begin at 8:00 immediately after dinner, to be led by the redoubtable Bernie Ginsberg. Bernie always has wonderful Jewish knowledge and insights to convey, plus his usual shtick. So now you have two good reasons for coming that night.

While you are at it, mark your calendars for the next dinner also, which will celebrate the 3rd light of Chanukah on December 3rd. (Yes, Chanukah is early this year.) Because that potluck will be sponsored by Linda and Joel Pollack, there is no donation needed – just your participation!

We’ve reserved tickets for “The 25th Annual Putnam Valley Spelling Bee” at the Actors’ Playhouse in Miami for Sunday, February 6th. This Tony Award-winning musical comedy is about six young over-achievers in the throes of puberty vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. They are overseen by three quirky grown-ups who barely managed to escape their own childhood. I saw it on Broadway, left the theatre laughing, and can hardly wait to see it again. Tickets are \$40. Contact me to reserve yours.

Also mark your calendar for Saturday night, March 19th, when we will go as group to see “Chicago” performed at the Coral Shores Performing Arts Center. This is by the same Miami group that put on “The Producers” last season. Stay tuned for more information and more events.

Please call me if you have any questions or ideas (451-0665 or cell 240-1000), or if you want to sponsor a Friday Oneg Shabbat. Thank you to Rosie Biskar and to Kathy and Joe Shabathai for sponsoring in October. ◇

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

Book Plates

Horn, Ron & Dorothy
Horn, Susan

In Memory of

Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky

Holocaust Education Fund

LePree, Jacqueline
Swartz, George & Muriel

General Fund

Begam, Delores
Bernstein, Paul & Barbara
Kaufman, David & Lois
Lippman, Lillian
Margulies, Stan & Jenny
Tobin, Andy

In Honor of

Pray for Susie
Rabbi Young

Meditation Garden

Rose, Skip & Rene
Margulies, Stan & Jenny

30th Anniversary KJCC
Welcome to our Garden

Yartzeit Contributions

Berkon, June
Field, Alvan & Carol
Gilson, Michael & Suzanne
Gould, Maryon
Kluger, Kurt & Nancy
Kwalick, Teresa

In Memory of

H. Melvin Berkon

Robert Walters
Eliza Christensen
Irene Becker

General Fund

Boruszak, Jim & Joan
Carter, Evans & Barbara
Clark, Richard & Judith
Donofrio, John & Karen
Falkoff, Barry & Gail
Geremia, Robert & Carol
Kaufman, Howard
Kriteman, Jacob & Melody
Medford Wellington Service Co.
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Rufo, Susan
Ruggeri, Lauren
Smith, Steve & Barbara
Tabasky, Louis & Barbara
Tabasky, Marvin & Rosalyn

In Memory of

Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Mauro Ojeda
Simon Skolnick
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky

Yizkor Book

LePree, Jackie
Rose, Skip & Rene
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Temkin, Bob & Susan

30th Anniversary

Field, Alvan & Carol
Gilson, Michael & Suzanne

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
joyce@adoctorsbag.com

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Illicit Sex a Mitzvah?

A new *halachic* study says that seducing enemy agents for the sake of national security is not only permitted but an “utmost mitzvah.” The ruling was made by Rabbi Ari Shvat and was included in the latest issue of *Tehumin*, an annual collection of writings about the overlap between Jewish law and modern life. Rabbi Shvat explores the issue of “honey traps,” as they are called in intelligence circles, where (mostly) women are used “to seduce enemy agents in order to cajole information out of them or see them captured.” In his study, Shvat cites the biblical cases of Queen Esther, who slept with Persian King Xerxes (Achashveros in the *Megillah*) to save her people, and Yael, the wife of Hever the Kenite, who seduced and killed the Canaanite general Sisera. In the event that any of our KJCC married members are interested in becoming “honey traps,” consider first what the rabbi warns: “Naturally, an unmarried operative should be preferred in ‘honey trap’ cases, but if there is no other choice but to use a married woman...her husband should divorce her and marry her again after the fact.” (www.ynetnews.com, 10-4-10)

Jewish Name Erased

A long-time Jewish neighborhood in the Lebanese city of Sidon has finally lost its name, thus erasing 2,000 years of the town’s Jewish history. Known as *Haret al-Yahud* (Neighborhood of the Jews), the residents recently renamed the neighborhood *Haret Gaza*. *Haret al-Yahud* was part of the Lebanese Jewish population that numbered close to 24,000 in 1948. Despite the expulsion of Jews from the University of Beirut in the late 1940s, the Jews in Lebanon were a well-entrenched population that did not support

the Zionist struggle. In fact, Lebanon was the only Arab country whose Jewish population actually increased after the State of Israel was established in 1948. Some 10,000 Jews moved there from Iraq and Syria. However, in the 1950s, Jews slowly began to emigrate, moving mostly to the United States and Europe. By 1999, only a few dozen Jews remained in the country. Sidon, the third-largest city in Lebanon and once the capital city of the legendary Phoenicians, is located midway between Tyre and Beirut and not very far from Israel. Ironically, many scholars believe that it was in Phoenicia that the language we now call Hebrew began. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 9-5-10)

The Inside “Poop”

Israeli reservist soldiers stationed along a section of Israel’s northern border with Syria have not been able to get a good night’s sleep because wild pigs have been tripping the electronic fence. Fed up with their sleep constantly being interrupted, the reservists contacted the Safari Park in Ramat Gan and subsequently, large amounts of lion and tiger droppings were transported to the border and then scattered along the border fence. The reservists are now sleeping well. Apparently, the “droppings” deter other animals from approaching the electronic alert system. (www.upi.com, 9-27-10)

“Al Shlosa Devarim...”

Despite tensions between Jewish and Arab residents, some 20,000 people participated in the *yahrzeit* commemoration of *Shimon HaTzaddik* (Simon the Just) in the Jerusalem neighborhood named for him. *Shimon*

HaTzaddik (circa 400 B.C.E. – 300 B.C.E.) was the *Kohen Gadol*, High Priest of the Jewish people, at the time Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire (and therefore Judah) in 331 B.C.E. When Alexander arrived in Jerusalem, he dismounted from his chariot and prostrated himself before Shimon, explaining that Shimon had come to him in a dream and that it was Shimon's vision which he always saw leading him to victory in battle. But *Shimon HaTzaddik* is probably most famous for his statement, "The world exists through three things: Torah, service to G-d, and acts of kindness," set to the familiar and beautiful melody often sung by Gloria and Yardena at KJCC's Friday night services. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 10-7-10)

A New National Project in Israel

While Israel has traditionally focused on solar power, it has recently begun to put more resources into developing its wind energy industry. As a result, the Multimatrix Company will build a huge wind farm in the northern Golan Heights; Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared it a "National Project." The farm will consist of 70 giant turbines, with U.S. energy giant AES Corporation as a partner in the venture. Construction on the farm will begin within six months and should begin operating no later than the second half of 2012. "This is the first very large and practical renewable energy project of its kind in Israel, and in the entire Middle East," said Uri Omid, CEO of Multimatrix. Israel plans to more than triple its use of wind energy over the next decade. (www.globes.co.il, 9-21-10)

And the Leo Baeck Award Goes to....

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been honored for her work in German-Jewish reconciliation with an award from The Leo Baeck Institute. The organization, founded in 1947 by Baeck, a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust, presented its first medal ever to a serving German head of government. Merkel was awarded the medal for her work in "cultivating a good relationship between Germans and Israel, and Germans and world

Jewry." Rabbi Leo Baeck founded the institute to study the history of German-speaking Jewry, which claims on the Institute's website to be "linked to Europe's cultural, intellectual and political history over the past 500 years." Baeck died in 1956. The Institute has a library and archives in Manhattan offering "the most comprehensive documentation for the study of German-Jewish history." (*World Jewish Congress*, 9-22-10)

New Addition to the National Archives

At the end of August, the original documents of the Nuremberg Laws were transferred from the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in California to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., where they will reside permanently. The papers were signed by Hitler in 1935 and "codified the systematic extermination of Jews in Nazi Germany." They are thought to be the only copies of the Nuremberg Laws to exist. The papers were given to General George S. Patton by U.S. soldiers who found them in a German bank vault. Patton disobeyed orders by taking the documents out of Germany, and gave them to the Huntington in 1945. The laws specify what makes a person Jewish and, among many other new and humiliating restrictions, stripped those who fell into that category of their German citizenship and prohibited them from marrying German citizens. (www.archives.gov, 9-13-10)

She's Right Behind Michelle Obama

Irene Rosenfeld, CEO and Chairman of Kraft Foods, was named by Forbes magazine the second-most- powerful woman in the world for 2010, one spot behind First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama and one place ahead of Oprah Winfrey. Rosenfeld, 57, was born to a Jewish family in Brooklyn. Her father's parents immigrated to the United States from Romania and her mother's parents were German Jews. Rosenfeld, who now lives in Illinois, has been in the food industry for over 25 years and has served as the CEO and Chairman of Kraft Foods since 2006. (*The Forward*, 10-7-10)

Are You Smarter Than an Atheist?

Researchers from the independent Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life surveyed more than 3,400 Americans, asking them questions about, among other things, the Bible and Biblical history, world religions, and famous religious figures. The survey was conducted by telephone. On average, people who participated in the survey answered half the questions incorrectly, even questions regarding their own faiths. Who scored the highest? Coming in number one were atheists and agnostics (they scored the same) followed by Jews and Mormons, in that order. How do you compare with the average American? Here's your chance to find out. Go to <http://features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge/> to take the test. (www.nytimes.com, 9-28-10)

Rededication Marks Jewish Resurgence

After more than fifty years, in a ceremony attended by the Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister along with more than 1,500 members of the Jewish community, the Obuda Synagogue in Budapest was rededicated in early September. "This is the best and most respectable answer to Nazism and anti-Semitism," said Israel's Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yona Metzger. The reopening of Hungary's oldest synagogue, built in 1820 and replacing one from 1737, marks another step in the resurgence of Jewish life in the country. There are believed to be 100,000 Jews living in Hungary today. Though not all consider themselves Jewish, there is a great yearning among young Jews for their religious birthright, denied to the past two-plus generations. (*Jerusalem Post*, 9-7-10)

An Evening with Jerry and Bette

On November 13th, Jerry Seinfeld and Bette Midler are scheduled to headline the official opening of the renovated National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. The gala event will celebrate the \$150 million project to move the museum to Independence Mall. The new facility is expected to attract some 250,000 visitors per year, ten times what it has traditionally

attracted since it opened in the mid-1970s. (www.jta.org, 9-22-10)

Did You Know...

-According to recent data released by the Jewish Agency, some 17,880 "*olim*" arrived in Israel during the Hebrew year 5770, an increase of 2,700 people from the year before. The biggest rise in numbers came from immigrants from the former Soviet Union. (*Jerusalem Post*, 9-5-10)

-Israel's national chess team recently won a bronze medal at the 39th Chess Olympiad, coming in third among 148 teams. The competition was held in the northern Russian town of Khanty-Mansiysk. The Israeli team, ranked 11th worldwide before this event, won silver at the Olympiad two years ago. Ukraine won the gold medal for the second time and Russia came in second. (www.haaretz.com, 10-4-10)

-At the end of September, Ed Miliband won the race to head Britain's Labour Party, becoming the first Jew to do so and defeating his older brother David by a small margin. The men are the sons of Polish Jewish immigrants. Labour has never had a Jewish leader before. Conservative Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister in 1868 and 1874-1880, descended from Italian Sephardic Jews, was born Jewish but was baptized in the Anglican Church at an early age. (www.thejc.com, 9-26-10)

-Fannie Froman Buten of Philadelphia, listed as the "oldest living Jewish person in the world," died September 24th. Her age was verified by Robert Young (his real name?) of the Gerontology Research Group. She was active throughout her life with Jewish concerns. Buten was born in Austria in 1899 and, according to the manifest at Ellis Island, arrived in the United States at the age of two. (*The Forward*, 9-30-10)

-A statue honoring Sir Nicholas Winton, known as the "British Schindler," was recently unveiled at a train station in Britain. Winton, 101, smuggled 669 mostly Jewish children out of Czechoslovakia in 1939. The bronze statue shows Winton sitting on a park bench reading a book containing pictures of the children he rescued. (www.jta.org, 9-19-10) ◇



SHOP ISRAEL

Check your KJCC Gift Shop and
buy Israel.



Magnificent crystal mezuzahs designed by the artist
Udi from the Blue and White gallery in the Cardo in
the Old City of Jerusalem - Wonderful wedding gifts!



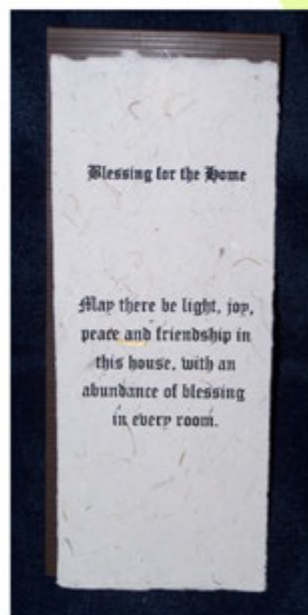
Multi-colored over-the-shoulder fabric purses and
challah covers from Rifkas in the Old City of Jerusalem



Also: Silver star necklaces with multi colored
stones and hand made parchment note paper
from Zickran Yaakov.



Beautiful talit and kepahs from Jaffa



Individual orders can be
accommodated.

Photo Gallery



Our KJCC Sukkah was quite the hub of activity this season. The top photos show our Sunday School students being instructed by Morah Yardena and Morah Gloria. Yardena explains that care must

be taken to not damage the stem of the etrog, or it will no longer be considered Kosher. The night photos were taken on September 24th, as Kiddish was celebrated in the Sukkah after Friday evening services on the second day of Sukkot.



As a harvest festival, Sukkot also offers new fruits to try. Joshua thought this one tasted.... different.





Sunday, October 3rd was quite the busy day at KJCC. Zoe Berk and Joe Shabathai and David Gitin, with a little help from prez Alan and Lili and Robert Werthamer, dismantled our Sukkah, to store it away again until High Holidays next year. It was



also the day when our Sunday School class celebrated Simchat Torah. So everyone marched into the sanctuary, where Alan led the blessings of the Torah, and the



students all helped open and roll our Torahs back to the beginning, to Bereshit, where the reading cycle begins anew each year. (Oh, and Steve Steinbock and crew were also outside planting silver buttonwoods and palms on the borders of the new Meditation Garden. And there was a Sisterhood meeting going on in the social hall. We did say

it was a full and busy day at KJCC, right? There are also more details about this in Gloria's article on page 21.)



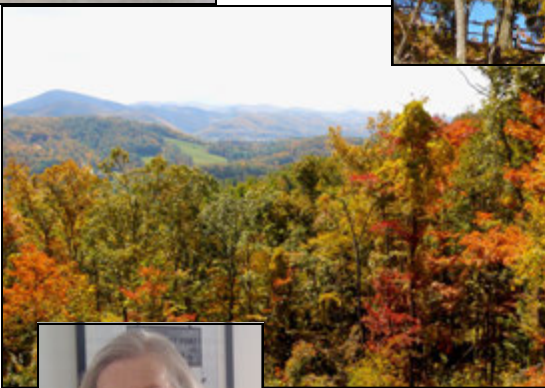


The two photos at top give you an idea of the progress at KJCC's new Meditation Garden. The gate area is almost fully planted, and the brick walkway is about to be extended inside. Just inside is the first bench, this one sponsored by Stan and Jenny Margulies. Others are sponsored by the Schwuids and the daughters of Joel and Sara Cohen. In the center left photo, Linda Pollack poses with other members of her Tai Chi class.



