

January 2012

6 Tevet - 7 Shevat 5772

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

January 2012

6 Tevet - 7 Shevat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Ken Atlas Arlene & Jonathan Line Amelia & Steve Kasinof	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Judy Weber talks about her book	9	10	11	12	13 Stuart Sax Sherry Willner Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner 6:15 p.m., services at 8:00	14
15 Shirley Stein to give talk on Golda Meir at KJCC 5-7 p.m.	16 MLK Holiday	17 Barbara Knowles photogra- phy classes begin, 6:30	18	19	20 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely <i>Patricia &</i> Henry Isenberg	21
22 Sisterhood Tea, 2-5 p.m. at Kluger home	23	24	25	26	27 Beth Hayden & Joyce Peckman 6:30 Service <i>Carol & Steve</i> <i>Steinbock</i>	28 Torah Learning Service w/ Rabbi Agler 10 a.m.
29 Yardena's Jerusalem lectures conclude, 7 p.m.	30	31 Gloria's musical Trope class at KJCC, 7p.m.		Names denote l Italicized na	eaders of Friday service nes are Oneg sponsors.	s.

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Newsletter

Lisa Richardson Rutherford Editor

CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Stuart Sax

here are lots of things I love about being Jewish. One of them is celebrating New Year's twice each year. once in the fall during High Holy Days and again at midnight on December 31st. On Rosh Hashanah we look at our previous year in retrospect and ask that our sins be forgiven and that our "slate be wiped clean" for the vear ahead. We vow to do better in the year ahead than in the year completed. A few months later we ask pretty much the same thing but we call them resolutions. Ask yourself how many times you made vows and resolutions and actually kept them for a full year? Do we only make resolutions that are easily attainable or are we prepared to tackle a big one like attending more Shabbat services and KICC events? Something to think about this New Year.

Now that our major projects list has been wiped clean, we shift our focus to fundraising so that lim Boruszak can start a new list. Seriously, our windows and doors are now sealed and more storm-resistant. Our entry drive and parking lot are re-sealed and re-striped and the Temple entrance has a new cover. Leaks in the roof have been repaired and our landscaping has never looked better. Even our sign on the highway can be seen



from a greater distance telling the world that we are here and brighter than ever.

And to brighten our minds and abilities. we will be offering new and continuing programs for our members. Beginning the third Tuesday in January, Barbara Knowles will be teaching digital photography and Alan Beth will revive his computer classes beginning the first Tuesday in February. So mark your calendars for the first and third Tuesdays for computers and photography and every Thursday evening and Friday morning for Hebrew classes. Add to that a monthly Saturday morning Torah study session with Rabbi Agler, game nights, kayaking adventures, dinners, and weekly Shabbat services and what the KICC has to offer each month rivals the itinerary of the leading cruise lines. And we have the water sports too!

With this writing, I am approaching the completion of my first full year as the president of this congregation. Has it been a piece of cake? Well, actually, it has. And it's because this is not your run of the mill, store bought variety of cake, but one that has been planned and baked by many under watchful eyes and using only the very best ingredients. Delicious. \diamond

Nosh

A January Service With Rabbi Agler

Rabbi Richard Agler has agreed to lead another Torah learning service this month at KJCC, on January's last Saturday morning, the 28th. The service – to include, as they all have, special Saturday morning prayers, tallit, a reading from our Holocaust Torah, and a relaxed but spirited discussion and exploration of that week's Parshah – will begin at 10:00 a.m. And, yes, if you come, Sisterhood will feed you afterwards. But ask anyone who's attended previous services here with Rabbi Agler, and they'll surely tell you that the real nourishment provided is of a higher form than donuts, fruit, coffee (even Marc's) and pastries. For those who love to plan ahead, there will also be a service on Saturday, February 11th.

More About the Big March Fundraiser

Please be sure to stop and read the ad on page 20. Sisterhood's Event Committee, cochaired by Nancy Kluger and Lauren Sax (with an talent scout assist by Gene Silverman), will be bringing to KJCC an amazing performer who goes by the professional name of Sarge. He sings beautifully, he plays concert-quality piano, he does bang-on impersonations, and he's very, very funny. This will be Sisterhood's major fundraiser of the season. It will truly be a memorable evening, so please begin sending in your reservations now.

It's all scheduled for Saturday evening, March 10, 2012. (Since Sarge's mother is Jewish – he uses lots of Jewish schtick in his act – maybe, if we ask, he'll also lead Havdalah services before the show begins. Hey, it can't hurt to ask.) The Wine Reception begins at 7:30, the show itself at 8:30. Tickets are \$60 each; they're also being marketed to the general Keys community, so don't wait to order yours. Special donor slots are being reserved for those both able and inclined to contribute more than the ticket price. Rumor has it there might even be a private dinner beforehand where angels who contribute at a certain level get to dine and schmooze with Sarge. Contact Nancy or Lauren for details.

Judy Weber to Speak at Sunday School

KJCC member Judy Weber, an accomplished author of numerous children's books, will be at KJCC on Sunday, January 8th to talk to the KJCC Sunday School Students about her latest novel, "Seeking Safety." It's a fictionalized account of a very real event, when during World War II Eleanor Roosevelt convinced her husband to allow refuge for a number of otherwise doomed European Jews. About 1,000 ended up taken to an old, abandoned fort in upstate New York.

All members of KJCC and their guests are cordially invited to attend. There is no charge.

Shirley Stein to Talk About Golda Meir

KJCC member Shirley Stein will talk about the legendary Golda Meir at KJCC on Sunday evening, January 15^{th} , from 5 – 7 p.m. This is a presentation Shirley has given many times, and usually charges admission for. But there will be no charge for this one-time event. No woman, and few men, played a larger role in the success of the young State of Israel than Golda Meir. It should be another fascinating evening at KJCC.

Photography Classes by Barbara Knowles

Beginning on January 17th, the third Tuesday in January, and continuing the third Tuesday of each month until spring, Barbara Knowles will be teaching a digital photography course at KJCC. Each evening will begin at 6:30. There is no charge for KJCC members. Barbara will cover every aspect of digital photography, from working with your camera to managing photos on your computer. She has been a professional photographer for many years, has been published by both A.P. and U.P.I., and is accredited with a news media license. (In other words, a real press pass.) Contact Barbara at iweddu@bellsouth.net with any questions.

l st	Jerry Olsen
l st	Justin Wade Gilson
	Laura Goodman
2nd	Sherrie Willner
3rd	Crue LaMarche
4th	Howard Gilson
4th	Randi W. Freundlich
6th	Janice Gorson
	Stanley Margulies
	Jessica Hernstadt
8th	Roger Levy
	Cathy Rakov
	Deborah Beinfest
	Sarah Kamely
	, Nancy Yankow
I 2th	Alex Dutton
13th	Amy Nobil
	Murray Cooper
	Charlie Horowitz
	Heather Gilson
l 5th	Jamie Goodman

More On the January 13th Shabbat Dinner

Our Sisterhood-sponsored Shabbat Dinner on January 13th will be, even by KJCC potluck standards, a pretty big deal. First of all, it's fleyshik, where our dinners are usually milchik. It's also a sponsored dinner, so there's no charge. We won't be having a specially designated membership dinner this year, so if you know anyone who might like to sample KICC and see all we have to offer, please invite them to attend the dinner as our guests. (And then remember to tell Erica you're bringing guests. Or else, hoo boy.) The dinner begins at 6:15, with services to follow at 8:00. Stuart would be absolutely delighted to acknowledge and welcome prospective members during his announcements. We will, by the way, also be inviting our Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers to join us that night. As always, contact Erica to let her know that you'll be coming, and what special dishes you can contribute.

Jill Taksey
Brieze Levy
Donald Zinner
Andrea Kluger
Neal Rakov
Suzi-Sarot Feder
Barry Alter
Benjamin Friedman
Mark Kanarek
Sandy Seder
Sheila Olsen
Randy Kominsky
Stuart Grossman
Carol Ann Steinbock
Beth Hudson
Pat VanArtsdalen
Yardena Kamely
Beth Kaminstein
Jeffrey Boruszak
• •
Kristen M. Schur
Mark Feinberg

Interested in a KJCC trip to Israel?