An impromptu Havdalah took place on October 9th after dinner at Num Thai. Pauline just happened to have a bottle of Manischewitz.

Joyce had her Havdalah kit. David snapped the picture. The photo at right is Rene Rose with her new 'do, just because, well, Rene has a stylish new 'do and we had the picture.



The photos above and left were taken from



Carl and Medina Roy's house in Boone, North Carolina in mid-October. Wait until you see how gorgeous they are in full color online at the KJCC web site.

KJCC
SISTERHOOD SHABBAT
DINNER
FRIDAY, NOV 12, 2010

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH

~DAIRY~

Contact Erica @ (305) 853-1003
hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your spot and
coordinate your covered dish.



VOLUNTARY DONATION @ \$5

PREPAYMENT WELCOME

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER @ NO CHARGE

Post-High Holiday 2010 (5771) Survey Results

It turns out that KJCC's High Holiday services were a big success. As you all know, immediately after the Holidays had concluded Alan sent out a brief survey to the membership, asking all who had attended services to answer three short questions. He also left room for comments. Fifty-two of us responded to the survey, a very good number and one well above any requirements for statistical validity. (Remember, not all members attend High Holiday services; the questions were only for those who did attend.)

The questions and answers are shown below. Alan has also selected a representative sample of comments, which follow the tabulated results.

1. Did you attend High Holiday services this year at the KJCC?

	Answers	Percentage
a. Yes	52	100.00
b. No answer	0	
Total responses	52	

2. How satisfied were you with the High Holiday experience?

	Answers	Percentage
a. Dissatisfied	1	1.92
b. Satisfied	9	17.31
c. Very Satisfied	40	76.92
d. Other answers	2	3.85

3. Do we need a rabbi for High Holidays next year?

	Answers	Percentage
a. No	12	23.08
b. Yes	40	76.92
c. No answer	0	0.00
d. Total responses	52	

To those who answered the question "yes" for whether we need a rabbi, Alan then asked for suggestions on how to pay for the rabbi and also general comments. Like a tweet, responses had to be fitted into a limited amount of characters, in this case 250, which occasionally led to some tortured abbreviations. Here's what your fellow KJCC members said, sometimes expanded for ease of reading:

1. Great rabbi. Thanks.

2. Option 1: Charge \$25 per individual or \$45 per family at High Holiday services. Option 2: rabbinic funding event? Option 3: the people who found it valuable contribute an amount of their own choosing. Needless to say, no one gets turned away from services.

3. I thought this rabbi was perfect.

4. Maybe someone who is a better speaker.

5. I like the rabbi we had...we are VERY willing to contribute to the fund again next year. It totally adds to the overall experience. Loved having the cantor as well.

6. I think the rabbi should be reform/conservative and involved with nature. Raise the dues.

7. (Get) contributions, (charge) High Holiday fees (reduced for members); type of rabbi? One with warmth, emphasis on sharing learning.

8. Keep the same one. Who else wants us?

9. I think it's good to have a rabbi who can arouse new paths of consciousness in the group. I think someone with a few years under his belt could also be good. Rabbi's fee can be funded with proceeds from a Jewish Rap concert (Matis Yahoo) or a fastest mohel competition, or maybe trade for a camel and a few new wives. I'll have to think about it. There's always a way.

10. I would "audition" several rabbis over

the next year at Shabbos services. The one who obtains the best reviews would then be offered the position for the High Holidays. Only rabbis who would be available to conduct High Holiday services would be offered the Shabbos services as an interview.

11. The same one we had this year.

12. A Reform rabbi. Fund the same as this year.

13. I liked the one who was here this year. We could run a few dinners and collect. I thought he was great. There could be less Hebrew in the service, but it was nice for the High Holidays. I would appreciate more English most of the other times.

14. Rabbi Young would be great.

15. Bring back Rabbi Young...as far as funding goes, how about using money allocated to other things to pay to bring him back.

16. Very satisfied with Rabbi Danny Young. Would like to invite him back and the funding should come from donations like this year or from a specific fundraiser targeted for that purpose.

17. An engaging, thought-provoking individual. As I understand it, we have reserves. Could we not use that? Although I would be prepared to contribute, it is not entirely fair that a small group bears the expense while all get the benefit.

18. Charge for tickets, e.g. \$50 per person or couple?

19. It's not that a rabbi is needed, though it was very nice and different for a change. I especially liked the more English service. Funding should probably come from donations.

20. Rabbis are as different as congregants. The rabbi-cantor combination was exceptionally well done. Our High Holiday event was very good. However, the experience and delivery of Rabbi Agler is preferred over that of Rabbi Young. IF we could get Rabbi Agler, THAT would be GREAT for next year. If not, then the cantor would be sufficient.

21. I don't think we need a rabbi. My observation is that we lose the greater sense of community when we are led by a rabbi. Of course, it depends on the rabbi.

22. "Need?" No. "Want?" Yes.

23. This one was good!

24. I don't think we "need" a rabbi, but I did enjoy the rabbi's participation at Rosh HaShanah services. I did not attend Yom Kippur services.

25. SAME rabbi, SAME cantor. We will be MORE than happy to help fund their return.

26. Reform rabbi. Fund by raising dues.

27. A rabbi with more life experience and one that can project wisdom of the ages and inspire the Hashem in all of us would be better. Can money really buy that type of rabbi? Rabbi should want to come back to us because his desire to guide us is great. Earmark \$50 for each family membership. How about a retired rabbi who's not in it for the money and will accept what we as a congregation can offer?

28. Not a young Reform rabbi who is still learning and not a so-called cantor who is incapable of singing anything...it is really an insult to the KJCC.

29. I'm uncertain as to need but would be nice to have. Rabbi should be advised to be non-political. Funding—we keep missing opportunities for real fundraising (i.e. 30th Anniversary non-fundraising Gala).

30. I liked the rabbi we had.

31. I would repeat this year's experience.

32. I enjoyed the rabbi but it seems sufficient to have only the chazzan. Last year we had only the chazzan and it was just fine.

33. Reform.

34. Over the last few years, for the admittedly few times we have gone to services, I have been very impressed at the way services were conducted without a rabbi. This has led me to believe that we do not need a rabbi. Having said that, I liked having the rabbi, and am sure that having him took a tremendous strain off those who would otherwise lead services.

35. Maybe a bit less Hebrew but loved the discussions.

36. Very happy with Rabbi Young and would love to have him back. We should try to make having a rabbi a budgeted item.

37. We do not need one, but if we do have one I liked Rabbi Young very much. ♦

Extending Ritual...

We Do What We Do and Become Who We Are

by Gloria Avner

How odd to have a whole month—November—without a big Jewish holiday to prepare for and celebrate. (Okay, Kislev and the miracle of oil are waiting in the wings, but let's enjoy the rarity of stillness for a moment). It is refreshing to have time and space to ponder the whirl of activity that began with *Selichot*, wound its way through the rich High Holidays, and ended with the dismantling of our Sukkah and the joyous parading, dancing, and re-winding of our Torah scrolls.

There are highlights we've not talked about yet that want to be noticed and shared. One began on the day after Yom Kippur. Grownups were erecting the Sukkah, days in advance of the actual holiday. Our young male students, Joshua, Max, Harry, Noah, and Zach, were finding and heaving palm fronds onto the roof to create shade. (Actually, Max is now a tutor, but he did enjoy the gathering and heaving of the palm fronds.) In Religious School we discussed for a full hour the meaning and importance to Judaism of the concept of hospitality. (It was a full and active Sunday.)

We had just been asked by a Jewish Day School in Sarasota if they could use our Sukkah while visiting here on one of the middle



days of Sukkot. They would bring their own *lulav*, *etrog*, and snacks,

and celebrate their own ritual inside our Sukkah. We thought how fitting and appropriate it would be if some of us, and our students, could be at *shul* Monday evening to meet and greet them. We had no idea how special an event it would be!

Two of our students showed up with unbounded enthusiasm. Zach Schrader-Grace and Moira Knowles ran back and forth, assiduously refurbishing palm fronds for the roof, preparing gorgeous platters of cookies, and setting out kiddush cups

with grape juice. (It turned out that all the day school's preparations for Sukkot, including snacks, *lulav* and *etrog*, had been left behind in Sarasota. How wonderful that our four species and citron would get to be waved, blessed, and honored again!)

Here comes the best part—the *Ushpizim* miracle. Yes, we had talked about hospitality in class, and how visitors (*ushpizim*) are considered sacred representations of our ancestors, but one never knows how or even *if* learning gets transmuted into action. Now picture this: a big school bus pulls into our parking lot. Out pour thirty-one fourth- and fifth-graders in identical purple school logo t-shirts, followed by four adult chaperones. Moira positions herself a few feet from the bus steps and, as each person descends into



In matching purple shirts, the Temple Beth Shalom students filled the KJCC Sukkah to near capacity.



our lot, she offers her hand and says, "Hello, my name is Moira and I'm from the KJCC. Welcome!" Some of the kids look a little surprised and puzzled at first, but all shake her hand and grin, especially the adults. Before long, we are having our Kiddush in our overflowing (and much admired) Sukkah, saying the blessings over the four species. Moira passes around the *etrog* for everyone to smell, cautioning the students not to touch the stem. (Who knew she would remember that this could ruin a citron and render it non-Kosher?) After the ceremony and snacks, Moira asks if anyone has questions, introduces them to me, and then offers a tour of our sanctuary. Zach and she usher everyone to a seat and we have a free-flowing discussion and talk about our Holocaust Torah.

Goodbyes and thank-yous were heartfelt. Both groups committed to continuing contact. The adult leaders, headed by warm and sincere Joanie Bloch, were impressed not just with the beauty and grandness of our Sukkah but with the forthcomingness and grace of our students. So was I. The adults were shocked when in response to their question about how many students we have in school, I replied "eight." Our students, and future leaders, did us proud that day. They embodied an important idea repeated at almost every Friday service, that we are a welcoming *mishpocha* for any Jews heading down our highway looking for sanctuary and "shelter," and that a person is a stranger here but once.

The very next weekend, the celebration of

Simchat Torah and the dismantling of our Sukkah provided the other highlight. On Erev Shabbat, Friday, October 1st, we held and paraded with our Torahs. On October 3rd, Sunday, we called a halt to Sukkah deconstruction so the adults could join our students in even deeper celebration of Simchat Torah. We rolled our Torahs to the very last word, then re-rolled them to the very beginning. One of our newest members, Joe Shabathai, led the parade. We carried our Torahs and danced with them, undressed and dressed them. We took turns at everything, adults as well as children, rolling and carrying and making seven circuits, flags waving in hand, all around the sanctuary. Sisterhood members, smiling, joined in after their meeting. (Again, it truly was an active Sunday.) Men and women, old, young, and middle-aged, founders and hard-working new members, together shed the starkness of our Days of Awe.

We started the New Year with a joyous reading from *B'reishit*. *Yads* poised over the student Torah as well as our own precious scroll. One beginning was followed by an ending as Alan, David, and Zoe finished putting away the Sukkah while Natalie and Michaela played hide and seek with Alan under the *bimah*. Steve Steinbock and his crew wrapped up their work with a few last wheelbarrow loads of mulch for the plants newly installed in our beautiful Meditation Garden.

We called it a day and headed home. Let's enjoy our quiet month. ◇



So we're headed to Key West and suddenly there's this shul and Sukkah. Who knew?

-This Month in Jewish History-

November

1095 – At the Council of Claremont, Pope Urban II summons Christians to retake the Holy Land from Moslems, alleging that they destroy Christian holy places. A combination of religious, economic and social motives result in the devastating response now known as the First Crusade.

1105 – Rabbi Nathan ben Yehiel of Rome completes his Talmudic dictionary, a lone Italian making a contribution to Jewish literature in a period dominated by the Jews of Spain. It becomes a standard text for Jews studying the Talmud during the Middle Ages.

1180 – Maimonides completes the *Mishneh Torah*, his attempt to organize the vast mass of Jewish oral law for both rabbi and layman.

1215 – The meeting of the Fourth Lateran Council during the papacy of Pope Innocent III (1161-1215) marks the zenith of Papal power. Old anti-Jewish decrees are expanded. Jews are compelled to wear the Yellow Patch, the "Badge of Shame," to distinguish them from Christians. The Council's decrees are enforced in France, England, Germany and later in Hungary. Innocent III also originates the Doctrine of Transubstantiation, in which the wafer (Host) and wine in the Eucharist are believed to become the blood and flesh of Jesus. This leads to the infamous Host Desecration libels of the next few centuries.

1278 – Edward I of England arrests 680 Jews for alleged coin clipping and counterfeiting and puts them on trial. Judges are given prior instructions clearly biased against the Jews. Christians are also accused, but ten times as many Jews are hanged as Christians (269 Jews and 29 Christians). Edward receives 16,500 Pounds Sterling from fines and the property of the executed Jews. At that time Jews comprise 1 percent of the English population. The total confiscated, 16,500 pounds,

is almost 10 percent of the Exchequer's national income.

1302 – Pope Boniface VIII issues the Papal bull *Unam sanctam* that proclaims, "outside of the Church there is neither salvation nor the remission of sins." It declares that those who resist the Roman Pontiff are resisting God's ordination. This same Pope also issues the bull *Exhibita Nobis*, ordaining that Jews can be denounced to the Inquisition without the name of their accuser being revealed, to protect Christians against Jewish reprisals.

1394 – Enforcement begins for an edict by Charles VI, signed on Yom Kippur, to expel all Jews from France. The pretext is a report that a Parisian named Denis Machuit, a purported convert to Christianity, has returned to Judaism.

1489 – A work popularly referred to as "Abudarham's Siddur" is published for the first time in Lisbon, authored by David Abudarham, a Jewish scholar who lived in Seville (Spain) the first part of the 14th century. This volume proves so popular that it goes through nine editions, the last of which appears in Warsaw, Poland in the middle of the 19th century.

1621 – Moses Simonson (or Symonson), from Leyden, Holland, a 16-year-old New Christian (meaning *converso*) arrives in Plymouth, Massachusetts on the ship *Fortune*.

1648 – Twelve thousand Jews are massacred by Chmielnicki's Cossacks, as Ukrainians and Poles rebel against the feudal system. Jews are seen as agents of the propertied elite, and instantly lose position, status and safety enjoyed for three centuries, when Poland welcomed Jews from persecution in Germany and Spain. As Poland descends into chaos, two Jewish movements arise, the Messianic phe-

nomenon of Shabbatai Zvi and the Chassidism of the Baal Shem Tov.

1660 – Asser Levy, who had earlier refused to pay a sentry tax since, as a Jew, he was not allowed to stand sentry duty, is licensed as the first kosher butcher in New York City.