It's still in the talking stages, but Rabbi Richard Agler has indicated he'd be willing to lead a KJCC trip to Israel some time in June. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$3,500 per person, airfare not included, for a ten-day trip. The tour package requires a minimum of twenty people. Please contact Stuart, president@keysjewishcenter.com, if such a trip interests you.

The KJCC extends its deepest condolences to Carol Field and her family on the death of Dr. Alvan Field.

January Anniversaries

		I Cars
lst	Thomas & Leslie Dillon	16
lst	Sanford & Nancy Yankow	22
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof	31
l 2th	George & Muriel Swartz	32
l7th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg	
26th	David & Pamela Marmar	27

Our Garden Grows

Master-of-the-Garden Steve Steinbock has just accepted a bid, approved unanimously by the KJCC Board, to extend our Meditation Garden's brick walkway all the way to and onto the floor of our beautiful gazebo. This will open up many more opportunities for memorial or celebratory bricks. Thanks to cuttings from Mort and Gene Silverman, we will soon have orchids blooming from trees along the walkway and from the gazebo's corner pillars. Speaking of trees, if a living memorial for a loved one is your preference, we have only three more tree sponsorships available in the Garden's main section, at \$300 each, including a plaque. Been to the Garden lately? The weather's beautiful now, and the Garden has become a treasure. Come. Visit. Sit. Meditate. Enjoy the quiet loveliness.

Concert Schedule for January

Join in on the excitement, see your friends, and appreciate top quality music in comfortable seats at Island Community Church, MM 83.3, without going off the rock. You can still buy season tickets (five concerts for only \$80 in advance, higher at the door) by calling Joyce Peckman (305-451-0665). Don't miss the first two concerts.

• Tuesday, January 17: Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians – 7:30 p.m.

Its distinctive and recognizable style and grand tradition have made the Lombardo Orchestra one of the most listened to, talked about, and imitated big bands of all time.

• Tuesday, January 24: Trio Solisti – 7:30 p.m.

Hailed "the most exciting piano trio in America" by The New Yorker Magazine, Trio Solisti is comprised of three brilliant instrumentalists – violinist Maria Bachmann, cellist Alexis Pia Gerlach and pianist Jon Klibonoff. They have earned a reputation for soulful and passionate performances marked by soloistic virtuosity, electric energy and thrilling abandon. (This concert is sponsored by David and Toby Goldfinger.)

Yardena's Jerusalem Series Concludes

The last lecture in Yardena's series on Jerusalem will take place at KICC Sunday evening, January 29th, at 7:00. It will be part II of Jerusalem under Muslim rule, covering the fascinating period of the Mamelukes, a warrior caste first brought to Egypt as slaves, who then overthrew the Fatimid Dynasty and ruled for 700 years before being defeated by the Ottoman Turks, who themselves ruled for 400 years until their defeat and dissolution at the end of World War I (when the British and French met and invented today's map of the Middle East, then decided which of them would control all the new countries they'd just created. Transjordan was carved out of Palestine by the British in 1922.) This lecture will also explore the history of the division of lerusalem's Old City into its current four guarters.

January Onegs

January 6th - Arlene and Jonathan Line in honor of Crue LaMarche's first birthday. Amelia and Steve Kasinof to celebrate their anniversary.

January 13th - Sherry Willner in honor of her birthday.

January 20th - Patricia and Henry Isenberg in honor of Henry's birthday.

January 27th - Carol and Steve Steinbock in honor of Carol's birthday.

Exciting New Courses From Rabbi Agler...

Our KJCC is truly becoming a House of Lifelong Learning. If the desire is there, a teacher will appear. Here are three upcoming courses intended to deepen our members' knowledge of and comfort with aspects of worship and ritual that might at times have seemed unfathomable, out of reach, irrelevant, or even boring. Here is a chance to get inside what we may take for granted and gloss over.

At KJCC on Thursday, December 29th, at 7 p.m., Rabbi Richard Agler will present *Erev Shabbat Services, Part I*, a one-hour workshop in "Creating a D'var Torah and Making it Interesting." Too many of us are fearful of leading services because we think we can't properly present that week's Parshah, or Torah portion. Find out how to do it. With Rabbi Agler's guidance, anyone can become a Service Leader (or get better at it). Learning with Rabbi Agler is a warm, satisfying experience, even if you never present a D'var Torah yourself. Don't miss this. At a later date and time to be announced, Rabbi Agler will also present *Erev Shabbat Services, Part II,* a two-part workshop in how to lead a service, understanding the parts, the function of each, and how the parts make a whole.

... And A Trope Course Taught by Gloria

In "Intro To Torah Chanting: Learning Trope Through "V'Ahavtah," Gloria demystifies those little musical symbols and squiggles above and below Hebrew words in the Five Books of Moses. You will take apart the words and phrases, and learn to chant the "V'Ahaftah" as it was meant to be chanted, through a system hundreds of years old. Once you have learned to chant the Trope, you will be able to chant from any part of the Torah. If you can read the Hebrew alphabet, you can do this! It will be a three-part class, beginning Tuesday, January 31st at 7 p.m. in the Kamely classroom.

For more information on any of these courses, Rabbi Agler's or Gloria's, call Gloria at 305-619-0216 or e-mail geetavner@gmail.com. <

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 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.



On Memoriam Sanuary 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Bernice Bernstein

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

In Memory Of

Emma Kohlenbrener

By Jim & Joan Boruszak

Laurie Beth

Annette Bitton

By Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly

David Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake

In Memory Of

Betty Weinstein

In Memory Of

By Dick & Rita Bromwich <

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Henry H. Rubin

By Foster Davidson & Carol Laskin

Yetta Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Marcus Weiss

By Janice Gorson

In Memory Of

Judy Lombardi

By Marilyn Greenbaum

In Memory Of

Eileen Hermann

By Robert Hermann In Memory Of

Alvin Gross

By David & Patti Gross

Ernest Isenberg

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg

In Memory Of

Walter Hankin

In Memory Of

Irving Rosen

By Harvey & Joan Kay

By Richard & Barbara Knowles In Memory Of

Nathan Weisberg

By Frank & Gerri Emkey

In Memory Of

Marvin Greenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

In Memory Of

Louis Hartz

By Steven & Jan Hartz

In Memory Of

Sylvia Emsig

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs

In Memory Of

Goldie Schweitzer

By Richard & Barbara Knowles

Chai-Lights January 2012 9

Betty Weinstein

By Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grace

In Memory Of

In Memoriam Sanuary 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Harry Stoler

Samuel Neubauer

John Evans

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Betty Weinstein

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Anna Savage

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

By Jerry & Sheila Olsen

Eta Brownstein

By Marjorie Present By Pauline Roller

In Memory Of

Sally Sussman

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

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In Memory Of

Sydney Zinner

By Donald & Nancy Zinner

In Memory Of

**Bernard Kaminstein** 

By Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein

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Abraham Raij

In Memory Of

By Salomon & Mary Terner

In Memory Of

Joseph Cohen

By Jules & Nettie Seder

In Memory Of

Sofia Ojeda

By Mark & Sofy Wasser

In Memory Of

Sylvan Oser

In Memory Of

Goldie Schweitzer

By Richard & Barbara Knowles

Mishebeyrach List

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

Happy New Year to each and everyone one of you! Sisterhood ended on some very high notes. Our Sisterhood Shabbat Service was memorable in many ways. First, it was good to have such a large turnout of members who took part in the service. Gloria was back from her recent surgery and we were all honored that her first big outing was our service. (A line from a familiar song rang in my head all night—"it's so good to have you back where you belong.") Lastly, we all paid homage to

outgoing treasurer Nancy Kluger, and I presented her with a gold leaf that will go on KJCC's Tree Of Life. For ten years Nancy has kept Sisterhood afloat and has been the epitome of what the word "volunteer" stands

for. She has been an inspiration to others to step forward and become involved. Needless to say, it was a wonderful evening and I thank all those who helped to make it happen – from the service readers to the oneg bakers.