1824 – Beth Elohim is established in Charleston, South Carolina as the first Reform congregation in America. It is the oldest surviving Reform congregation in the world. The present Greek revival temple at 90 Hasell Street (pronounced Hazel) was built in 1840. The congregation began as a Sephardic group in 1749. Its Coming Street cemetery is the largest pre-Revolutionary Jewish cemetery in America. Noteworthy persons buried there are nine Charleston Jews who took part in the American Revolution, six who fought in the War of 1812, and eight of the 180 Charleston Jews who fought in the Civil War.

1834 – Jews of Austria are forbidden to have the first names of Christian saints.

1869 – The Suez Canal opens, creating a direct water route from Europe to the Orient. It is controlled by the French, with the Egyptians as minority stockholders. Because it is the gateway to India, in 1875 Benjamin Disraeli buys the Egyptians' shares using money borrowed from the Rothschilds. Protecting the Canal is the primary goal of British policy in the East from that day until the middle of the twentieth century. Securing the East Bank of the Canal is the primary reason Britain seeks the mandate over Palestine after World War I.

1878 – A group of Jews from Jerusalem buys land on the coastal plain from a Greek landowner and establishes *Petach Tikva* (Gateway of Hope). The initial settlement collapses because of malaria and crop failure. *Petach Tikva* later rises again, with a youthful David Ben Gurion as one of the settlers.

1883 – Emma Lazarus' famous sonnet, "The New Colossus," is completed. The poem is

written for an art auction, "In Aid of the Bartholdi Pedestal Fund." The Statue of Liberty, designed by sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and erected on October 28, 1886, is given to the people of the United States by France. While France provides the statue itself, American fundraising efforts pay for the pedestal upon which it sits.

1898 – In an action that will serve as a model for the famed reforestation project of the Jewish National Fund, Zionist leaders Herzl and Wolffsohn plant two trees in Motza near Jerusalem. One is a cedar and the other a date palm.

1905 – Albert Einstein's paper, "Does the Inertia of a Body Depend Upon Its Energy Content?" is published in the journal "Annalen der Physik." This paper first reveals the relationship between energy and mass, leading to the famous equation $E=mc^2$. Einstein is 26 years old.

1914 – The first patent is taken out for the brassiere. In the 1920s, a Russian immigrant named Ida Rosenthal notices that a bra fitting one woman does not necessarily fit another woman of the same bra size. (No woman noticed this before?) With the help of husband William she founds Maidenform. Ida's innovation is to introduce varying cup sizes and bras for every stage of a woman's life.

1917 – Winston Churchill, as Minister of Munitions, writes Jewish explosives expert Sir Frederic Nathan asking why his ministry is collecting 25,000 tons of horse chestnuts. Nathan explains that the horse chestnuts are part of Dr. Chaim Weizmann's experiments to create large quantities of acetone, necessary for making cordite, the smokeless powder used as the propellant in ammunition.

1952 – *The Jerusalem Post* reports that the minister of social affairs, Mrs. Golda Myerson, a former schoolteacher from Milwaukee, promises that the new immigrants' tent cities will completely disappear within the next half-year. Mrs. Myerson will soon change her name to Meir and later serve as Foreign Minister and Prime Minister. ♦

Stained Glass of KJCC

Part three of our closer look at the story behind the art.

Proceeding on our clockwise exploration of the stained glass in KJCC's sanctuary windows, our eyes fall, to the right of the stately tents of Gad, upon the unmistakable image of a regal and formidable lion in his prime. Aha, you say. I know what tribe this one represents: it has to be Judah. And Judah it is.



KJCC's beautiful Lion of Judah window, created by Lisa Ruggles. Note the glass frame within the frame.

Lions existed in Palestine until the 16th century, in Turkey and India until late in the 19th century, and were still surviving in Iran until early in World War II. There are no Asiatic lions in the wild anywhere now, and the only ones living wild at all, some 300 total—distinguishable from their African brothers by a

(Digression alert: some of you might now be thinking, “well, I’ve heard of the Lion of Judah, but aren’t lions confined to sub-Sahara Africa? Is this whole ‘Lion of Judah’ thing merely a metaphor?” Well, as it turns out, there actually were lions in the Middle East, and far beyond. The Asiatic (or Persian) lion existed once in great numbers, and prowled a

slightly smaller size and smaller mane and a skin fold along the abdomen—are under protection in the Gir Forest National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in the state of Gujarat, India. But there once really were lions in Judah, certainly at the time of the conquests by the twelve tribes around 1000 B.C.E.)

In the books of the *Tanakh*, Judah (*Yehudah* in Hebrew) is the fourth son of Jacob with Leah, his first wife. When the other ten had every intention of committing fratricide by leaving young Joseph, their father’s clear favorite, to die in the pit, it was Judah who convinced them to spare his life and sell him instead to a Midianite slave trader. (Looked at from Joseph’s perspective, at the time this may have seemed like the merest of improved prospects.) Judah and several of his sons accompanied Jacob to Egypt during the famine. On his deathbed, Jacob turned to Judah as the son who would be the next patriarch.

By the time of the Exodus from Egypt, Judah’s tribe had, according to the number in Numbers, increased to a sturdy 74,000

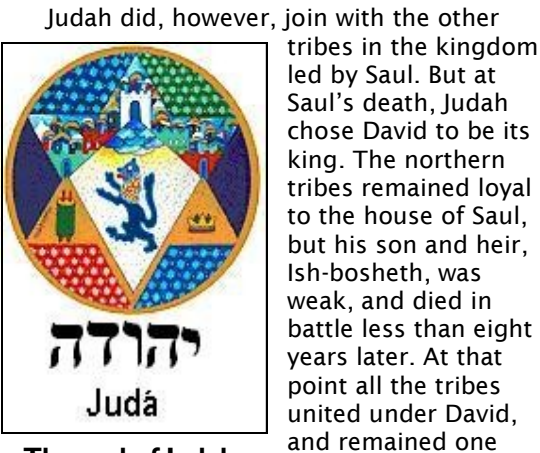


Jerusalem's seal has for many centuries depicted a lion.

vast habitat from the south of Europe through Turkey and all of today's Middle East, through Asia Minor to much of the northern part of the Indian sub-continent. The last lion was seen in Greece about 100 C.E., at about the time Rabbi Akiba was deciding whether to declare Simon Bar Kochba the *meshiach* to energize the coming third rebellion against a flabbergasted Rome.

males. When Moses selected spies from each tribe to go forward into Canaan and reconnoiter, Caleb was the representative from Judah, and turned out to be the only optimist other than Joshua. Under Caleb's leadership, Judah captured the largest swath of territory from the Canaanites, carving out an area from just south of Jerusalem in the north through the Negev in the south, and from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean. (The portion on the Mediterranean coast was still inhabited by the powerful Philistines, who were not happy to cede their land and fought the Judeans on and off for centuries.) A later distribution gave Simeon a portion of the southern territory of Judah. Just north of Judah, Benjamin received a small territory, but it included the city of Jerusalem, taken from the Jebusites.

Interestingly, the Song of Deborah, the record of Canaan's conquest recounted in Judges 5, does not mention the tribe of Judah at all. This is strange, considering that Judah had the largest territory and was a prime member of the Israelite confederation during the century and a half of the Age of Judges before the anointing of Saul (who came from Benjamin) as the first king. Scholars disagree as to what this means. Some claim that Judah was too far away to be truly involved, others that it had stronger local foes and was too busy consolidating its own territory, still others that it was by now comprised of many non-Jacobite clans and was therefore just not interested in wars to the north.



The seal of Judah.

kingdom for eighty years, until they split again upon the accession of Solomon's son Rehoboam. The only tribes to join Judah in its southern kingdom were Simeon

and Benjamin. The other ten united as the northern kingdom of Israel, and the two countries embarked on very different paths.

It is fitting that our religion bears the name of the tribe of Judah, the tribe that defined the southern kingdom. Most of the important prophets—Isaiah, Amos, Joel, Micah, Zechariah—were of Judah. The Temple remained in Judah. Those whose efforts and vision either saved or deepened Judaism, were all from Judah: King Josiah, whose “discovery” and national reading of a new book of Moses (Deuteronomy) renewed the spirit and determination of an entire country; all the leaders of the Babylonian exile, from Ezra and Nehemiah, and the writers of both versions of the Talmud, were of Judah. (Even the Ethiopian Jews claim Judean lineage, as descendants of the liaison between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.)

Reinvigorated by leadership and a passionately renewed dedication to the ideas of the Mosaic code, the southern kingdom of Judah survived defeat and dispersal and exile and Rome and became history's People of the Book. The northern kingdom of Israel, comprised of most of the tribes and much larger, had merely a country, and when crushed by Assyria in 722 B.C.E. had nothing upon which to reimagine itself. ◇



The eastern Mediterranean with the two Jewish states, c.730 B.C.E.

Resurgence

(Or, Old Jewish Men Rock)

by Gloria Avner

Two of the most significant Jews in popular music today are old, hot, and touring. What they are singing about is not normal pop material. Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen are People Of The Book and they have been influential writers for nearly fifty years. They take their words out of the Book onto the stage and sing them to the world. Their roots in Judaism are essential to their truth.

*There will be a time I hear tell
when all will be well,
when God and man will be reconciled,
but 'til men lose their chains
and righteousness reigns,
lord oh lord protect my child.*
--Bob Dylan

Bob Dylan turned 69 in May and is one of the most popular songwriters of the century. BBC Newsonline called him the greatest songwriter of all time (in top ten company with the likes of John Lennon, Cole Porter, and Paul Simon). ASCAP gave him a Founders award 24 years ago. He has been nominated for a Nobel Prize in literature every year since 1996. Words to his 500-plus songs are repeated all over the planet, covered by everyone from Sam Cooke to Johnny Cash, The Everly Brothers, Elvis, Grateful Dead, George Harrison, Jimi Hendrix, Miriam Makeba, Joni Mitchell, Willie

Nelson, and Odetta.

Leonard Cohen celebrated his 76th birthday on the first day of Sukkot and will finish his hugely successful two-year, worldwide, whirlwind tour in Australia this November.

Dylan's tour, unlike Cohen's and that of nearly every other major musician on the planet, does not stop. His four-season circuit through towns ranging from populous to po-dunk is unofficially titled "the never-ending tour." It can't be about money. The man is a troubadour.

Both elderly Jewish boys have deep spiritual sides, with roots in Judaism that have spawned some of their best lyrics. Both made songs out of the Story of Isaac. Dylan's lines are found in "Highway 61 Revisited" — "Oh God said to Abraham, 'Kill me a son.' Abe says, 'Man, you must be puttin' me on.'" Cohen's song pointed to the deaths of our sons in Vietnam. And then there are those lovely lines from Genesis (*Bereshit*) in Dylan's

Modern Times: "Spirit on the water, darkness over the deep."

Yes, from 1979 to 1983, Bob Dylan was immersed in born-again Christianity (and yes, he did record a Christmas album), but before and since then, this pop icon, born of Lithuanian Jewish and Polish ancestry, has shown up and been sighted myriad times in synagogues; he's carried Torahs, worn *tefillin*, and visited the Western Wall. There are whole books documenting old-testament influences on his lyrics, early and recent. He seems to take his Judaism seriously.



Gloria and David (and an orca mural) just before the show.

As for Leonard Cohen, who once said he was a descendant of Aaron the High Priest, his poems and early novels are riddled with

interplay of myth and modernism (if you were going to read just one novel, make it "Beautiful Losers.") His 1961 book of poems takes its title from a major symbol of *Havdalah*, "The Spice Box of Earth." Okay, so he retired from the public eye years ago to meditate on top of Mt. Baldy and study Zen Buddhism while his business manager depleted his bank accounts. He has returned to us a wiser, deeper voice. He has set music to "Whither thou goest" and "If it be thy will." On Yom Kippur I hear his voice (and his translation) in my head as we recite the litany of possible sentences in the Book of Life: "*and who by fire, who by water, who in the sunshine, who in the nighttime, who by high ordeal, who by common trial, who in your merry merry month of May, who by very slow decay, and who shall I say is calling . . .*"

Both these men are craggy of voice and face now. They have climbed literal and figurative mountains. They have the demeanor of showmen tempered (or is it spiced?) with the humble gravitas and wry humor of rabbis grateful for their lives, for work they love, and their adoring audiences. I find them inspiring and am proud we are of the same tribe. It's not too late to catch their shows. Sorry if you missed Dylan's date in Davie in October (my very first experience of Dylan



David tried to take a photo during the concert, but they were too far away and the light was low. So Gloria did this line drawing for us, creating evocative and memorable art from a bad photograph. She rocks, too.

live, thanks to David), but New York and Las Vegas are coming up and a whole host of towns in between. Leonard still

has stops planned in far reaches of the world. We hear that Australia can be lovely in November. (If you can't attend a concert there are myriad CDs, DVDs, and whole books full of each man's lyrics available to be watched, listened to, read, and enjoyed.)

Both Jewish men have traveled rough paths; they've won, lost, and won again great popularity, money, acceptance, and respect. They are spiritual seekers, icons of the new world order that emerged full-throated in the 60s; each is now a new kind of elder, who continue to ask questions, both with seriousness and immense good humor. ♦

And an Additional Musical Note...

Another (not so old) Jewish guy, Michael Feinstein, anthropologist/archivist of greatest songs of yesteryear, is kicking off a terrific winter music series at the Arsht Center in downtown Miami. On November 5th, he will be the first performer in a series of concerts called "Jazz Roots." If the Feinstein concert is sold out, there are still five more to go, including our personal favorite, world-class jazz pianist Keith Jarrett on January 21st. And if you love great solo jazz piano, don't miss Chick Corea at the Broward Performing Arts Center in Ft. Lauderdale on November 20th.

Hanukkah

5771

KJCC Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 3, 2010
Covered Dish Dinner--Dairy
at 6:30 PM

Followed by Chanukah program by children

And Services at 8 pm

Contact Erica @ (305) 853-1003
hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your
spot and coordinate your covered dish.



No Charge

What's a Nice Jewish Girl Doing in Senegal?

Reflections on Judaism and the Mighty Streams of Justice

by Ilanit Goldberg

I loathe, I spurn your festivals, I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies. If you offer Me burnt offering - or your meal offerings - I will not accept them; I will pay no heed to your gifts of fatlings. Spare Me the sound of your hymns, and let Me not hear the music of your lutes. But let justice well up like water, righteousness like a mighty stream.

Amos 5:21-24

I first decided to attend rabbinical school six years ago when I was working at a Jewish anti-poverty organization in Chicago. At the time, I was struggling to understand how Judaism related to the broken and beautiful world around me. A Jewish life defined by the boundaries of synagogue walls no longer worked for me, and a more holistic understanding of Judaism required me to reach into and beyond the Jewish community to address suffering and injustice in the world.

I have increasingly been finding that I am not alone in my conviction that Judaism can be a positive force for social change. This past June, I participated in a delegation of rabbinical students to Senegal sponsored by American Jewish World Service (AJWS). Students from all of the Jewish denominations spent ten days volunteering, studying, and living together in the western African nation of Senegal. The trip was part of AJWS' broader mission to alleviate poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or

nationality.