Our Hanukkah Dinner was fun and fabulous. Many thanks go to chairperson Erica Garrett and her amazing team of helpers. Also, a huge thank-you to Linda and Joel Pollack for sponsoring the dinner. It is because of their generosity that Sisterhood did not need to charge for the event.

It's official. Joyce Peckman and her committee of Joan Stark and Carol Steinbock have presented the slate of officers for 2012. We congratulate all and thank them for helping lead Sisterhood this next year. Installation will be at our next meeting on January 6th at 9:30 a.m. I would like to thank the nominating committee and the Sisterhood for putting their faith in me for another year. I love what I do for Sisterhood and the KJCC because I am surrounded by wonderful women who make me look good!

Very shortly you will be receiving an invitation to the KJCC Sisterhood fundraiser. Please

Sisterhood Executive Board 2012 President Lauren Sax Vice President Kathy Shabathai Treasurer Georgia Landau Recording/ Carol Steinbock Corresponding Secretary

enjoy at the KJCC. Another reminder: any female member of the congregation is an automatic member of Sisterhood. Event Chairperson Nancy Kluger and her committee of Georgia Landau and Carol Steinbock ary

all show our support, one way or another.

ning promises to be one you will not soon for-

get. We need everyone's help. Remember, the

funds we derive help to maintain not only the

maintenance of our building and synagogue

but also support the many programs we all

If a nice, relaxing afternoon sipping tea and eating Chinese food overlooking the bay is your thing, then plan on joining your fellow Sisterhood members at an afternoon social. Teresa Kwalick and Kathy Shabathai are whipping up an unusual and tasty event from 2-5 p.m. at the home of Nancy and Kurt Kluger. Please see the ad on page 16 for specifics. And thanks, Nancy and Kurt, for hosting and giving us a peek at your beautiful home.

Erica Garrett is back in the kitchen (along with other Sisterhood members) Friday, January 13th at 6:15 p.m. Please join us for another scrumptious Shabbat Dinner. This will be a meat dinner, so check out the Chai-Lights ad and contact Erica to coordinate your dish.

Lastly, I am delighted to welcome Patti Gross as our new gift shop co-chairperson. Make sure next time you are at the KJCC to browse the gift shop and see all the new merchandise. If you don't see what you need, contact Susan Gordon or Patti and hopefully they can get it for you.

Whew. Lots of great things going on. I hope you'll all be there for all of it. \Diamond

Sisterhood Lauren Sax

circle March 10th, 2012 on your calendars as the eve-



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.

In Honor of

wedding

and return

In Memory of

Alvan Field

Alvan Field

birthday

Zoe & Joshua Moshe's

Jim Boruszak's special

Thanks for your High

Holiday welcome

Gloria Avner's recovery

Chai-Lights Peckman, Joyce

General Fund

Rose, Franklin and Rene Sax, Stuart and Lauren Sax. Stuart and Lauren

Young, Richard & Ann

General Fund Pollack, Joel & Linda Sax, Stuart and Lauren

Meditation GardenIn Memory ofBeth, Alan and Candy StanlakeSteve RichardsonKwalick, TeresaEsther & Irwin KwalickReese, StephenCapt. Len Roberts

Roy, Medina Steinbock, Stephen and Carol Vinicur, Sam

Scholarship Fund Kwalick, Teresa

Tree of Life Pollack, Joel & Linda

Pollack, Joel & Linda

Yartzeit Contributions Cooper, Murray and Claire Gould, Maryon Grossman, Stuart Steinberg, Richard and Sheila Temkin, Dr. Robert and Susan In Memory of Edward Sandberg Jeanne Schneider Sylvia Sarah Grossman Peter Steinberg Kenny Temkin

Jim Boruszak birthday

Steve Richardson

Steve Richardson

Steve Richardson

50th anniversary

Bill Kwalick on his birthday

David & Roberta Ehrenreich's

In Memory of

Yiskor Book Olsen, Gerald and Sheila



purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Place your order now for one or several to support this new project. Be a regular presence at services by having your message permanently inscribed in one or more of our new prayer books.

We will happily send a notification card to the honoree or giftee at your request. Please contact Carol Steinbock for further information or to receive the forms on which you can provide the text — in honor of or in memory of — you wish us to print. Carol's phone is 852-6152, her e-mail cac147@gmail.com.

YEDA VETORASHA

Yardena Kamely



KEHILOT SHAROT - Singing Communities

Piyyutim — Ancient Poems — Are Kept Alive In Singing Groups Across Modern Israel

There is a musical genre in Israel that is sung by both religious and secular people. Its words are similar to prayer but are not prayer. It is not sung by professional singers, because it does not belong to the popular and commercial world, nor is it sung by cantors, because it does not belong only to the world of the synagogue. Its text is poetic and uses high Hebrew, but this text does not exist without the melody. And its music, with its complex melodic structure, is meaningless without the words.

It is a beautiful music, a living, creative work that is constantly renewed. Here, it is permissible to adapt a new text to the lovely melody. Niggun; various melodies, Niggunim, are also often adapted to the same text. (We have long applied this musical creativity to religious songs as well; how many melodies are there for Adom Olam?) In this genre there are ancient, thousand-year-old works, as well as new ones. In order to sing them well you have to study for many years. They belong to the audience, whose members learn them from one another, without notes and without recordings. They are important cultural works not because they are sung by expert performers but because the works are known and accepted by the audience. And the experts, who are called *Paytanim*, know how to improvise on the audience's melodies, to adorn them, to trill them freely, but the basic notes are set and precise, and if anyone makes a mistake another singer will correct him.

This interesting genre is the *Piyyut*, or liturgical poem. The *Piyyut* (plural *Piyyutim*) began as sacred poetry adorning the prayers

of the individual and the community, as well as accompanying religious rituals. The *Piyyutim* are usually sung on special occasions, a holiday or Shabbat or a life-cycle ceremony – a birth, a *Brit, Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah*, a wedding, or a lamentation on the death of a loved one. The popular Hanukkah song "Maoz Tzur," for example, is a *Piyyut*, as is "Ha Lachma Anya" from the Passover Haggadah, and "Dror Yikra," one of the songs sung at the Shabbat table.

The *Piyyut* "Yedid Nefesh," for example, as Meir Buzaglo explains on the *Hazmanah L'piyyut* website (Invitation to a Piyyut www.piyut.org.il), was sung by Jews in India, Morocco, Aleppo (in Syria), Babylon (Iraq), Yemen, Ashkenaz (France-Germany) and Georgia (the one south of Russia, near Armenia), although in each of these places the same words were sung to totally different melodies. And that reflects another important trait of the *Piyyut*: its music is the product of a connection between Jews and their non-Jewish neighbors in the countries where both lived.

In Israel hundreds of people gather every week, in ten groups all over the country, to study *Piyyutim* from experts, as part of a unique movement called *Kehilot Sharot* (Singing Communities). *Piyyut* and *Niggun*, these treasures of poetry and song produced by Jewish culture, offer an emotional and spiritual experience of our Jewish heritage and traditions, Ashkenazi and Sephardi. Each community is lead by a trained facilitator, a professional *Paytan* and singer. These groups sing *piyyutim* and *niggunim*, and learn from them about the beauty of the culture, language, ideas, and history of the communities where they were composed.

In an article in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, Noam Ben-Zeev writes about his experience in one of the Kehilot Sharot he visited: "Neveh Yisrael neighborhood,

Herzliva. A slight sense of panic begins to creep into my heart when Paytan Maimon Cohen starts to sing, as he presents the veteran group - who have been in *Kehilot Sharot* for six years - with the *Piyyut* they are about to learn. "Ashir Lach. Eretz Hemda" (I Will Sing to You, Land of Delight), I join the group this evening knowing there is no chance that I will manage to learn such a complex work. The *Piyyut* is composed entirely of irregular rhythms, asymmetrical lines, sharply changing melodic themes and sudden flights to the heights. I'm scared stiff.