I joined the AJWS delegation with the desire to learn about poverty in the global south and to make some real change in people's lives. I expected to encounter abject poverty, and I did —people living without safe drinking water, sufficient food, medical care, and other basic needs. What I wasn't prepared for was the inspiring work of AJWS's grantees to help people help themselves, truly living out what Maimonides considered to be the greatest form of *tzedakah*. 4

The people in the pictures with me live in a community named Keur Ibra Fall. When I wasn't dancing and playing with these beautiful children, I was assisting community members in the construction of a chicken coop and the planting of a mango orchard as part of a larger effort sponsored by Tostan.

Tostan is an example of the kind of organization that



Ilanit is joined by children from the village of Keur Ibra Fall.

AJWS helps to support through their grants, working with Keur Ibra Fall and other communities in Senegal and several other African countries. They emphasize informal education about democracy and human rights in local languages to help people develop leadership and address their collective challenges. One of their greatest successes has been a 78 percent reduction in female genital cutting. They also assist people in addressing their economic and nutrition needs. A chicken coop and a mango orchard might sound like small efforts, but they are extremely significant in communities like Keur Ibra Fall, where these projects not only provide badly needed nutrition but also help to lift people out of poverty.

I certainly gained more from my experience in Senegal than I was able to give to the community that hosted us. I had a small taste of what life is like in many parts of the global south. Our accommodations were luxurious compared to those of the community members we worked with, yet we still faced substantial water shortages and electricity outages. I was deeply struck by the scarcity of food and water, and by the

strength and optimism with which residents of Keur Ibra Fall face these and other challenges.

Each day of the trip (except for Shabbat) was filled with volunteer work, educational sessions, and reflection. A typical day started early in the morning with prayer services led by students, reflecting the diverse streams of Judaism that we represented. Breakfast consisted of white bread, butter, and instant coffee. On a good day we also received a hard-boiled egg. We then boarded our bus and drove for about twenty minutes on roads that ranged from poorly paved to sand and rocks. While we drove, I gazed out the window at the bleak landscape on both sides of us – people sitting by the side of the road selling nothing but mangoes, apparently because that was the only major crop in season while we

were there. This explained the almost total lack of fresh produce in our diet. As we drove down the final road leading to the community, we were surrounded on all sides by desert. I wondered how it was possible to grow anything in such dry and sandy soil.

Each day when we arrived at the commu-

Despite (or perhaps due to) the language gap, we all laughed a lot and enjoyed working together.



One of the rabbinical students takes her turn in the morning circle, where formal greetings and expressions of appreciation were followed by music. This took place every day, after which the workday would begin.



Ilanit (center) and a fellow student with some of the women of Keur Ibra Fall.

nity, dozens of leaders were always waiting to greet us. As soon as they saw us, the group of mostly women and children set up plastic chairs in a large circle and insisted that we sit as they proceeded to shake our hands one by one. We were then formally greeted by the community leader, an older man who expressed great appreciation for our volunteer efforts. One of the rabbinical students then stood in the center of the circle and expressed (with the help of our interpreter) our appreciation for their hospitality and our excitement at the opportunity to partner with the community. Then, several of the women and children began playing drums and singing traditional songs in Wolof. We didn't understand the words but the rhythms motivated many of us to dance along with our Senegalese hosts. This celebratory ritual often lasted upwards of half an hour until someone announced that the workday was beginning.

I'd spend the next several hours at one of the volunteer projects – either digging in the orchard and planting mango trees, or helping to construct a chicken coop. I carried countless buckets of water on my head from the well to the construction site while residents attempted

to teach me some basic Wolof, and to learn some English. Despite (or perhaps due to) the language gap, we all laughed a lot and enjoyed working together until the time came for us to return to our conference center.

Lunch at the conference center usually consisted of white rice and something to accompany it, either a thick peanut sauce or a dish of soupy onions. We also, sometimes, received a dish with root vegetables, including potatoes. After lunch, we'd attend educational sessions, including presentations by local community leaders and workshops about Judaism and social justice led by AJWS staff and Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg, the rabbi-in-residence for our trip. We'd then eat a dinner similar to the day's lunch, after which we'd gather for a closing reflection session and processed some of what we had seen and learned on a particular day. We then went to sleep, sometimes without showering due to water shortages, and woke up the next day again ready to learn and give as much as possible.

I was inspired by the warmth and openness with which our Muslim hosts welcomed us. Senegal is 94 percent Muslim, and yet my personal experience defied the stereotypes of Jewish-Muslim relations. Jewish-Muslim rela-



On the last day — after all the building of chicken coops and planting of trees and carrying of water — Keur Ibra Fall threw a party for their soon-to-be-rabbi guests.

tionship building was an invaluable component of our trip, and I am particularly aware of this given the current degree of religious strife in the world. We partnered with Senegalese Muslim leaders and community members in a respectful and cooperative manner. In doing so, we learned about one another's cultures and traditions while also countering negative stereotypes about Judaism and Islam.

I consider myself heir to a long tradition of Jewish social activism and peace-building. Over two thousand years ago, the prophets of ancient Israel implored their people to connect Jewish prayer and ritual to our ethical imperative as an *am kadosh*, a nation committed to acts of compassion towards others, particularly the most vulnerable members of society – the poor, strangers, widows, and orphans. The rabbis of the Mishna and Talmud, as well as later rabbinic authorities, legislated *tzedakah* norms and other laws to protect the poor. As early as the fourth or fifth century, the rabbis note:

In a city where non-Jews and Jews live, the tzedakah collectors collect from Jews and non-Jews and support Jewish and non-Jewish poor; visit Jewish and non-Jewish sick and bury Jewish and non-Jewish dead, and comfort Jewish and non-Jewish mourners, and return lost goods of non-Jews and Jews, to promote the ways of peace.

Jerusalem Talmud, Demai 4:1

I constantly struggle to balance my concern for Jewish communities with my commitment to peace and justice for all peoples. However, as this passage from the Jerusalem Talmud notes, these concerns are not at odds; in fact, they are complementary. I believe that assisting both Jews and non-Jews is

the right thing to do, and that addressing the needs and aspirations of non-Jews helps “to promote the ways of peace.” In other words, when we partner with non-Jewish communities and follow the command of the prophet Amos to “let justice well up like water, righteousness like a mighty stream,” we are actually acting in the interest of Jewish communities as well. Such work promotes peace in a



world that is increasingly interconnected through a global web of political and economic relationships that have challenged me to redefine my “neighbors” in a way that includes people in the global south.

There is so much more work to be done. Rather than feeling overwhelmed by the enormity of the work ahead, I made a donation to AJWS when I returned from Senegal. Donations to AJWS help fund over 400 grantee organizations in 36 different

countries. It was a small donation – I’m a rabbinical student, after all – but the amount is less important than the act of giving. Together, we can have an impact on global poverty and live out the Jewish values of *tzedakah*, compassion, and love. For more information about my trip to Senegal and how you can make a difference, please visit <http://action.ajws.org/>, click on donate, find a volunteer’s fundraising page, and search for Ilanit Goldberg. I would encourage you to join me in this great cause. ♦

Ilanit Goldberg last wrote for Chai-Lights in our 2009 High Holidays issue. A Reconstructionist Rabbinical Student in Philadelphia, Ilanit is also, of course, the daughter of KJCC member Deborah Weiss. She’s just returned from a fellowship trip to Jerusalem, and has agreed to also share that experience with us. We’re looking forward to it.

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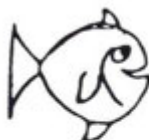


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December 2010

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President's Message Alan Beth



Can you believe it is December already! Let me tell you, I am shocked at how fast this year has flown by. Thanksgiving is now behind us and New Years is just ahead, so it would behoove me to wish you a Happy Chanukah and a (slightly early) Happy New Year! This is also the time we warmly welcome back our KJCC snowbirds.

December marks a momentous event for my family, and me personally. It has been almost a year since my father passed away. As you know, traditionally we say the Mourner's Kaddish for eleven months. In a few days I stop reciting it for my dad. Standing and saying Kaddish has become a habit I have been getting into, and now to stop seems strange indeed. It makes me think of how quickly this year has gone.

Lately, I have taken up cycling as a means of stress relief (from work – not the KJCC!) and trying to lose some of those extra pounds obtained at our wonderful and so-delicious Sisterhood Onegs and potluck dinners! A few days ago, I zoomed past St. Justin's Catholic Church in Key Largo and in the corner of my eye happened to see the following message pasted on the church's outdoor message board: *"Enjoy life now, it*

comes with an expiration date." Well, needless to say the message grabbed me. I stopped, reread the message and immediately thought: that is so *Jewish*. So, let me ask you, is this not the type of message that belongs outside of our KJCC? Instead, our message is on a Catholic church!

This phrase reminded me of a Hebrew word all of us know: *L'Chaim*, which means "to Life!" (Note: yes, it always comes followed by an exclamation mark.) We use it all the time – when we have a drink, for a toast and especially after Kiddush. It is now such a common word that I am sure it will soon be in the New Oxford Dictionary. We even have a song: "To Life, To Life - L'Chaim." (Did you know that the first name of Topol, who played Tevya in the movie of "Fiddler," is Chaim?).

L'Chaim is the essence of Judaism, to treasure life, to enjoy life, and of course to see life as a gift. Well, December is here and for us in the Keys that means blue skies, low humidity, dry weather, warmth, no mosquitoes, calm seas and no hurricanes. What blessings, and how precious life is. We need to treasure every moment.

L'Chaim!

Alan

December 2010

24 Kislev - 24 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. KJCC has Shabbat services every Friday night.</div>			1 First Night of Chanukah	3 Second Night of Chanukah	3 Gloria Avner & Yardena Kamely <i>Zoe Berk</i> Chanukah Potluck Dinner 6:30 p.m.	4 Fourth Night of Chanukah
5 Fifth Night of Chanukah Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m.	6 Sixth Night of Chanukah	7 Seventh Night of Chanukah	8 Eighth Night of Chanukah	9	10 Randy Kominsky	11
12 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Strudel Workshop 1:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16	17 Ken Atlas	18 Havdalah Service at Joyce Peck- man's House 5:30 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely	25 Rabbi Agler Service at KJCC 10:00 —— Steinbocks' Xmas Open House, 12-6
26	27	28	29	30	31 Stuart & Lauren Sax 6:30 Service <i>Stuart & Lauren Sax</i>	

Nosh

An Oneg Fit for Elijah

Those of you lucky or wise enough to attend the early service on October 29th were treated to an incredible Oneg provided by Kathy and Joe Shabathai. Most of the dishes were handcrafted by Kathy, including the desserts and the challah. (It isn't often that KJCCers are treated to freshly cooked salmon at an Oneg...not lox, fresh salmon.) Trust us, you'll want to keep an eye out for the next announced Oneg the Shabathais are sponsoring. But you do have to go to services first. We'll be stamping hands.

Oneg Sponsors for December 2010

December 3rd—Zoe Berk in honor of Cammie's birthday.

December 31st—Lauren & Stuart Sax for Stuart's birthday.

Welcome to New Members

KJCC is pleased to announce two new members of our growing *mishpocha*, Leo Haviv of Islamorada and Martin Fabian of Key Largo. We think you'll find a warm and amazing, active center of Jewish life here, though we're off the beaten path and not at all your typical shul.

A Note of Thanks

As most of you are already aware, issues related to cancer detection and cancer awareness are very near to our hearts. We recently completed our second October Cancer Awareness Month at Angelika Clothing Boutique, with a variety of informational events as well as a fundraising effort to benefit the Cancer Foundation of the Florida Keys. Many thanks to our KJCC *mishpocha* who supported this effort, both financially and by their attendance. You know who you are and we are deeply grateful.

Lauren & Stuart Sax

Study Group Forming

Students in the adult Hebrew classes have shown interest in exploring a number of subjects relating to Israel and the Jewish people. As a result, since class time is limited, a small, informal study and discussion group is forming that will meet monthly, the first meeting to be Saturday, December 11, in the afternoon (time to be determined) at Yardena's (and Michal's) house in Venetian Shores. If you're interested, call Rich Peine for more information, 853-5664.

Havdalah Service Scheduled

We will meet at Joyce Peckman's house on December 18th at 5:30 p.m. for Havdalah, what Gloria calls "the shortest and sweetest of all Jewish services." Joyce's address is 235 Lee Avenue (Taylor Creek Village), MM 104.5, oceanside. After the sun sets and we see three stars, we will ritually say goodbye to the Sabbath. Please let Joyce know you'll be coming, at 240-1000. (She also gives directions.)

December Anniversaries

	Years
5th	Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein.....21
8th	Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs.....57
11th	Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner.....45
11th	Jamie & Laura Goodman.....5
14th	David & Pat VanArtsdalen.....29
17th	Larry & Stephanie Gilderman.....44

This Year's Service for the Homeless

On December 21st, at noon, at the Community Park near Sunshine Market in Tavernier, there will be a memorial service for the homeless men, women and children who died in the Florida Keys this year. A number of us participated in this moving ecumenical event last year. Please join us. The theme this year is "Shalom." Gloria Avner and I will be helping lead the service.

-Carol Steinbock

Mishebeyrach Cards

The following note was sent to Jim and Joan Boruszak from a friend who they'd sent a Mishebeyrach card to. (The kind that sit at the back of the sanctuary for just such a purpose.)

Thank you for the blessing. I had never seen anything like it and am so touched. I have it in a very visible place and can look at it often. It's so soothing. I am truly doing better. And yesterday I got one great report... I do not have dementia. Whew!!!! A few more reports like that and maybe I can start living again. Hope all is well with you.

Love ya., N.

Give Us Your Tired, Your Poor, Your Huddled Ink Cartridges...

Carol Steinbock has put a collection box in the KJCC lobby to collect and recycle used and spent ink cartridges, from ink-jet or laser and any manufacturer. Recycling is a green thing to do, and KJCC actually will make money for each cartridge we send in.

Two Socko Events on December 25th

On Saturday morning, December 25th, Rabbi Richard Agler has agreed to lead a service at KJCC, to begin at 10:00 a.m. This is wonderful news to all who've attended his thoughtful, learned and accessible services in the past, and a great opportunity for the rest of you to join in.

Just after the end of Rabbi Agler's service, Steve and Carol Steinbock will be having their annual Christmas Open House at their Plantation Key Colony home, 147 Gardenia Street, from noon – 6 p.m. As always, all members of KJCC are warmly invited. There will be plenty of food and drink. Please R.S.V.P. to Carol at 393-1205.

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

Dave Feder and his family

on the death of Dave's mother

Harriet Feder

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

Sunshine Committee – If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 305-852-3959.

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, 305-852-0214.

Picture Postcards – We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities to fit your needs and can be mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 305-852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor – To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 305-451-0665.

Meditation Garden – Participate in our newest venture. A beautiful garden is in progress and you can be part of this exciting new project by making a donation for an engraved brick, an engraved bench, or for plants in honor or memory of a loved one or event. Call Steve Steinbock for information, 305-394-0143.

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates for Siddurim – Call Carol Steinbock to arrange your donation, 305-852-6152.

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 Nancy Kluger, 305-852-4353.

Chai-Lights Mitzvah – Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152 to make your donation.

Advertisement In Chai-Lights or Directory – Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights and/or annually in the Directory. Call Gene Silverman 305-664-3316 852-8575 for 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.

December Birthdays

1st.....	Bob Freundlich
1st.....	Paul Hudson
2nd.....	Joseph Burke Grossman
2nd.....	Marshall A. Field
3rd.....	Ashley Berk
3rd.....	Cammie Berk
3rd.....	Jackie LePree
3rd.....	Rick McNew
3rd.....	Tracy B. Nikolas
4th.....	Judith Klein
5th.....	Geri Smith
5th.....	Joseph Beth
5th.....	Stuart Sax
6th.....	Gerald Hirsch
6th.....	Haley Boruszak
6th.....	Kevin Gershowitz
6th.....	Leslie Boruszak
6th.....	Neal A. Jacobson
7th.....	Franklin Rose
8th.....	Alan Stocking
8th.....	Leslie Dillon
9th.....	George Swartz
9th.....	Jim Boruszak
10th.....	Harvey Robins
10th.....	Susan Greenbaum
11th.....	Sara Rose Friedman
12th.....	Lilian Forbes
13th.....	Robin Margulies Juenger
13th.....	Sarah Boruszak
13th.....	Susan Widrich
15th.....	Stephan Ban
16th.....	Diana Lal
16th.....	Samuel Klimpl
17th.....	Bruce Forman
17th.....	Jeffrey Schocket
18th.....	Emelyn Anne Juenger
18th.....	Jerome Horowitz
18th.....	Lily Chen
19th.....	Aaron Stuart
19th.....	David Gitin
20th.....	Alan Schulberg
20th.....	Jennifer VanArtsdalen
20th.....	Teresa Kwalick
21st.....	Roberta McNew

December Birthdays

22nd.....	Stuart Smith
25th.....	Lori Kay
26th.....	Steven Smith
27th.....	Steve Kasinof
28th.....	Elaine Schulberg
28th.....	Emily Sherman
28th.....	Michael Klimpl
29th.....	Joan Stark
30th.....	Ellen Bloom
31st.....	Elliot S. Schenker

Many Types of Donations are Available

The end of the year, and the beginning of KJCC's high season, seemed a good time to remind everyone of the many ways and many reasons there are to donate to our Jewish center. For those who have belonged, or currently belong, to a synagogue to our north, we think you'll agree that our price schedule is extremely reasonable, even low. Please contact Alan Beth by e-mail or Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for further details on wording or payment options.

Siddur Bookplates:	\$ 25.00
Chair Plates:	300.00
Tree of Life Rock:	1,200.00
Tree of Life plaque:	50.00
Yahrzeit Board plaque:	400.00
Meditation Garden:	
Engraved Bench:	\$ 750.00
Double Brick, 8 x 8:	200.00
Standard Brick, 4 x 8:	125.00

Tree of Life Volunteers Needed

We've noticed (well, Alan noticed) that we're getting so many names on our Tree of Life Boards in the Sanctuary that it's hard for people to find their or their relatives' plaques. So we're going to catalog and computerize all the names. This will be a fair amount of work, so we'll need volunteers, some to call out names and some to enter them in a laptop. Alan will take care of a new program to properly arrange all the information. Contact Alan at president@keysjewishcenter.com if you can help.



SHOP ISRAEL

Check your KJCC Gift Shop and
buy Israel.



Magnificent crystal mezuzahs designed by the artist
Udi from the Blue and White gallery in the Cardo in
the Old City of Jerusalem - Wonderful wedding gifts!



Multi-colored over-the-shoulder fabric purses and
challah covers from Rifkas in the Old City of Jerusalem



Also: Silver star necklaces with multi colored
stones and hand made parchment note paper
from Zickran Yaakov.



Beautiful talit and kepahs from Jaffa



Individual orders can be
accommodated.

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Remembering *Kristallnacht* at the KJCC

On our first Shabbat Service last month, we briefly commemorated *Kristallnacht* at the KJCC. On November 9, 1938, the Nazis unleashed a wave of pogroms against Germany's Jews. Thousands of synagogues and Jewish businesses and homes were damaged or destroyed. This event came to be called *Kristallnacht*, or "Night of Broken Glass," for the shattered home and store windows scattered on German streets.

The pretext for this violence was the November 7th assassination of a German diplomat in Paris by a Jewish teenager whose parents, along with 17,000 other Polish Jews, had been recently expelled from the Reich. Though portrayed as spontaneous outbursts of popular outrage, these pogroms were calculated acts carried out by Nazi party organizations. Stormtroopers killed at least 91 Jews and injured many others. For the first time, Jews were arrested on a massive scale and transported to Nazi concentration camps. About 30,000 Jews were sent to Buchenwald, Dachau, and Sachsenhausen, where hundreds died within weeks of arrival. Release came only after the prisoners agreed to emigrate and transfer their property to "Aryans."

"Pages of Testimony," which have been submitted to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem since the mid-1950s by family members and

friends, record the names and biographical data of those who perished. They serve as symbolic paper tombstones for those who have no marked graves. The "Pages of Testimony" are an attempt to give the victims back their personal identity, and dignity. One story, a corpse

with a name: Selma Zwienicki was shot and killed in her home in Bremen, Germany, during *Kristallnacht* by SA stormtroopers when she refused to reveal the whereabouts of her husband. The synagogue, which had already been the target of acts of violence, was set on fire, the cemetery was desecrated, and Jewish men were arrested. (This "Page of Testimony" was submitted by Selma Zwienicki's



The Baden-Baden synagogue in flames on the night of November 9, 1938.

daughter.)

Egged on by the Nazis, rioters burned or destroyed 267 synagogues and vandalized or looted 7,500 Jewish businesses. Some around the world protested, but not a single country would change its immigration laws and receive the Jews. The Jews of Germany were trapped. As Rabbi Leo Baeck put it: The thousand-year history of Jews in Germany had come to an end.

On November 9th we remember the tragedy of the German Jews. We also remember the stories of the few Righteous Gentiles, and we remember the opportunities the world had to stop the violence and hate, but did not. May the memory of the victims of *Kristallnacht* lead us to a better world. ◇

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

General Fund

Brown, Alan & Barbara
Caplin-Maleady, Bonnie
Gordon, J. Bruce & Rechelle
Jones, Ballarena/Lunch Bunch
Kominsky, Randy & Eileen
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Wagoner, Ralph

In Memory of

Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Jerry Tabasky
Brian
Harriet Feder
Jerry Tabasky

Scholarship Fund

Peckman, Joyce
Peckman, Joyce
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Joel & Linda

In Memory of

Harriet Feder
Mauro Ojeda
Simon Skolnick
to match Bridge Walk

30th Anniversary

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

General Fund

Nobil, Jim & Lynn
Tobin, Andrew

Meditation Garden

Nobil, Jim & Lynn

In Memory of

Joel & Sara Cohen

Meditation Garden

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Honor of

Pauline Roller's citizenship

Yartzeit Contributions

Anonymous
Anonymous
Isenberg, Henry & Patricia
Kwalick, Teresa
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Tallent, Ralph & Lillian
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

In Memory of

Kenneth Gorelick
Jerry Spero
Helene Tulskey
Barry Kwalick
Joel Cohen
Saunders Cohen
Samuel Tallent
Diana Wolfe

Yiskor Book

Lessner, Howard & Shaloma
Olsen, Gerald & Sheila
Schocket, Jeffrey & Patty
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

KJCC Meditation Garden

Bricks and Benches are now available for our new Meditation Garden. These can be purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Place your order for one or several to support this new project.

Size: Standard Brick (4"x8") \$125
Double Brick (8"x8") \$200
Bench \$750

Donations for other amounts are also welcome and will be used toward the purchase of native plants, shrubs and trees.

Inscription: Please print on a separate sheet. We will send a notification card to the honoree or giftee at your request.

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



The cool wind from the north that blew away summer's heat and humidity seems to be slowly blowing our northern travelers back to the Keys. Almost every week, sometimes at Friday night services, or more often at Publix, I see another returning friend. Of course, only recently many of you were warmly welcoming *me* back, just as I am now happily greeting our returning snowbirds.

We at Sisterhood have been planning a warm and active season. Since food and friendship are the fuels that keep the Keys Jewish community chugging along, we are planning to have a potluck dinner once every month. Our first this year featured new and familiar faces, and an amazing amount of food from across the world. Erica did a great job of coordinating. Georgia, Candy, Jane and I set up and everyone brought something good! The next dinner will be the Friday night of Channukah, December 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. Erica Garrett will again coordinate the dairy/vegetarian menu. Please let her know what you plan to bring, or call her for suggestions. Her office phone is 853-1003, or e-mail at hippiejap@hotmail.com. There will be no monetary donation required this time, since Joel and Linda Pollack have generously sponsored the event. The Friday night potluck after that is scheduled for January 14th.

Next we will fuse the characters of Julia Child and Bubby to present "Georgia's Strudel Workshop." This event, scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sunday, December 12th, will be for a limited number of aspiring pastry chefs willing to pay \$18 for the privilege of working with phyllo dough, apples and whatever else it takes to produce the delicious strudel that Georgia Landau brought to our Yom Kippur break-the-fast. Participants will take home recipes and a strudel of their own making. All of the ingredients plus coffee will be provided. (You may wish to bring your own apron.) My friends know that I am far from

being an accomplished cook. Yet when I went with Bea Graham, and Nissan and Liati Mayk, to a similar professional class this summer in New York, we had a blast. Contact me at 451-0665 for your reservation.

Still in the spirit of Bubby and Julia, we are again gathering recipes. The goal is to preserve the recipes we at KJCC have enjoyed over the years, as well as others you may want to share. We can begin with the collection gathered and distributed two years ago at the Women's Seder. We'd also like to add any personal stories or memories that may be connected to the recipes. Georgia Landau is coordinating, and can be contacted at moogoomom@gmail.com.

Tuesday January 18th – hold that date! Our fashion show this year will focus on how we can use accessories to give new and different looks to our current wardrobes. Lauren and Stuart Sax of Angelika's will bring out the "model" in each participant, dressing up what you wear while you are enjoying lunch and dessert. You won't want to miss this new take on a wonderful annual event.

We are taking reservations now for "The 25th Annual Putnam Valley Spelling Bee" at the Actors Playhouse in Miami on Sunday, February 6th. This is a thoroughly enjoyable musical. Please let me know if you are going, then send your check for \$40 to me or to Nancy Kluger. On Sunday, February 27th, we are planning a Deli fun night. Details next month.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be on Sunday, December 5th at 9:30 a.m. At that time the new board will be officially nominated and voted upon. Every KJCC "sister" is a member of Sisterhood. We are a family. Please try to attend. ♦

Georgia's Strudel Workshop

*Sunday, Dec 12, 2010
1:00 pm*

*KJCC
Sisterhood*

*RSVP:
Georgia 305-393-9885*



Sisterhood is sponsoring a cooking workshop and invite all to attend, men and women alike. Georgia Landau will be instructing us in the art of making apple strudel.

Space is limited so please let Georgia know you are coming by December 6th.



Donation: \$18

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Mixing Water, Bagels and New York Pizza

Most bagel connoisseurs know that the secret ingredient to a delicious New York City bagel is local tap water. A story broke in the summer of 2009 that a South Florida company, The Original Brooklyn Water Bagel Company (OBWBC) designed a water filtration system that would duplicate the taste of New York City tap water. The bagels have been such a hit in Florida that another company, Mamma Mia's Trattoria & Brick Oven Pizzeria, (MMT&BOP) is using the same filtration system to make "authentic 'New York Style' pizza." But hold on - not so fast - OBWBC is suing MMT&BOP, claiming that the latter stole the former's recipe for Brooklyn tap water. To make things even more complicated, MMT&BOP claims it bought the water filtration system for \$20,000 from a *third* company, Famous New York Baking Water Corporation (FNYBWC), founded by former employees of the bagel company (OBWBC), including the owner's father-in-law. MMT&BOP is countersuing, accusing OBWBC of making false claims about patenting their method of filtration. (By the way - New York City's tap water beat out all brands of bottled water many years ago in a Consumer Reports issue.) (*The Forward*, 10-26-10)

A Visit to the Holy Land

Israel's Tourism Minister Stas Misezhnikov has extended an official invitation to the 33 Chilean miners, who were trapped underground for 68 days before being rescued, to experience a "spiritual journey" this Christmas in the Holy Land. The men and their spouses have been invited to Israel for a week-long, all-expense-paid sightseeing tour of various Christian holy sites. "Your bravery and strength of spirit...was an inspiration to

us all," wrote the tourism minister in his invitation. "It would be a great honor for us to welcome you as our guests in the Holy Land." (www.haaretz.com, 10-18-10)

From Now on, Made Only in Israel?

In early November, an Israeli Cabinet-level committee, with the backing of many Knesset members, passed a bill that would require all Israeli flags purchased by government agencies to be made in Israel. For the past several years, most of the flags have been bought from China and other Asian countries. The bill must be passed on second reading, pass another committee vote, and pass a final vote in the Knesset before becoming law. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-1-10)

"Couples Aware" Campaign

The Jewish Genetic Disease Consortium and the New York Board of Rabbis have launched a campaign to encourage couples to go for screenings for Jewish genetic diseases before starting a family. The "Couples Aware" campaign consists of training sessions for rabbis where they review genetic basics and learn ways to incorporate genetic screening into their premarital counseling sessions. About one in five Ashkenazi Jews are carriers of at least one of 16 genetic diseases that can be fatal in childhood or cause serious mental and physical problems. Having two carriers of the same disease increases the chances of giving birth to a child affected by it. Brooklyn Rabbi Joseph Potasnik said, "Saving human lives is the paramount mitzvah of our people...it was obvious that rabbis should do as much as possible to counsel couples about Jewish genetic diseases." (*World Jewish Congress*, 10-21-10)

Israel's First "Socially Conscious Street"

Ten businesses on Ringblum Street in Be'er Sheva have signed a commitment to uphold labor laws, offer handicapped access, protect the environment and contribute to the community. The idea of getting the entire street to sign the *Tav Chevrati* (literally, the "social seal") came from two young women, volunteers for the city's *Tav Chevrati* project. The two stated, "Our objective is to brand the street as socially conscious, and we hope this will send a message. The idea is that we, the consumers, tell business proprietors: We will not enter your business if you do not ensure proper working conditions for your... workers..." The seal will serve as a sort-of socially conscious *kashrut* certificate." (www.haaretz.com, 10-11-10)

Where's My Falafel?