"I look around me. If I. with years of experience in choral singing, learning sight reading, developing a musical ear. writing melodies and harmonies. don't manage to learn this Piyyut, how will the people around me, not professional musicians. do so? But I'm wrong. Ten minutes. maybe fifteen that's how long it takes Cohen to teach us the Piyyut. And learning with Cohen means an encounter with a teacher who is a real magician. a Pavtan with a voice of unparalleled beauty, a personality Musicians and Scholars Comment On Piyyutim

The *Piyyut* decorates the prayers, the life cycle and the yearly cycle, every place where the sigh of the heart overpowers the mind. When words do not suffice and the melody is called for; and where that which is fixed yields its place to that which is renewed. *-Avigdor Shinan*

The *Piyyut* is the form of Jewish creative work that wonderfully combines the art of poetry and exalted music with the commonplace. This form and combination is unlike any other since usually the commonplace (sing-alongs) is separate from the Arts. *-Ofer Shabbat*

Piyyut – a musical instrument, where the musician is the poet who strums on the words, and the listeners are drawn with bonds of love and grasp it as though it were a magic wand. *-Aviad Akiva*

The *Piyyut* is where the genius of poetry and the genius of music meet. -*Paul Valery*

The *Piyyut* synthesizes and purifies various components of the Hebrew culture: language, music, mysticism, history, legend, philosophy, prayer, and personal, family and national emotion – into one whole. The sung *Piyyut* makes it possible to fully experience this in its entirety. -Yair Harel

The singing of the *Piyyut* has survived as an activity having a social nuance that goes beyond the religious meaning of the text. Thus signifying a direct link between the present and the past, it connects between vast geographical areas, it symbolizes the constant use of the Hebrew language throughout history, and connects ancient creative artists with those of today. *-Edwin Sarusi*

overflowing with humor and wisdom and knowledge, which illuminate the *Piyyut* with fascinating insights.

"At a more advanced stage of the lesson, Cohen dwells on the proper way to sing the words - softly, flowingly, listening to the music and without insisting on precise pronun-

ciation. 'I'll sing you the origin of this *Piyyut*, in Arabic, so you'll get an impression of the music flow,' he says, and suddenly it seems as though the small room in the Herzliva community center is flying to a Morocco of another time. Cohen. accompanying himself on a drum, sings this Piyyut - which was written by Rabbi Yitzhak Rosh, and is about longing for the Land of Israel - in Moroccan Arabic. and it turns out to be the lamentation of a father on the death of his daughter, a song that is very sad and at the same time a musical paradise. Several of those present, themselves natives of Morocco, ioin in quiet humming."

Israelis love traditions. art. and creativity. They like to find interesting social-cultural activities to share with others: it is, for many of them, almost like a pastime. In Kehilot Sharot, the Singing Communities, they seek to learn and teach these treasured traditions. They also want to make their voices and ancient songs heard as part of contemporary Israeli culture. 🛇

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



The Top 10 "Thrones" in Jerusalem

The next time you happen to be in lerusalem and nature calls, have no fear. The city has somewhere between forty and fifty public restrooms, with thirteen of them located in the Old City alone, spread across the Jewish and Muslim guarters. A random sampling by *Israel21c.* (an online news magazine about 21st century Israel) has compiled a list of Jerusalem's top 10 public toilets. There's one at the Machane Yehuda marketplace (otherwise know as the *shuk*). This restroom is said to be clean but its location, next to a fish vendor, leaves something to be desired. Another is located on the northern side of the Western Wall plaza. As you exit this restroom, you'll see posted the Jewish blessing, known as asher vatzar, traditionally recited after one relieves oneself. (Yes, we Jews seem to have a blessing for everything! Check out the next entry for more details). For a complete list of the top ten public restrooms in lerusalem, go to www.israel21c.org/travel/the-top-10toilets-in-ierusalem. (www.israel21c.org, 11-2-11)

A Little Bit More About Asher Yatzar

Composed by Abayei, a fourth-century Babylonian rabbi, the benediction said after one uses the bathroom, *asher yatzar*, is found in the Talmud (Brachot 60b). It may seem odd to recite a *bracha* related to this bodily function, but when you think about it, it makes perfect sense. It expresses gratitude for good health and marvel at G-d's creation of the human body. Translated into English, the prayer reads, "Blessed is He who formed man in wisdom and created in him many orifices and many cavities. It is obvious and known before Your *throne* (emphasis intentionally added!) of glory that if one of them were to be ruptured or one of them blocked, it would be impossible for a man to survive and stand before You. Blessed are You that heals all flesh and does wonders." (www.torah.org/features/firstperson/ everythingablessing.html)

To Remember the Six Million

The State of Israel is planning to distribute new ID cards to all its citizens, with six Stars of David and symbolic numbering starting with number 6,000,001 - a move to honor the memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Baruch Dadon, head of the ID project for Israel's Interior Ministry said, "We haven't forgotten them...they are with us, and they will be with us in the future." The cards are said to be forgeryresistant and will be encrypted with a chip containing fingerprints and a photo of the bearer. All citizens will be required to carry the card. (World Jewish Congress, July/ August, 2011)

"Till a Hundred and Twenty" - She Just Might Make It!

The oldest known Holocaust survivor, Alice Herz-Sommer, recently celebrated her 108th birthday. She was a professional pianist by the time she was in her mid-teens. A native of Prague, she, along with her husband and young son, were sent to Terezin in 1943, where she played more than 150 concerts for visitors from the Red Cross at the same time Jews were being sent to their deaths. Her husband, also a musician, did not survive the war. (www.jta.org, 11-27-11)

A Boost For Birthright

Birthright Israel has sent letters to 2,000 North American young adults telling them that they will now be able to go on the free. ten-day educational trip to Israel in the coming months thanks to a generous contribution of an additional \$5 million from major philanthropists Sheldon and Miriam Adelson. The 2,000 young applicants were on a waiting list due to lack of funding. The Adelson's foundation has given Birthright more than \$100 million since 2007. Adelson made his fortune as a casino developer and is the owner and CEO of the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas. Forbes Magazine has ranked him as the 13th richest person in America and 73rd in the world. Officially known as Taglit-Birthright Israel, the organization's mission is to connect lewish young adults, ages 18-26, to the heritage and history of their religion. Nearly 22,500 applicants had registered for the trips this winter and over 10.000 had been on the waiting list. (The Forward, 11-28-11)

Another "Hebrew Hammer"

Ryan Braun, the Milwaukee Brewers' outfielder, has been named the National League Most Valuable Player, making him the first Jewish ballplayer to win the award in nearly fifty years. The Baseball Writers' Association of America announced that Braun, 28, the son of an Israeli-born Jewish father (who lost much of his family to the Holocaust) and a Catholic mother, received 20 of 32 first-place votes and 388 points. The four-time all-star averaged .332 and hit 33 home runs. Back in September, he hit a 450-foot home run, giving the team their first division title in nearly thirty years. Although Braun is not an observant lew, his lewish identity runs deep and he says he is proud to be a role model for young Jewish kids. (He also, by the way, played his college ball at the University of Miami.) In 2007. he became the first lew ever to be named Rookie of the Year. Braun now becomes the new "Hebrew Hammer," sharing the name with other great Jewish batsmen, notably Hank Greenberg and Al Rosen. Sandy Koufax (a pitcher, considered by some to be the most dominant left-hander of all time) was the last lewish player to win the MVP award, in 1963 with the Dodgers in Los Angeles, though he'd begun his career in Brooklyn. Greenberg (Detroit Tigers - 1940) and Rosen (Cleveland Indians - 1953) were the only other Jewish players who have been named MVP. (*The Forward*, 11-22-11)

Tops in Russia

For the first time ever, an Israeli-themed book was chosen as one of Russia's top books of the year. Howard Sachar, author of the recently published three-volume "History of Israel." was honored at the Non-Fiction Book Fair at Moscow's Central House of Artists. The book fair's selection committee. which includes some of Russia's most notable authors, stated that they chose Sachar's tome because of "the importance of Israeli history in Russian society, something that has been heightened by the large Russian population in Israel and the relative lack of knowledge in Russia about the country's history and development." Also honored at the book fair was Simms Taback's children's book, "Joseph Had a Little Overcoat," an award-winning book adapted from and based on a Yiddish folk song. (www.ita.ora. 11-28-11)