The past year's scorching heat and severe drought have taken a toll on fruit and vegetable crops in the Middle East. In addition to prices skyrocketing for salad ingredients, the supply of chickpeas and other legumes has been threatened. Hummus manufacturer Moshe Kauftell is calling on the government to lower taxes on imported chickpeas. The last time the hummus supply was threatened in Israel, it had nothing to do with agriculture. In 2005, intruders broke into Kibbutz Einat and stole 75 tons of chickpeas. (*The Forward*, 10-26-10)

In Memoriam

Joseph Stein, the Tony Award-winning librettist of "Fiddler on the Roof," has died at the age of 98. Stein wrote more than a dozen Broadway musicals, but is best known for "Fiddler," which won nine Tony Awards in 1965. The show opened on Broadway in 1964 and ran for over 3,200 performances with Zero Mostel playing Tevya, the lead character. Stein also wrote "Enter Laughing," "Zorba" and "Rags." (www.jta.org, 10-26-10)

Jerry Bock, who along with Sheldon Harnick composed the scores for some of Broadway's most successful shows, including "Fiddler on the Roof," died at the age of 81. Bock died ten days after the death of Joseph

Stein. (www.nytimes.com, 11-3-10)

-Louis Henkin, a pioneer in human rights law, died in mid-October. He was 92. Henkin influenced the development of human rights law while a law professor at Columbia. He found fault with the United States for failing to sign international human rights covenants. He was born Eliezer Henkin in 1917, the youngest child of a rabbi, in what is now Belarus. Henkin and his family fled to New York in 1923. (www.jta.org, 10-19-10)

Forbes' Top Choice for Growth

In a survey of cities around the world, Forbes magazine has chosen Tel Aviv as the city "most likely to succeed," to thrive in the coming decades as high-tech continues to dominate the world economy. "The Tel Aviv metropolitan area has the most dynamic economy in the Middle East," the magazine stated, adding that the city and its suburbs were home to dozens of high-tech businesses, "making it the closest thing to Silicon Valley outside California and Southeast Asia." (www.israelnationalnews.com, 10-24-10)

A New Online Catalog

A register of some 20,000 artworks looted by the Nazis from Jewish families in Nazi-occupied France and Belgium can now be searched in an online catalog. The intent of the project is to reunite the paintings and objects with their rightful owners. Begun in 2005, the project is a joint initiative by the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "Decades after the greatest mass theft in history, families robbed of their prized artworks can now search this list to help them locate long-lost treasures," said Claims Conference chairman Julius Berman. Holocaust survivors and their heirs, art collectors, galleries and museums can freely access the service. The Nazis always meticulously cataloged their spoils. "It is now the responsibility of museums, art dealers, and auction houses to check their holdings against these records to determine whether they might be in possession of art stolen from Holocaust victims," Berman said. According to the Claims Conference, well over

half of the stolen property has never been returned to its rightful owners, their descendants or their country of origin. So far, some 260 collections and 269 owners have been identified in the database. (*World Jewish Congress, 10-18-10*)

A New World Record

Israeli chess Grand Master Alik Gershon has set a world record by playing 527 ranked players simultaneously and winning 87 percent of the matches. The 30-year-old native of the Ukraine, who immigrated to Israel in 1990 and now hails from Herzliya, broke the record set last year by Iranian Grand Master Mortaza Majoob. Many of Gershon's opponents were also immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The event was sponsored by the Jewish Agency and the Israel Chess Federation, to mark the 20th anniversary of the mass *aliyah* from the crumbling Soviet Union. Gershon began to play chess at the age of two, and by the time he was five he was competing. He won the world championship in 1994 for youth up to age 14 and became Israeli champion in 2000. (www.jta.org, 10-22-10)

Dead Sea Scrolls go Digital

The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), in collaboration with Google's research and development center in Israel, will soon place the Dead Sea Scrolls online, allowing anyone with an Internet connection to take a new look into the Biblical past. The \$3.5 million project aims to produce the clearest renderings yet of the ancient scrolls. "This is the most important discovery of the 20th century, and we will be sharing it with the most advanced technology of the next century," IAA project director Prina Shor said. The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of some of the oldest known surviving Biblical texts, as well as evidence of the Second Temple.

Using advanced imaging technology and high-resolution images, each of the scrolls' 30,000 fragments will be freely accessible. The new technology will help to expose writing that has faded over the centuries and allow for further research.

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered be-

tween 1946 and 1956, in and around more than eleven caves in the ruins of the ancient settlement of Khirbet Qumran on the north-western shore of the Dead Sea. The texts include the oldest surviving copy of the Ten Commandments. The scrolls are written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, mostly on parchment with some on papyrus. The Scrolls themselves are on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

(*World Jewish Congress, 10-19-10*)

Global Day of Jewish Learning

As described in Newsweek, "Jewish lore is filled with tales of formidable rabbis. Probably none living today can compare in genius and influence to Adin Steinsaltz, whose extraordinary gifts as scholar, teacher, scientist, writer, mystic and social critic have attracted disciples from all factions of Israeli society." On November 7th, renowned Torah scholar Rabbi Steinsaltz, 72, completed his 45-volume translation and commentary on the Talmud. The monumental achievement was marked with a global simulcast of the event, the "Global Day of Jewish Learning," from Jerusalem. "Torah is the shared inheritance of all the Jewish people," said Steinsaltz. "It does not belong [to an elite group]. We have a responsibility to share our common heritage with all Jews."

Steinsaltz was born in 1937 to secular parents and began his scholarly life studying physics and chemistry at Jerusalem's Hebrew University. At age 23 he became the youngest school principal in Israel's history. Steinsaltz began work on the commentary in 1965 when he was 27. He is well known for his classic work on the Kabbalah, "*The Thirteen Petalled Rose*," as well as some 60 other books and hundreds of articles. A spiritual mentor of Russian Jewry, Steinsaltz founded the Jewish University, the former Soviet Union's first degree-granting institution of Jewish studies. In 1989, he received the Israel Prize, his country's highest honor, and in 1995 was also awarded the *Legion d'Honneur*, the French Order of Arts and Letters. Steinsaltz and his wife live in Jerusalem. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-3-10) ♦

Hanukkah

5771

KJCC Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 3, 2010
Covered Dish Dinner--Dairy
at 6:30 PM

Followed by Chanukah program by children

And Services at 8 pm

Contact Erica @ (305) 853-1003
hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your
spot and coordinate your covered dish.



No Charge

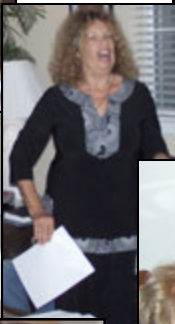
Photo Gallery



The two top photos are from the KJCC Oneg on October 22nd. Rosie Biskar sponsored in honor of her late husband

Arnold. She also, for the evening, hung some of the paintings she'd done of him.

The rest of the photos on this page are from the Havdalah on October 23rd at Steve and Carol Steinbock's house. It's a wonderful (and brief) ceremony and they're wonderful hosts. Gloria always lends her own special touch.





Our matriarch Pauline has been a U.S. citizen since...well, for a long time. But she never



had the papers to prove it. (It's a long story.) That little issue was resolved on October 26th. Two federal officials made a special trip to Key Largo to certify Pauline as U.S. Koshers. As you can see, lots of Pauline's KJCC friends also showed up, for moral support and rousing cheers.

The three bottom photos are from October 29th, at an open house introducing Gloria Avner's paintings to the Key Largo Art Gallery at MM 103.2. In the bottom photo, Gloria stands with Carmen Sotolongo-Kelley, the gallery's owner.



The KJCC Religious students plant a tree each year on Tu B'Shvat. But the one from two years ago, a star fruit, didn't make it. So Jane Friedman brought in a lychee tree, and on November 14th it was planted near our new Meditation Garden, with a little help from parents Michel Bitton and Robert Werthamer. Another parent, Richard Knowles, took the photo.



The two center photos are the result of an impromptu Havdalah arranged at Friday services on November 5th. First there was dinner at Num Thai, then the ceremony at Alan and Candy's house on Key Largo, led by Gloria and Joyce.

The photos below and below left were taken on Sunday, November 7th by Stuart Sax. Twice each year, on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, Stuart, who served a year in Vietnam, goes to the KJCC section of Mt. Nebo Cemetery in Miami to place flags at the graves of fellow Jewish veterans.



This year Steve Steinbock went with him. At left Steve is standing at the grave of David Kamely, who fought in Israel's 1948 War of Independence and the 1956 Sinai Campaign. The plaques at bottom are for the parents of Roberta McNew.





The photo at top is from the Pool Prowl, a November 11th event to benefit the Domestic Abuse Shelter. All the other photos are from our first potluck dinner of the season on Friday, November 12th. Because Bernie was conducting services afterwards, almost everyone who came for dinner actually stayed for the non-food-based portion of the evening.



-This Month in Jewish History-

December

127 C.E. – In a document drawn up at a government office in Rabbatg, east of the Dead Sea, four date groves in Maoza are registered as part of a provincial census ordered by the Roman governor. The groves about the property of Tmar, daughter of Thamous (Tamar, daughter of Thomas). We don't know who Tamar or Thomas were, but the document proves that women in Palestine near the beginning of the Roman era could own property in their own right.

220 C.E. – Rabbi Judah Hanasi dies. His greatest claim to fame is compiler of the *Mishna*, the Oral Law which will serve as the basis for both the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds, and still serves as a code for regulation of all Jewish life.

1685 – King Charles XI of Sweden orders the governor-general of the capital to see that no Jews are permitted to settle in Stockholm, or in any other part of the country, "on account of the danger of the eventual influence of the Jewish religion on the pure evangelical faith."

1728 – Congregation Shearith Israel purchases a lot on Mill Street in lower Manhattan in order to build New York's first synagogue.

1763 – The Touro Synagogue opens in Newport, Rhode Island. Sephardic Jews in Jamaica, Surinam, London and Amsterdam are sponsors of the first major center of Jewish culture in America. The oldest synagogue in the United States, Touro introduces an important innovation in synagogue design. Its women's gallery features a low balustrade that offers women an open view of the rest of the sanctuary, with no high or opaque barriers meant to keep women out of the sight of men. The open plan is imitated by most of the early American synagogues that follow Newport.

1797 – German/Jewish author Heinrich Heine is born. Converting to Christianity in 1825, Heine says, "The baptismal certificate is an admission ticket to European culture." But his assimilation

plan fails. Christians see him as an opportunist, Jews as a turncoat. In the end he supposedly regrets his act, saying "It is extremely difficult for a Jew to be converted, for how can he bring himself to believe in the divinity of another Jew?"

1848 – Franz Josef I becomes Emperor of Austria, reigning until his death in 1916. Franz Josef sees himself as the protector of his Jewish subjects, at one point telling his ministers, "I will tolerate no Jew-baiting in my empire." He describes anti-Semitism as "an illness." In 1869, he visits Jerusalem, where he meets with a group of local Jews and contributes to the building of a new synagogue. Austrian Jews speak highly of the Emperor during his reign and at the time of his death. Behind his back, his enemies refer to him as the "Judenkaiser."

1882 – Fiorello La Guardia, future Republican Congressman and three-term mayor of New York City, is born to a Jewish mother and Italian father. At one point, Democrats run a Jewish candidate against La Guardia. According to legend, La Guardia demands to debate his opponent in Yiddish. La Guardia is fluent in the tongue of Eastern European Jewry, but his opponent has to beg off since he isn't.

1905 – A French law mandating the Separation of Church and State is passed by the Chamber of Deputies in Paris. Functionaries of all religions in France – Catholic, Protestant and Jewish – cease to receive state funding and no longer conduct their affairs under state supervision. France has become a secular nation thanks to backlash from the recent Dreyfus Affair.

1917 – Future ice cream mogul Irvin Robbins, of the future team of Baskin & Robbins, is born in Canada. According to family legend he uses money from his Bar Mitzvah to fund the start of the legendary "31 Flavors" company. ♦

Stained Glass of KJCC

Part four of our closer look at the story behind the art.

As our viewing carousel groans to life, lurching once again in a clockwise direction (ever been on the old G.E. paeon-to-progress-through-electricity ride at the World's Fair or Disney?), the next KJCC sanctuary window we face offers probably the most stark, and least visually lyrical, of all the stained glass art in the series. There are no brilliant, yellow bolts of sunshine cascading down in this window, or any lazy, idyllic clouds, or in fact any imagery at all save one, that of a large, imposing and fearsome battle sword. If you look closely, even the glass panels surrounding the sword are jagged, and tense, helping reinforce the image's message as one of readiness, yes, but even more pointedly one of naked menace. It is the window of the Tribe of Simeon.

According to the Bible, Simeon was the second son (after Reuben) sired by Jacob with his first wife, Leah, who gave birth to more than half of all Jacob's children, including Dinah, the only daughter we know of. Dinah would later play a major role in the events that the Bible would use, powerfully, to chisel for us a clear and sometimes disturbing portrait of Simeon's character and legacy.

Simeon is a featured player in only two Torah stories, but both are riveting, and rabbinic commentary, though more varied than is sometimes claimed, leaves no doubt that Simeon is not a man particularly admired, but rather respected for his great strength (a re-

curring Biblical theme...see Samson) and military prowess.

According to Genesis, back across the Jordan after his reunion with Esau, Jacob made camp with his extended family just outside the city of Shechem. His daughter Dinah,

out among the girls of Canaan, is abducted and raped by Shechem, son of Hamor, the area's ruler. But this is not merely an act of fleeting lust, for Hamor approaches Jacob with the hope of arranging a marriage between Dinah and Shechem. Jacob and his sons are not happy with any of this, and are not appeased by an offer of marriage. At this

point "Jacob's sons," as the Bible puts it, concoct a ruse. They tell Hamor that they'll consider the marriage, but all the men of Shechem must first be circumcised. Apparently eager to cooperate, Hamor and his men all agree, at which point the only two of Jacob's sons mentioned by name – Simeon and Levi – enter the story dramatically. As Genesis relates, "...while all of them were still in pain... Simeon and Levi...took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male. They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword and took Dinah from Shechem's house and left."

It's easy to understand how the sword came to be associated with Simeon. Yet as stunning as this story is, there's another jaw-dropping element. At the time of this carnage (the two of them, remember, killed



The dramatic window representing Simeon.



**An excellent map of the Tribal areas.
Simeon was fully encompassed by Judah.**

every male in the city, and then plundered it, carrying off all the livestock and women and children), Simeon was said to be all of thirteen years old. Some sources, including rabbinic and Midrashic, claim that Dinah was not abducted at all, and had gone with Shechem willingly. And that to be willing to leave Shechem's bed, Simeon had to agree to marry her himself, which he in fact did, and depending on the source she bore either one or four of his sons.

The second Biblical story in which Simeon was a major player was the Joseph story. Simeon was said to be extremely jealous of Joseph. The Midrashic book Jasher argues that it was Simeon who first proposed that the brothers kill Joseph, and was enraged when he learned that Judah had merely sold him as a slave. Later, in Egypt, when Joseph sent his brothers to bring Benjamin to him, he kept Simeon as a hostage, to assure that they would return. Simeon, however, was not a willing hostage. One Midrash says that Joseph sent seventy strong Egypt-

tians to take Simeon by force, but that Simeon's powerful voice frightened them off. It took Joseph's son Manasseh to convince Simeon to surrender willingly.

Jacob had been furious with Simeon and Levi for their massacre of the Shechemites, and openly chastised them. At the end of his life, when he gave blessings to all his sons, he withheld a blessing from Simeon and Levi, predicting instead that they would become divided and scattered. Levi was to be scattered throughout all of Israel, Simeon dispersed within Judah.

This is exactly what happened. The question, of course, is whether it was a result of Jacob's prophecy or other reasons. Some textual scholars view the entire story as what they call a "postdiction," where a story is concocted to be a precursor to and harbinger of current events. It's known that the Tribe of Simeon did, indeed, dwindle and disperse. (Possibly because his sons were also the sons of his sister?) In the Book of Numbers, at the time of Moses' first census, the Tribe of Simeon is listed as being 59,300 strong. After a plague breaks out, Moses is instructed to take a second census. At that point, according to Numbers 26:14, the descendants of Simeon number only 22,200. Almost two-thirds of their men had disappeared in the wilderness. Was this due to Jacob's prophecy, or other reasons? Were storytellers several hundred years later seeking to explain

the gradual disappearance of the Tribe of Simeon, which they knew to be a fact but weren't exactly sure why?

We do know that the territory in Canaan allotted to Simeon was in the Negev, with historic Beersheba as its main city, and was inside the territory of Judah. (It was the only tribal territory fully enclosed within another.) When the Assyrians defeated the northern kingdom of Israel, Simeonites were safely ensconced in the embrace of Judah. Eventually they became indistinguishable from other Judean shepherds and farmers, and after the return from Babylonian exile were fully integrated with the people who came to be called Jews. ♦



**The banner of
Simeon. Note the
crossed swords.**



Original art
by Gloria Avner

*We offer you a blend of history, humor, culture, a kvell or two
and possibly a warm remembrance this year. Enjoy.*

The (Not-So) Ancient Tradition of Gelt

by Eliezer Segal

In comparison with the *Mishloah manot* of Purim or the Afikoman-bargaining of the Passover *seder*, gifts are not a traditional feature of Hanukkah observances.

The closest equivalent to an institution of gift-giving on Hanukkah is the Eastern European custom of distributing "*Hanukkah-gelt*" to the children. However, even this is of recent vintage, and it is hard to find mentions of it before the nineteenth century.

Inspired by the semantic and etymological connections between "Hanukkah" (dedication), and *hinnukh* (education), some Jewish communities used the Hanukkah season as an opportunity to recognize their religious teachers and students. An interesting practical application of these ideals is related in "*Hemdat Yamim*," a homiletical collection first published in eighteenth-century Smyrna.

The *Hemdat Yamim* reports that "in some communities, the custom has arisen of having the children distribute coins to their teachers along with other gifts. Other beggars make the rounds then, though the mitzvah is intended primarily for the benefit of impecunious students."

Rabbi Jacob Joseph of Polnoye, the renowned student of Rabbi Israel Ba'al Shem Tov, wrote that in Eastern Europe it was customary during Hanukkah for rabbis to make the rounds of outlying villages to strengthen their Jewish education. Although initially the teachers were scrupulous about not accepting payment for their services, eventually

they agreed to at least accept compensation for lost time. Before long the tour, with trademark lantern in hand, came to be seen by many as expressly intended for the collection of material tokens of appreciation, and this evolved into a quasi-obligatory gift of *Hanukkah-gelt*. *Hanukkah-gelt* tours are mentioned as a routine matter in some early Hassidic stories, and the practice expanded to encompass additional recipients--such as preachers, cantors, butchers and beadles--as well as a broader variety of acceptable currencies--including whiskey, grain, vegetables and honey. The right to collect *Hanukkah-gelt* would be written into the contracts of communal employees.

It is not until the nineteenth century that we begin to hear about *Hanukkah-gelt* being directed primarily at children. We are not certain how or why this transformation occurred, but it is described in several autobiographical memoirs, especially by children of well-to-do homes.

Variations on these customs were also observed in Sephardic and Oriental communities. Poor Jewish children in Persia would go door to door offering, in return for gifts, to protect their benefactors' households from the Evil Eye by burning special grasses. In Yemen, it was customary for Jewish mothers to give their children a small coin on each day of Hanukkah, with which to purchase sugar powder and red coloring that would be used as ingredients for a special holiday treat: a sweet beverage known as "Hanukkah wine" that was drunk at their nightly parties. ♦

Eliezer Segal, a scholar at the University of Calgary, has written extensively on the relationships between the Bible, other ancient literature, archeology, history, and legend.

Adam Sandler's Original Chanukah Song from S.N.L.

For those unfamiliar, when a regular on Saturday Night Live, Adam Sandler brought out his guitar each year and sang a version of his Chanukah song. Subsequent versions, with updated lyrics, are available on YouTube. But this was his first effort, something of a departure from traditional Chanukah songs. His own intro sets it up perfectly...

"Okay. This is a song that, uh, there's a lot of Christmas songs out there and, uh, not too many Chanukah songs. So, uh, I wrote a song for all those nice little Jewish kids who don't get to hear any Chanukah songs. Here we go..."

Put on your yarmulke,
Here comes Chanukah;
So much funakah,
To celebrate Chanukah.
Chanukah is the Festival of Lights;
Instead of one day of presents, we
have eight crazy nights.

When you feel like the only kid in
town without a Christmas tree,
Here's a list of people who are Jewish, just
like you and me:
David Lee Roth lights the menorah;
So do James Caan, Kirk Douglas, and the late
Dinah Shore-ah.

Guess who eats together at the Carnegie Deli?
Bowser from Sha Na Na and Arthur Fonzarelli.
Paul Newman's half Jewish, Goldie Hawn's
half, too;
Put them together, what a fine lookin' Jew!

You don't need "Deck the Halls" or "Jingle Bell
Rock,"
'Cause you can spin a dreidel with Captain
Kirk and Mr. Spock,
both Jewish!

Put on your yarmulke,
It's time for Chanukah;
The owner of the Seattle Supersonics
Celebrates Chanukah.

O.J. Simpson, not a Jew;
But guess who is? Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew (he
converted).
We got Ann Landers and her sister Dear Abby;
Harrison Ford's a quarter Jewish – not too
shabby.

Some people think that Ebenezer Scrooge is;
Well, he's not, but guess who is?
All three Stooges.

So many Jews are in Showbiz;
Tom Cruise isn't, but I heard his
agent is.

Tell your friend Veronica
It's time to celebrate Chanukah.
I hope I get a harmonica,
On this lovely, lovely Chanukah.
So drink your gin and tonicah,
And smoke your marijuanikah;
If you really, really wannakah,
Have a happy, happy, happy,
happy Chanukah. *Happy Chanukah!*



Venetian Chanukiah
c.1720

The (Somewhat) Unknown Chanukah *Tidbits and seldom-told parts of the Chanukah story*

- Tradition allows no work by women during the first half-hour of candle-burning on Chanukah, in honor of the role women played in the rebellion. But there is no real explanation of this in Biblical or Midrashic sources. Rashi and other medieval sources wrote that this stems from the claim of Greek generals to the "right of the first night" with Jewish brides. One Hasmonean woman – some stories identify her as this woman, others as that – is said to have



Polish Chanukiah, c.1880

stirred her passive family to action against the Seleucid Greeks by publicly stripping herself naked on her wedding day as a protest against the practice.

- The fullest descriptions of the wars against the Seleucids, the Books of Maccabees and the story we all know about the origins of Chanukah, appear not in the Jewish Bible but in the Christian. The Books of Maccabees are part of what is collectively known as the Apocrypha, “hidden” works that were written but never canonized. They and the familiar parts of the Hebrew Bible had all been translated into Greek, since many of the time had ceased to know Hebrew. This was especially so in Alexandria, then the most cosmopolitan city in the Seleucid kingdom. All of the works, Septuagint and Apocrypha, appeared in the Alexandria Jewish Bible, which ultimately was chosen by the new Christian Church as its official canon. (Some scholars say this could have been because of a mistranslation of Isaiah 7:14 that seems to support the idea of virgin birth.) Never included in the Hebrew Bible, the Books of Maccabee have remained in the Christian Bible, including the 1611 King James translation and the Bible used by Catholics today. The Chanukah story is mentioned in far less detail in the Talmud and other sources derived from the Hebrew.

- Unlike his father Mattathias, Judah Maccabee is not mentioned by name in any ancient Hebrew sources like the Talmud or the Midrash, nor does he appear in the Chanukah prayers. The earliest Hebrew documents that speak of him are from the Medieval period, and then probably derived from Greek or Latin sources.

- The last Hasmonean (Maccabee) king,

Mattathias Antigonus (40-37 B.C.E.), placed images of the menorah on coins minted during his reign. (He was, like many Hasmonean kings, also the High Priest.) These are our oldest depictions of the menorah. Unlike the menorahs on the Arch of Titus in Rome and today’s Official Seal of The State of Israel – whose menorahs both have a broad, solid base – the menorahs on the coins sit on a tripod base. This actually agrees with descriptions in the Talmud.

- The Maccabees were not the first Jewish rebels against Greek rule. A prior attempt at resistance had apparently been made by a group known as Assideans, which is probably a Greek transliteration of the original Hebrew term *Hassidim*, or “pious ones.” The Hassidim (not connected, by the way, to the group that arose in Eastern Europe in the mid-1600s)



Florentine Chanukiah, c.1790

fought fiercely, but the Greeks soon discovered their fatal weakness: they would not fight on the Sabbath. A series of Saturday massacres ensued. This all changed when Mattathias the Hasmonean ruled that it was permissible to

wage defensive warfare on Shabbat. The remaining Hassidim joined the Maccabee resistance, and disappeared as a separate and distinct historical actor.

- One of the many disputes between the Academies of Shammai and Hillel during the Roman era concerned the proper sequence of burning Chanukah candles. Shammai said that eight candles should be burned the first night, with the count then lessened by one each night thereafter. Hillel argued the opposite, that holiness should never be diminished but *increased*, so on the final night we would have a menorah fully ablaze with heavenly light. As in most of their disputes, Hillel’s position – almost always more humanistic and evocative than the formal

and legalistic stances of Shammai – prevailed.

- The earliest records of Chanukah all state that the holiday is to be celebrated for eight days. We understand this to be in honor of the miracle of the cruse of oil. But the oil story appears relatively late in a text of the



Ukrainian Chanukiah, c.1800

Babylonian Talmud, and was apparently unknown to previous generations. Even by Medieval times the story was unknown outside of the sphere of Babylonian influence. It is not mentioned in any

of the holiday prayers that originated in early Israel. So why then *does* Chanukah last eight days? According to 2 Maccabees, the eight days were to honor Sukkot, a Biblically mandated eight-day festival not able to be celebrated that year because of the war and occupation of the Temple in Jerusalem by enemies of Judaism.

- The Scroll of Antiochus – sometimes called the Chanukah Megillah – a text familiar to Jews in Medieval times whereas the Books of Maccabee and writings of the Roman historian Josephus (who cited information almost verbatim from the Books of Maccabee) were not, downplays the role of Judah and makes his brother Jonathan the main focus and hero of the story.

- To mystics, Chanukah candles are no less than the primordial light fashioned by God on the first day of creation. Since this light preceded the creation of the sun and stars, it had to be stored away. Where? Some say in the Torah. At any rate, this primordial light supposedly burned for 36 hours, until Adam's transgression caused God to hide it, and this is why we light a total of 36 candles for Chanukah (not including the shamash).

- The Maccabee legend of the virtuous woman who feeds cheese to an enemy general, thereby making him drowsy so she can cut off his head (which is supposedly the source of eating cheese on Chanukah), is now thought to be a borrowing of the similar story of Judith. During Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian's siege of Jerusalem just before his conquest of Judah in 586 B.C.E. (about 400 years before the Maccabees), Judith is said to have seduced an Assyrian general by getting him drunk and then decapitating him, thereby saving Jerusalem.

- Lighting the candles on Chanukah has always been the only required mitzvah. Yet in the Babylonian Talmud there is a passage that reads "it is permissible to remove a Chanukah lamp on account of the Habbars on the Sabbath." Who were these daunting Habbars, who could get the rabbis to relax the rules of mitzvot, and whose opposition to lighting the Chanukah candles was considered a serious threat to Jewish lives? To the rabbis of Babylon the term "Habbar" referred to the Zoroastrian Mazdean priesthood, whose religion dominated Babylon during most of the Talmudic era. To them fire – all fire – was sacred, and it was a priestly duty to maintain the holy fires, which they usually did in special fire-temples. Individual fires were banned, which meant that Jews openly lighting candles on Chanukah were in genuine peril. These Zoroastrian priests were also known by another name: the Magi. For western Jews, this is another, and certainly ironic, connection of Chanukah to Christmas. ◇

Chanukah in the Soviet Gulag When the Enemy Answered "Amen"

by Natan Sharansky

The holiday of Chanukah was approaching. At the time I was the only Jew in the prison zone, but when I explained that Chanukah was a holiday of national freedom, of returning to

one's own culture in the face of forced assimilation, my friends in our "kibbutz" decided to celebrate it with me. They even made me a wooden menorah, decorated it and found some candles.

In the evening I lit the first candle and recited a prayer that I had composed for this occasion. Tea was poured, and I began to describe the heroic struggle of the Maccabees to save their people from slavery. For each zek (a prisoner in the Soviet Gulag) who was listening, this story had its own personal meaning. At one point the duty officer appeared in the barracks. He made a list of all those present, but did not interfere.

On each of the subsequent evenings of Chanukah I took out my menorah, lit the candles, and recited the appropriate blessing. Then I blew out the candles, as I didn't have any extras. Gavriliuk, the collaborator whose bunk was across from mine, watched and occasionally grumbled, "Look at him, he made himself a synagogue. And what if there's a fire?"

On the sixth night the authorities confiscated my menorah with all my candles. I ran to the duty officer to find out what had happened.

"The candlesticks were made from state materials; this is illegal. You could be punished for this alone and the other prisoners are complaining. They're afraid you'll start a fire."

I began to insist. "In two days Chanukah will be over and then I'll return this 'state property' to you. Now, however, this looks like an attempt to deny me the opportunity of celebrating Jewish holidays."

The duty officer began hesitating. Then he phoned his superior and got his answer. "A camp is not a synagogue. We won't permit Sharansky to pray here."

I was surprised by the bluntness of that remark, and immediately declared a hunger strike. In a statement to the procurator general I protested against the violation of my national and religious rights, and against KGB

interference in my personal life.

When you begin an unlimited hunger strike you never know when or how it will end. Are the authorities interested at that moment in putting a swift end to it, or don't they give a damn? In a few weeks a commission from Moscow was due to arrive in the camp. I didn't know this at the time, but the authorities, presumably, were very aware of it, which probably explains why I was summoned to Major Osin's office two days later, in the evening.

Osin was an enormous, flabby man of around fifty, with small eyes and puffy eyelids, who seemed to have long ago lost interest in everything but food. But he was a master of intrigue who had successfully overtaken many of his colleagues on the road to advancement.

During my brief time in the camp he had weathered several scandals and had always managed to pass the buck to his subordinates. I could see that he had enjoyed his power over the zeks and liked to see them suffer. But he never forgot that the zeks were, above all, a means for advancing his career, and he knew how to back off in a crisis.

Osin pulled a benevolent smile over his face as he tried to talk me out of my hunger strike. Osin promised to see to it personally that in the future

nobody would hinder me from praying, and that this should not be a concern of the KGB.

"Then what's the problem?" I said. "Give me back the menorah, as tonight is the last evening of Chanukah. Let me celebrate it now, and taking into account your assurances for the future, I shall end the hunger strike."