11/2 Jews Off to Oxford

Miriam Rosenbaum, 22, a senior at Princeton University, has become the first Orthodox Jewish woman to win a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. Growing up in the Bronx, Rosenbaum is now studying the "intersection of ethics, genetic research, and public policy." She claims she was inspired to excel by her grandfather, Mordechai Rosenbaum, who was a student at Poland's famed Mir Yeshiva when Hitler's troops moved in. He managed to escape with the help of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese diplomat who issued travel visas to the students - more than 1,800 of them. (A vear before he died in 1986. Sugihara was honored by Yad Vashem with the title "Righteous Among Nations.") An essay about her grandfather was part of Rosenbaum's Rhodes application. There were 31 other Rhodes winners this year, including 23-year-old Ronan Farrow, son of Woody Allen and Mia Farrow. Ronan graduated college at 15 and has already finished Yale Law School. He will study international development at Oxford

and is now working as a special advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The Rhodes Scholar Award was created in 1902 by colonialist and noted philanthropist Cecil Rhodes, a South African businessman and founder of DeBeers diamond company.

(*The Forward*, 11-21-11)

In Memoriam

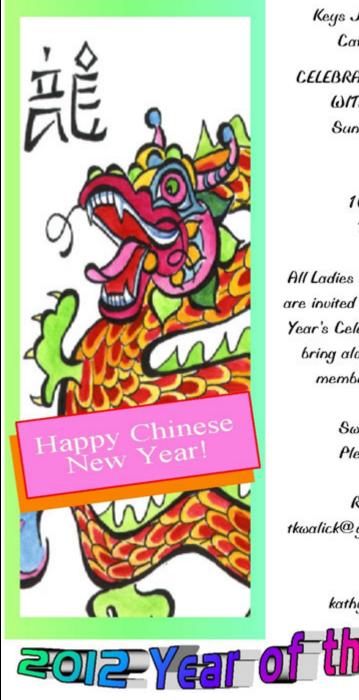
· Evelyn Lauder, the woman who created the pink ribbon that became the worldwide symbol for the fight against breast cancer, died in November at the age of 75. Lauder was vice president of the cosmetics empire founded by her mother-in-law, Estee Lauder. She created the pink ribbon symbol in 1992 with former Self Magazine editor-in-chief Alexandra Penney. These little pink ribbons were handed out to women at department store make-up counters to remind them to get their annual breast exams. This simple idea led to a multimillion-dollar campaign. and the money that was raised helped found the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Cancer Center at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York in 2009. Lauder was born Evelyn Hausner in Vienna. She, along with her parents, fled Nazi-occupied Europe and settled in New York City. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-13-11)

· Allen Mandelbaum, a scholar of classical and Italian literature, has died at 85. Recognized as the leading translator of Dante's "Divine Comedy," Mandelbaum also wrote a book of poems about the Jewish folklore town of Chelm. He was professor emeritus at Wake Forest University in North Carolina; at his passing, the university noted that "few, if any, faculty members in Wake Forest's history have attained a worldwide status comparable to Mandelbaum's." His three-volume verse translation of the "Divine Comedy" was completed in 1984 and he also translated, among other classical literary works, Homer's "Odyssey" and Ovid's "Metamorphosis." Mandelbaum was well known in Italy, where he received the country's highest award, the Presidential Cross of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity, and the National Award for Verse Translation. Over the years, Mandelbaum received numerous awards and honors. In 2000, he became the first translator to receive the Gold Medal of Honor from the Italian city of Florence. Mandelbaum grew up in New York City, attended Yeshiva University and received his master's degree from Columbia University. *(www.jta.org, 11-8-11)*

· Irving H. Franklin died recently at the age of 93. Franklin, a sporting goods manufacturer, became known for developing the first batting glove specifically designed for baseball. He joined forces with Hall-of-Famer Mike Schmidt, then the Philadelphia Phillies thirdbaseman, to design the glove. Franklin and his brother Sydney started Franklin Sports, the company which now custom-fits 150 Major League players with gloves and has been the official batting glove of Major League Baseball since the late 1980s. It is the only company authorized to place the MLB logo on its gloves. Franklin was born in Brockton, Mass. As a young man, he began working in a shoe factory, then followed his grandfather into the scrap leather business. He later took over the business and during the Korean War made trigger-finger mittens for the military. Franklin was a benefactor and developer of several Jewish organizations. He also established the Franklin Fellow Rabbinical School Scholarship Fund at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He was very pleased with his gloves, particularly because the name of his company was easily seen when TV cameras closed in on the hitter. Not so for his other official major league products cups and supporters. (www.nytimes.com, 11-14-11)

Did You Know...

• At the end of November, "Deep Junior," the Israeli chess computer program, won the 2011 world computer chess championship held in the Netherlands. It beat out teams from around the world without ever losing a single game. It was the seventh world title that the Israeli team has won. The prestigious event was organized by the International Computer Game Association, which has held the championship annually since 1994. (*The Jerusalem Post, 11-23-11*) ◊



Keys Jewish Community Center Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood

CELEBRATE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH YOUR KJCC FRIENDS Sunday, January 22, 2012 2:00 - 5:00 pm Kluger Home 163 Indian Mound Trail Tavernier, FL 33070

All Ladies who are Members of the KJCC are invited to an Open House Chinese New Year's Celebration. We encourage you to bring along one or some of our shyer members to join in the festivities.

> Sweets only will be served Please bring one to share.

RSOP: Teresa Kwalick tkwalick@yahoo.com (305) 852-4652 or

> Kathy Shabathai kathyshabathai@hotmail.com

> > a

-This Month in Jewish History-January

548 C.E. – This is the last year that the Church in Jerusalem observes January 6th as the birth date of Jesus. The Western Church began celebrating Christmas on December 25th in the late 300s.

1072 - Robert Guiscard of Normandy conquers Sicily. Jews have been living on the island for almost five hundred years; records exist of letters being written to Pope Gregory I, whose papacy ended in 604, about living conditions of the Jews in Sicily. Jewish circumstances would later deteriorate when Crusaders stop at the Island. By the start of the 15th century Jews will be living in ghettos.

1449 - Constantine XI is crowned Byzantine Emperor. His reign is short, his throne lost in 1453 when Constantinople falls to the Ottomans under Mehmed II, making Constantine the last Emperor and last Christian ruler of what was once the Roman Empire. Moslem Ottomans will ultimately welcome Jews fleeing from persecution in Christian Europe. Mehmed also works to insure that a significant portion of the population of Istanbul (Constantinople's new name) will be Jewish.

1536 - Catherine of Aragon, dispensed-with wife of English King Henry VIII and daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, the two monarchs who banish the Jews from Spain in 1492, dies. Consent for her to marry Henry, then not yet king, had been contingent on his father promising that no Jews would ever live in England. In one of history's tasty ironies, Catherine's inability to provide Henry with a male heir leads directly to England's break with the Catholic Church and Protestants allowing the return of the Jews to England.

1785 - Haym Salomon dies in Philadelphia at the age of 44. Born in Poland, Salomon comes to the American colonies before the start of the Revolution. He befriends financier Robert Morris and helps several leaders of the American Revolution, lending money to James Madison, acknowledged architect of the U.S. Constitution and fourth President of the United States. Salomon bankrupts himself in support of American independence.

1865 - The New York Stock Exchange opens its first permanent headquarters at 10-12 Broad, near Wall Street, in New York. Founded in 1791, the NYSE lists three Jews - Benjamin Mendes Seixas, Ephraim Hart and Alexander Zuntz - among its original founders.