"What's a menorah?"

"Candlesticks."

But a protocol for its confiscation had already been drawn up, and Osin couldn't back down in front of the entire camp. As I looked at this predator, sitting at an elegant polished table and wearing a benevolent smile, I was seized by an amusing idea.

"Listen," I said. "I'm sure you have the meno-



Italian Chanukiah, 16th cen.

rah somewhere. It's very important to me to celebrate the last night of Chanukah. Why not let me do it here and now, together with you? You'll give me the menorah, I'll light the candles and say the prayer, and if all goes well I'll end the hunger strike."

Osin thought it over and promptly the confiscated menorah appeared from his desk. He summoned Gavriiliuk, who was on duty in the office, to bring in a large candle.

"I need eight candles," I said. (In fact I needed nine, but when it came to Jewish rituals I was still a novice.) Gavriiliuk took out a knife and began to cut the candle into several smaller ones. But it didn't come out right; apparently the knife was too dull. Then Osin took out a handsome inlaid pocketknife and deftly cut me eight candles.

"Go, I'll call you later," he said to Gavriiliuk. Gavriiliuk simply obeyed orders. He was a fierce, gloomy man, and this sight must have infuriated him.

I arranged the candles and went to the coat rack for my hat, explaining to Osin that "during the prayer you must stand with your head covered and at the end say 'Amen.'" He put on his ma-



Indian Chanukiah
c.1900

gor's hat and stood. I lit the candles and recited my own prayer in Hebrew, which went something like this: "Blessed are You, God, for allowing me to rejoice on this day of Chanukah, the holiday of our liberation, the holiday of our return to the way of our fathers. Blessed are You, God, for allowing me to light these candles. May you allow me to light the Chanukah candles many times in your city, Jerusalem, with my wife, Avital, and my family and friends."

This time, however inspired by the sight of Osin standing meekly at attention, I added in Hebrew: "And may the day come when all our enemies, who today are planning our de-

struction, will stand before us and hear our prayers and say 'Amen.'"

"Amen," Osin echoed back. He sighed with relief, sat down and removed his hat. For some time we looked silently at the burning candles.

They quickly melted, and the hot wax was spread pleasantly over the glass surface of the table. Then Osin caught himself, summoned Gavriiliuk, and brusquely ordered him to clean it up.

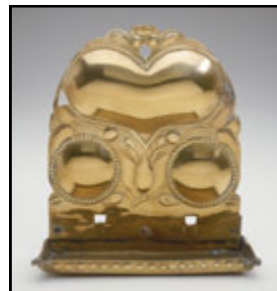
I returned to the barracks in a state of elation, and our kibbutz made tea and merrily celebrated the end of Chanukah. Naturally, I told them about Osin's "conversion," and it soon became the talk of the camp. I realized that revenge was inevitable, but I also knew they had plenty of other reasons to punish me. ♦

Natan Sharansky spent eight years in the Soviet Gulag. After years of work by his wife, Avital, and many in the west, Sharansky was exchanged for a Soviet spy. He made aliyah and has now served in several positions in Israel's cabinet. This article is excerpted from his book "Fear No Evil."

On the Origin of Some Sephardic Hanukkah Customs

by Yardena Kamely

Most of the laws of Hanukkah are related to the lighting of the *menorah or chanukiya* (candelabrum). The main difference between



Dutch Chanukiah, c.1750



Viennese Chanukiah 1837

laws and customs is that laws stem from rabbinic interpretations of the Torah and the Talmud, which then filter down to the Jewish people, while customs usually start with the people and filter up to the rabbis. Through customs, the Jewish people have shown their love for God and tradition and immeasurably enriched all aspects of Jewish observance.

Israel

Hanukkah is celebrated in Israel just like everywhere in the Diaspora. The *chanukiya* is lit, prayers are recited and everybody eats *sufganiot* (doughnuts) and *levivot* (potato pancakes), lots of them! Hanukkah is celebrated by attending a lot of parties. The children's kindergarten, schools, the local synagogue, the community center, your neighbors, friends and family all host parties. Most Israelis attend two or more parties during Hanukkah. The children sing Hanukkah songs and have a little "light show." Since Hanukkah is in the middle of the winter, hot drinks like mint tea are served with doughnuts. The doughnuts in Israel are round and filled with red jelly. Children like to play with the *sevivon* (in Yiddish called a *dreidl*).

The only religious observance related to Hanukkah is the lighting of candles. Most households, even the secular ones, follow the Jewish custom to place the *chanukiya* in the window where it can be seen by passersby. Israelis like to walk through the streets of Ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods like Bnei Brak in Tel-Aviv and Meah Shearim in Jerusalem during Hanukkah. The sight of the lighted *chanukiot* in all the homes is beautiful.



Italian Chanukiah, 16th century

Kurdistan

While Jews no longer live in Kurdistan, many Kurdish Jews still observe two unusual Hanukkah customs. One is about the giving of Hanukkah *gelt*: a week before the holiday, children lock the door to their room. Parents are allowed entry only after offering coins.

The second custom was developed by Jews who were

too poor to afford a *chanukiya*. They used eggshells as cups for wicks and oil, and children collected donations of flour and oil to make pancakes. Children would also prepare an effigy of Antiochus. While singing Hanukkah songs, they would carry the effigy from place to place. On the last day of Hanukkah the effigy was thrown into a bonfire.

Syria

In Damascus, the children would collect food or money during the week and on the last day of Hanukkah they would prepare three meals – one for their teachers, one for the poor, and one for themselves. After Hanukkah is over, a *ta'anit dibur* is observed; one "fasts" for a full day from conversation. This custom was observed to curb one's tendency to *lashon hara* (malicious gossip), especially during social occasions such as on holidays.

Bukhara

Parents baked cakes for their children's teachers, with gold and silver coins wrapped in the dough, while children collected their Hanukkah gelt in a decorative box, and used the money to buy study texts. Since Antiochus had ordered that Jewish books be destroyed, the reinforcement of Jewish learning was felt to be a particularly appropriate activity for Hanukkah.

Persia

Today, there are many Persian Jews in New York—in Great Neck, Queens and Brooklyn. Persian Jews share many traditions with Afghani, Bukharian and Iraqi Jews. Iranian Jews give gifts on Purim, not Hanukkah. While giving gifts on



Greek Chanukiah, c.1850



German Chanukiah, c. 1700

popular norms for American Jews, the tradition is fairly new for local Iranian Jews. Not having to compete with Christmas like most Ashkenazim, Jews who had been living in Iran did not give gifts for Hanukkah. In Iran they used to light candles, and maybe every family would have a special meal for only one night. The tradition of gift-giving among Jews living in Iran has always been popular during Purim. For *Norooz* (the Persian New Year), Iranians have the tradition of receiving gifts from the elders. Since this holiday normally coincides with Purim, the Jews in Iran also adopted the same tradition and gave gifts to the children on this occasion.

Tunisia

There are 1,500 Jews still living in Tunisia. Each family hangs its *chanukiya* on the doorpost opposite the Mezuzah. The oil and wicks are homemade. Women do not do any work during the time that the lights burn. The *chanukiya* remains on the doorpost until Purim.

In Tunisia, Jews celebrate the sixth night of Hanukkah as the Girls' Festival, in memory of the Jewish heroines Esther and Judith. In French the festival is called *La Fete des Filles*. Esther saved the Jews of Persia from destruc-

tion around 470 B.C.E. as told in the Scroll of Esther and as celebrated on Purim. Judith saved Jerusalem from capture by the Babylonians around 600 B.C.E. by walking into the enemy camp, tricking the Babylonian general, Holofernes, then killing him. (Judith's story is found in the Apocrypha.) Both women performed their heroic deeds during the month of Tevet, so the festival was established on the first night of that month, which coincides with the sixth night of Hanukkah.

On the night of the Girls' Festival, Tunisian girls receive gifts of special pastries. Isabelle, a French woman of Tunisian ancestry, explains the many traditional Hanukkah pastries of Tunisia: "Yoyos are round donuts. *Makrouds* are semolina pastries filled with dates and fried and dipped in a light orange-flavored syrup. *Debla* are made of fluffy dough, fried and dipped in light orange-flavored syrup. They look like ribbons and are very delicate. *Baklava* are baked layers of nuts, dates and cinnamon in between phyllo dough sheets. They are moistened with honey syrup. It is not a typical Tunisian recipe but rather a recipe brought by Jews from Turkey."

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Ukrainian Chanukiah, c. 1825

Morocco

All over the world, Jews celebrate Hanukkah with lighted candles and deep-fried foods. In Morocco, the fundamentals are no different, though the details are.

Hanukkah celebrations in Morocco center mainly around children. Each night, as soon as the first stars are visible in the night sky, family and friends gather around the *chanukiya* for the lighting of the candles. Children are often entrusted with reciting the special Hanukkah prayers. In some families, the custom for Hanukkah also entails offering small gifts or coins to the youngest members of the family. In keeping with the spirit of the celebration, a



Fez Chanukiah, 1875

number of fried foods grace Sephardic tables. The most special are the Hanukkah doughnuts – in French, *beignets de hanoukah* – traditionally eaten on the third night.

Formerly, families who lived in the *mellah* (Jewish quarter) of Fez went from house to house to savor beignets

with a steaming glass of mint tea, the Moroccan national drink. Many hosts seized the happy occasion to open a bottle of home-made *mahiya*, a Kosher liqueur distilled from dried figs, dates or raisins.

Couscous, a staple of the Moroccan diet, also holds a prominent place on local menus. In Fez, Morocco's culinary and cultural capital, Sephardic cooks on the first night of Hanukkah prepare a couscous moistened with a rich, fragrant broth delicately scented with orange blossom water. They elaborately decorate the mound of steamed semolina with a dusting of powdered sugar and cinnamon, sprinkle its peak with fried almonds, and surround the base with a glistening ring of tender, caramelized onions.

In Morocco, each family gathers all the remaining wicks and oil at the end of the holiday and makes a bonfire. ◇

What's in a Number? ***Chanukah and The Spiritual Significance of "Sh'moneh"***

by Gloria Avner

When one writes about a holiday year after year, it can be difficult to find something new to say. I tell myself, "Wait. This is Judaism. If

there is not something new, maybe there is something old yet undiscussed, something hidden under layers, something taken for granted."

What is it, I ask myself, about Chanukah that we take for granted? On the most immediate level, we know that Chanukah, the youngest of all Jewish festivals, is about being willing and able to fight back against tremendous odds. Perhaps the earliest practitioners of guerilla hit-and-run tactics were the Maccabees. When Syrian monarch Antiochus, convinced that the Jewish religion was at the root of opposition to his policy of Hellenization, outlawed circumcision, Sabbath observance, and even possession of a Torah, he also ordered his soldiers to put up a statue of Zeus in the Temple in Jerusalem and to sacrifice pigs in the Holy of Holies. The war fought and led by the Maccabees was a war against assimilation. It was a fundamentalist rebellion, an uprising that saved us our Torah, our covenant, and ultimately, the Jewish way of life as we know it.

If I ask myself, and you, what is the single most important symbol of Chanukah, perhaps something we take for granted, something comes to me: it is the symbol and the sacred number. For years I did not know that there were two kinds of menorahs, or that there was a whole separate word, "Chanukiah," for the Chanukah menorah. The menorah in the Temple, even into the modern day the symbol of Judaism, held six candles and a *shamash*. The Chanukiah holds eight (plus the *shamash*).

What is the spiritual significance of the number Eight? Ok, we know that eight days was the length of time it took to make consecrated kosher oil and bring it to the Temple to keep the sacred menorah, the everlasting light, burning, but even that immediate rationale must have a deeper meaning.

How wonderful that our Hebrew numbers are also part of our alphabet and make up the roots of words. In Hebrew the number eight is *Sh'moneh*, from the root (*Shah'meyn*), "to make fat," "cover with fat," "to super-abound." As a descriptive pronoun it means "one who abounds in strength." As a noun, the implied meaning is "superabundant fertility." As a numeral, eight is the superabundant number, the

number beyond explainable perfection. Even in our own Western culture, the form of the Arabic numeral eight is synonymous with infinity – something without end, beyond human grasp. (Try viewing it sideways.)

In the Zohar, the book that is the text for the Kabbalah, the number eight symbolizes new beginnings. Just as seven was called Shabbat because the seventh day was the day of completion and rest, so eight, as the eighth day, was over and above this perfect completion. It began something new. The eighth day was the first day after creation. God returned to work and the week began again.

When celebrating Chanukah, the lights of the Chanukiah were instructed to be placed outside one's door (except in times of danger) on the opposite side of the Mezuzah, or in the window closest to the street. Rashi, in a note appended to *Shabbat 21b*, says the purpose of these lights is to publicize the miracle.

Just as in Kabbalistic teachings, the number seven symbolizes perfection – perfection that is achievable via natural means. Eight symbolizes that which is *beyond* nature and its (inherently limited) perfection.

The examples are moving. There are seven colors in a rainbow. There are seven musical notes. When something has seven parts, it has reached its state of completion (God having created the world and its natural order in seven days). Between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot we count seven weeks. During these weeks we work on perfecting our seven emotions (love, fear, compassion, ambition, humility, bonding and receptiveness) – one emotion per week. At the conclusion of the seven weeks we have sufficiently perfected ourselves to be worthy of receiving

the Torah on Shavuot. The Holy Temple's menorah, which served to illuminate the natural world with the holy glow of spirituality, had seven branches.

Eight, on the other hand, is symbolic of an entity that is one step above the natural order, higher than nature and its limitations.

That is why we circumcise our male children when they are eight-day-old babies. The *brit milah* symbolizes our nation's supernatural and logic-defying covenant with G-d.

That is why we light eight candles on Chanukah in our eight-branched Chanukiah. The greatly outnumbered Maccabees' resolve to battle the Greeks wasn't logical or natural. They drew on reservoirs of faith and courage that are not part of normal human nature. They merited a miracle higher than nature – a miracle that lasted eight days.

No matter what happened to the Hasmoneans – the ruling house begun by the

Maccabees – after their victory (it often wasn't pretty, and they only ruled for a little over a hundred years), no matter how many times the Jews have tottered on the brink of eradication, whether from inner stresses or planned attempts by outsiders, Jewish history (from ancient Jericho to the Persia of Haman – boo! – to the Six-Day War of a few decades ago) is full of villains, heroes, heroines, and battles from which no one with a logical mind could have predicted a favorable outcome. *Nays Gadol Hayah Sham!!* As our schoolchildren proclaim every year in their Chanukah performance: "A Great Miracle Happened There!!"

May great miracles continue to happen every year as we remember our struggles and rededicate ourselves to Jewish continuity. Long may we burn our eight candles (plus the *shamash*). ◇

Top Ten Movie Rentals Over Chanukah

by Jacob Richman

10. Three Men and a Bubbe.
9. A Few Hood Mensches.
8. The Cohenheads.
7. The Rocky Hora Picture Show.
6. Shalom Alone.
5. Goys 'n the Hood.
4. A Gefilte Fish Called Wanda.
3. The Wizard of Oys.
2. Who Framed Roger Rabbi?
1. Prelude to a Bris.

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