1870 - Joseph Strauss is born in Cincinnati. He will become the Chief Construction Engineer for San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

1895 - Captain Alfred Dreyfus is publicly humiliated and sent to Devil's Island by a French court. Later evidence proves that Major Esterhazy and Colonel Henry, Dreyfus' chief accusers, forged the evidence used to convict him. A new trial, however, is not begun until 1899. The Dreyfus Affair reveals strong currents of French anti-Semitism and provides momentum for the nascent Zionist movement. It is on behalf of Dreyfus that Emile Zola publicly writes his famous "J'accuse" letter to his own government. Amazingly, there are still those in France today who believe in Dreyfus' guilt.

1915 - Democrat Moses Alexander, 62, is sworn in as governor of Idaho, the first elected Jewish governor in the United States. He will serve two terms.

1929 - William S. Paley becomes President of CBS at the age of 27.

1963 - Tel Aviv University opens as a fully independent entity. Today it is the largest University in the country, with over 100 separate departments and more than 75 research facilities. \diamond

Aaron

A s the Gregorian calendar turns to Janu-ary, we complete the Book of Genesis and begin the real story of the formation and molding, replete with both dizzying triumphs and oh-so-human stumbles. of the lewish people. In Exodus we're introduced to the single most compelling and important figure - certainly of those who walked or walk upon the earth - in Jewish history: Moses. But unlike the central figure in many national legends (there's a reason such figures have alwavs been so successful in Hollywood movies), Moses doesn't stride into the story seasoned, hardened, and alone. In fact, he enters it as a helpless baby, floated precariously downstream into the Nile by his older sister Miriam in the desperate hope that the group of royal Egyptian women bathing nearby will see the baby, be overcome by a woman's instinctive compassion and gather in the child, flaunting, as only a young royal woman could, Pharaoh's decree to kill all male Hebrew newborns. As we know, the gambit succeeded.

Yet Moses – we aren't told what name he had been given at his *brit* – was not the second child of his and sister Miriam's mother Yocheved, but the third. There was a brother, younger than Miriam and three years older than Moses, whose name was Aaron. We're told nothing of Aaron's childhood years, except we know that while Moses was being raised as a prince in Pharaoh's palace, Aaron lived the life, with Miriam, Yocheved and father Amram, of a Hebrew slave.

Aaron now becomes a major character for the remainder of the Torah. He is not onstage at all times like Moses, but he's involved in all the important nation-building moments and is around until the very end of Deuteronomy, dying just before Moses. Both are told by God that their bad behavior and disobedience during the draw-water-from-therock episode - though it was Moses who angrily struck the rock with his staff instead of talking to it as instructed by God - will disqualify them from entering the Promised Land. They will both die here, in the mountains of Moab overlooking Canaan. This is all well known. Yet there's also a great deal of rich and interesting information about Aaron, both separate from as well as arm-in-arm with Moses, in the Torah itself and also from Midrashic and Talmudic sources.

It was actually Aaron. not Moses, who held out his staff to unleash the first three plagues against Pharaoh and Egypt. It was Aaron, not Moses, involved in the famous contest with Pharaoh's magicians: to show that he was channeling God's power, Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh, which then turned into a serpent. The magicians sneered, then threw down their own staffs, all of which also instantly became snakes. What got their attention, in symbolism too obvious for anyone to miss, was that Aaron's snake then methodically ate all the other snakes. This Hebrew god had powers. (Rabbinic legend, by the way, says that Aaron's staff was made of sapphire and weighed over 400 pounds. And that it was later concealed in the Ark. And that, hundreds of years later, King Josiah, sensing impending catastrophe, had both Ark and rod hidden, doing it so well that no one has seen any evidence of either since.)

Aaron, not quite yet the *Kohane Gadol*, since there was not quite yet a Tabernacle to preside over, was a major figure in the Golden Calf episode on Mt. Sinai. Moses and Joshua climbed Mt. Sinai to worship with God. Aaron was left in charge of the mass of Israelites. Joshua waited while Moses went into God's presence. But he was gone for forty days. The flock, though they'd witnessed amazing things God had done on their behalf, were just weeks removed from slavery and a terrifying escape from Pharaoh's army. They grew restive. Worried that Moses would not return, and that God had deserted them, they clamored for Aaron to build them an idol they could worship. He complied, collecting their gold jewelry, which he (in the desert? with no smelting or forming tools?) melted down and turned into the infamous golden calf. For this religious commentators have considered him weak, treacherous and sinful ever since.

But not everyone agrees with this harsh view. Many rabbis claim that what Aaron was doing was stalling for time, hoping to placate the mob long enough until, he hoped any minute. Moses would return. Other commentators, perhaps more familiar with frenzied mobs, say it would have been suicide to resist and that Aaron acted wisely. After all, some believe that his nephew Hur, the son of Miriam, had already been killed by the mob. And that in acting as he did Aaron was actually cunning, clever, and diplomatic, properly respectful of a mob's boiling energy and aware that those new to worship could easily falter. Moses, when he did return, forcefully challenged the

In this engraving, Aaron stands before Pharaoh and hurls his staff to the ground, where it instantly turns into a snake.

mob, angrily grinding the golden calf into dust, adding that to a well and forcing its adherents to drink the concoction. He then instructed Aaron's tribe, the Levites, to kill the sinners. We're told that some 3,000 were summarily slain or died in a plague sent by God.

Was Moses justified? Perhaps it depends on just how safe one's remove is from the business end of a righteous sword. Modern commentary has begun to look at Aaron's behavior with more understanding and a little less pious rage. Besides, there's ample evidence that both Moses and Aaron acted completely within their respective characters. Moses was not beloved by his flock, some say barely tolerated. He was harsh, and often unrelenting. Aaron, on the other hand, *was* beloved. Mourning when he died was far more widespread, and went on far longer, than when Moses died; the Israelites were perhaps fearful of being without Moses, but they didn't really miss him. Aaron was gentler. If someone acted improperly, he would softly and gently counsel the person, not berate him. He was a peace-

> maker, often reconciling angry neighbors or estranged husbands and wives. Hillel, who (during Herod's reign) saw more than a few corrupt and degenerate priests, wrote: "Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace. Love your fellow creatures and *draw* them nigh unto the law!" According to the Torah, Moses personified truth, but Aaron personified mercy.

> God apparently didn't blame Aaron, because shortly thereafter Aaron becomes High Priest and is one of but two allowed into the Holy of Holies. And despite their sharply differing natures, in a Bible that has so far featured nothing but conflict between pairs of brothers, the relationship between Moses and Aaron is dramatically different. They clearly love and

respect one another, and have for their lifetimes. One commentator, in fact, sees their relationship as a parallel to that of Hillel and Shammai, one fostering harmony and the other necessary discipline. Aaron's sons are allowed to inherit his high position. The fate of Moses' sons is unmentioned and unknown. Aaron also enjoyed probably the most graceful and appealing death in all of the Bible. At God's instruction, he climbs Mt. Hor with Moses and his son Eleazar, who will succeed him. He enters a welllit cave, lies down on a carefully prepared bed, closes his eyes, and a sudden gust of wind sweeps through his nostrils and transports his soul to God. Moses weeps. \diamond

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UNCANNY IMPERSONATOR TOUCHING VOCALIST

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Wine Reception 7:30 p.m. • Show starts 8:30 p.m. General Admission \$60

Additional donation levels are available for this major fundraising event

But Wait! There's More! We Are Also Offering a Fabulous "Island Retreat" Raffle. Tickets are \$10 or 3 for \$25 for a prize package of * Romantic one-night stay for two at the beautiful and tranquil Casa Morada in Islamorada (includes continental breakfast): * His-and-Her massages by licensed massage therapist Sofy Wasser; * Private sunset cruise from Casa Morada by Capt. Robert Werthamer; * Delicious gourmet *hors d'oeuvre* basket including wine from Bitton Bistro Café, to enjoy while sunset cruising; * Lunch at Cheeca Lodge; * Tote, towels, sunscreen and body lotion from Angelika. Total Value \$900 For further information, please call: Nancy Kluger 305-393-2129 or Lauren Sax 305-753-7623

Photo Gallery

The photo top right was taken Nov. 18, at a Guardian Ad Litem event sponsored by Voices of the Florida Keys. Below right, Yardena begins her lecture series on Jeru-

salem November 20th. Below, Alan Beth captured Joel and Linda Pollack on November 12th at the 3rd annual Jewfish Creek Run/ Walk to raise money for Keys charities.







The three photos just above were taken (by Mary Lee) on December 10th at an Angel Bear event sponsored by the I Believe Foundation, where bears are given to



children in ambulances and in the hospital. At far left, Linda shows off Pauline's 40,000-hour (!) volunteer pin from Mariners Hospital. Near left, Yardena points ancient Old City locations during Jerusalem lecture no. 2 on December 4th.





These are photos from our game of old-fashioned stickball between teams from the KJCC and the Sons & Daughters of Italy. The game was held at Key Largo Community Park on Sunday morning, December 4th.

The game was very close until the bottom of the first inning. Down 4-0, the KJCC team managed one hit and three quick outs. The final score was 16-4, but team KJCC thought it was a close



game. Negotiations are in progress for another game in January.

(Text and photos courtesy of Stuart Sax.)









The photos on this page are all from the December 9th Friday evening service led by Sisterhood. As you can see, there was safety in numbers. In the photo at right, Sisterhood



president Lauren Sax presents Nancy Kluger, retiring after ten years as Sisterhood Treasurer, a Tree of Life plaque in her honor.







All the photos on this page were taken (sans flash) during the Saturday, December 17th Torah Learning service led by Rabbi Richard Agler.











Our thanks to Barbara Knowles. Marc Bloom and David Gitin for the photos of this event.



showed off all the students' artwork. This year's emphasis in our Chanukah presentation, pre-

pared by Yardena, was "Jewish Values." Each student lit one candle, with intent to honor our leaders. from Abraham to Moses to King David, the Maccabees, the Prophets, and the founders of Israel, all who have made it possible for us to survive. thrive, and unite as a people. Both children and adults learned some customs about the proper

order in which to light the candles. (The first candle is placed at far right, with *cha*nukiah facing you. On succeeding nights you insert candles to the left of the previous night's candle. The new candle is the first one lit each night.)

It was an extended family affair. The large table, set beautifully by the children, was full, parents sitting with their children, board members and presidents past and present of the Congregation and Sisterhood all well represented. Even more impressive, two former students, tutors and B'nei Mitzvot, Max Schrader-Grace and Rachel Bloom, joined us. It was Sunday morning, December 18th. Our holiday display panels

-Gloria

Chanukah at the KJCC Sunday-School

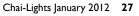
Chanukah is a blend of ceremony and celebration. We teachers emphasize the following *values* as we teach about Chanukah:

Religious Freedom The Right to be Different Courage to Speak Out Against Injustice Dedication to the lewish Wav of Life Faith and Trust in God

We celebrated Chanukah according to

our tradition - lighting the candles, telling the story, singing the songs, talking about the values, playing with *dreidl*, and eating the latkes and sufganiot (jelly doughnuts).

-Yardena









My New Insíghts Into the Mysteríes of Healíng

It isn't one thing. Or a few things. It's everything.

by Gloria Avner

t is hard to believe that leeches were once respected healers' tools. What did we know in the Middle Ages about how disease was communicated, how germs and bodies worked, about hygiene, or

why one person in a family recovered from an illness while another in the same house did not? (It turns out, mysteriously, that Jews actually knew quite a bit, but on a very different level - more about that later.)

I, who had never spent a single night in a hospital, was recently an in- patient for twenty days in a Jewish geriatric facility for short-term rehabilitation. The meals were kosher. The therapists were skilled, patient, kind, and

firm. The Friday-night Services were so "earlybird" that they started at 2:00 in the afternoon. (Only the rabbi, volunteer wheelchair pushers, and David, who also was given the honor of opening the ark, stood for the *Amidah.*) Those closest in age to me ranged from 85 to 95 years old. It was the one context in which I could believably be called "the kid." In the course of witnessing dozens of these disabled elders resist, decline, embrace, and thrive in their journey towards healing, I stumbled upon some insights.

Healing begins with "the first face." The person who wakes you, whether at midnight to check your vitals or at 6:30 in the morning to help you wash and get to breakfast, sets

I, who had never spent a single night in a hospital, was recently an in-patient for twenty days.

the tone for your day. It wasn't the doctor or nurse who saved me after my first miserably nauseous and discouraged sleepless night. It was Gurlene, the smiling Jamaican mother of four, a nurse's aide studying to become a

nurse, with her swinging hips, reggae rhythms and laughing voice. She scrubbed my back, tied my shoes, changed my mood, and saved my day.

Can something so simple as a friendly positive face really have anything to do with healing? It does. The Jews knew it way back in those Middle Ages. Let's look at the "Mi Shebayrach" prayer, which has its roots in those "dark" times and whose principles are now recognized and embraced by

more and more 21st century physicians. They call it a "new" kind of medicine. Its name is "Integrative." It has also been called "Holistic."

"Mi Shebeyrach" takes its name from the first two words of the healing prayer we recite in every service before the *Aleinu* on Erev Shabbat and in the middle of the Torah reading on Shabbat morning. The words mean (and call upon) "the One who Blessed." The prayer calls on the Creator, the One who blessed our ancestors, to overflow with compassion and to restore the ailing loved ones for whom we pray – to heal, strengthen, and enliven them, to send healing without delay.

But for what kind of healing do we ask? "Refuah shleimah" is what we want. We don't ask just that the suffering person recover from his or her illness. We ask *complete* healing, wholeness – not just a healing of the body, but a healing of the soul as well – a recognition that body, mind, and spirit are

We ask complete healing... wholeness... not just a healing of the body, but of the soul as well. interrelated and inextricable. *Refuah shleimah* advocates for the whole person.

The Jewish concept of wholeness, or "shleimut," understands that physical illness can

have psychological and spiritual effects as well as causes. Our ancestors knew the connection, and that there could be no real healing without addressing both. Marjorie Sokoll, Director of Greater Boston's "Jewish Healing Connections," talks about the distinction that Judaism makes between "cure" and "healing," tracing it back to Biblical times:

"When Jacob struggled with the angel, he was left with a limp, but it says in the Torah that he was still *schleim*, whole," says Sokoll. "That's the difference between curing and healing -the focus of Jewish healing is that we can't always expect a cure, but we *can* hope to be made whole."

Just as important, we ask this complete healing not solely for our own loved ones or those who are Jewish. We include in our prayer "the ill of all mankind." We are doing *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, praying for balance – one imbalanced human being at a time. Then we all say *amen*. ("So may it be.") The prayer works both vertically and horizontally: the words reach deep into our past, traveling through time to our historical origins as a tribal family. They call on and acknowledge the power of the God with whom we've made a covenant; then they reach out through space, geographically embracing all who are suffering at this moment in time.

Gone are the days (one hopes) when a doctor could blithely refer to one patient as "the elbow," another as "the spleen." (I would have been "the hip.") There is increasing understanding and scientific documentation that attitude plays a part in healing, that positive affirmations and visualizations can both speed and intensify the process of healing, that prayers, even from strangers, even in double blind studies, show distinct positive results.

Kindness in care and recognition of each human being's worth engages the patient as an active partner in his or her healing, not just as the passive receiver of medicine and medical procedures.

We engage as a congregation in other forms of healing too. I, and every other person who has received a Rene Rose KJCC flower arrangement, fruit basket or lovely card appreciates the feeling of warmth and expansion that comes with knowing we are cared for by our community. As a group and as individuals we encourage visiting the sick (imagine my surprise seeing Jane Friedman

walk into my room two days after the operation).

Whether it comes in the form of a smiling visitor, a vase of flowers, or a prayer uttered in community, every act of lovingkindness is medicine. There is scientific documentation that attitude plays a part in healing.

Remember our *Erev Shabbat* song "Al Shloshah Divarim?" The whole world, it asserts, stands on three things: on Torah, on work, and acts of kindness. We don't have to be doctors to help heal each other. Each kind word and gesture creates ripples. Laughter creates waves. I saw it. I felt it. I passed it on. As all our East European *bubbies* and *zaydehs* would say: "Zai Gesundt." \diamond

Joshua's Bar Mitzvah

It Really Does Take a Village (or Shul)...

by Gloria Avner

here are people in our shul who remember Paul and Barbara Bernstein standing on the *bimah* 13 years ago, holding their brand new baby boy, Joshua. We may not often have a Rabbi or Cantor to commemorate such special events, but we make the ritual mitzvahs in our own way, "haimishely." In fact, "warm," "loving," and "haimische" finished in a three-way tie for the word used most often by out-of-town quests.

friends, and family celebrating Joshua's being called to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah on November 5th, 2011.

The fabric of the Bernstein family and the KJCC is intricately woven. Barbara was prepared for her adult Bat Mitzvah by one of our finest teachers, Michal Kamely. For the last

seven years Joshua has been a student of the KJCC Religious School, taught by Yardena Kamely, Michal's daughter. As Joshua's other teacher for these last years, I had the privilege of teaching Ioshua to read Torah Trope and see him blossom from quiet, bright, slightly hesitant student to poised service leader

Saturday, November 5, 2011. The KJCC sanctuary was nearly full. Two of KJCC's most learned members, Dave Feder and Bernie Ginsberg, were there as surrogate rabbis. But it was Joshua's day.





with a well projected voice, a skilled Torah chanter, and sincere newest member of our community, not just equipped to help make a *minyan*, but willing and eager to partici-



reality of what we say about ourselves every Friday night. We are indeed a "*mishpacha*." Joshua is one of our children, and each of us who has watched this



pate in all of our most important activities. With Dave Feder, Bernie Ginsberg, Susan Gordon, Lauren Sax, and Alan Beth all on the *bimah* to lend





a hand, there was enough *kvelling, nachas*, and

choked-up, teary voices to warrant the





student grow into a fine young man is very proud of him and joyous for his parents. *Mazel Tov* to the Bernsteins from their "village." ◊



ur Bar Mitzvah experience encompasses years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds, right up to the







moment that we spoke Shabbat Shalom to our families, friends and KJCC mishpocha. To use Joshua's word for the day, and we all concur, the experience was and

is...*epic*! There was an ambiance of endearment throughout the congregation. The guests were few. Family and friends were abundant, and the energy

that was exuded by all

was similar to a tallit made of love that wrapped around us. Nothing could have prepared us for the joy-filled flow of tears and kisses that prayed for a promise of a bright future for our son. On that Sabbath day

of November 5, 2011, our family roots pushed deeper into the soil we call home.

We want to thank everyone involved with orchestrating that monumental experience. \diamond

--The Bernsteins, PB&J



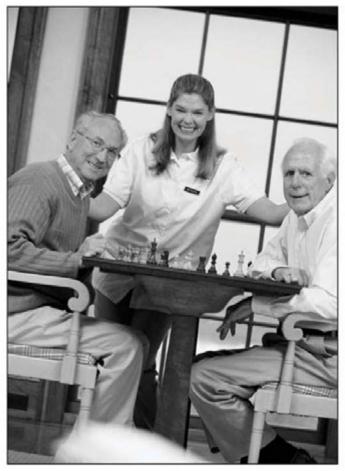




Our great thanks to Barbara and Richard Knowles, who took all the Bar Mitzvah photos and were willing to share these with Chai-Lights. If you'd like to see the rest of their photos, go to their web site, BarbaraKnowles.com, where they've established a link to the entire Joshua Bar Mitzvah album.

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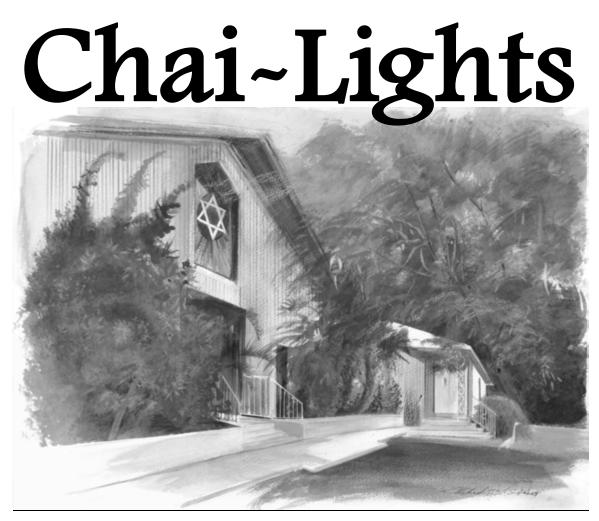
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February 2012

8 Shevat - 6 Adar 5772

Photo Gallery - page 19 Gloria on Lemon Trees and Tu B'Shevat - page 31 George & Muriel Swartz in Israel - page 33

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

February 2012

8 Shevat - 6 Adar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Names denote leaders of Friday services.
Italicized names are Oneg sponsors. Services
are conducted every Friday. | | 1
Men's Club
Game Night
7:00 p.m. | 2 | 3 Medina Roy
&
Gloria Avner
Steve & Barbara
Smith
Erica Lieberman-
Garrett | 4 | |
| 5 KJCC
Sisterhood
Meeting
9:30 a.m.
Yardena's Final
Jerusalem
Lecture
7:00 p.m. | 6 | 7
Alan Beth's
computer
classes
resume
6:30 p.m. | 8
Tu
B'Shevat | 9 | 10 Stuart Sax
&
Gloria Avner
Joel & Linda
Pollack (who will
also re-marry on
their 50th anniv.) | 11
Torah
Learning
w/ Rabbi
Agler
10:00 a.m. |
| 12
KJCC Board
Meeting
9:00 a.m.
KJCC Annual
Meeting
11:00 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17
Alan Beth
Susan Ellner | 18 |
| 19
Dinner at
5:00, then
"Going
Home," a
journey to
Romania w/
Steve Smith. | 20 | 21
Part II of
Digital Pho-
tography w/
Barbara &
Richard
Knowles
6:30 p.m. | 22 | 23 | 24
Steve Steinbock
&
Yardena Kamely
6:30 Service
Jim & Rita
Williams | 25
Chai-Yaking
w/ Dave
Mont
1:00 p.m. |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |

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Lisa Richardson Rutherford Editor

CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message

I'll get right to the point.

Money. We have spent a lot of it recently and we need

more of it. Even the small

Some repairs are planned;

others grab us by surprise.

So what do we do about it?

curred. Right? Wrong!! Not

The Budget Committee

met recently and after hours

of "what ifs?" we arrived at a

budget for the coming fiscal

year that we hope will allow

us to continue to provide a

for our continued arowth

without having to raise our

dues. It can be done with a

little extra effort on the part

of each member of this con-

many events as possible.

able fees. Like our game

nights and movie nights.

gregation. Like supporting as

Many have extremely reason-

Where one can enjoy an eve-

view a new or classic film for

most of our Shabbat dinners

ning of fun with friends or

less than five dollars. And

and Adult Education offer-

ings cost less than meal at

Burger King and the food is

way better! And not even

Bloom's coffee!!

Starbucks can match Marc

there will be additional op-

cause each of us to do a bit

of introspection to determine

tions for giving that will

In the coming months,

safe and secure environment

Simple. We raise dues to

match the expenses in-

on my watch.

repairs add up to big dollars.

Stuart Sax



just how important the future of this congregation is to every member. If giving up the cost of one trip to a restaurant each month could insure that all of our expenses are covered, isn't that meaningful and attainable? Remember the days of congregations with mandatory building fees? We do not have them and, hopefully, never will. Steve Hartz is chairing a committee to look into long range planning and capital growth but we all know that money is the foundation of any programs that we plan. Remembering yahrtzeits and family mitzvahs with a donation to the KICC is another way to help us grow. Sponsoring onegs and purchasing Tree of Life leaves. Meditation Garden bricks and benches, and book plates for our prayer books are additional ways to show your love and help our bottom line at the same time.

Another way to contribute and get a great return on your investment is to support the fundraising efforts of our Sisterhood. They have a solid track record of making things happen. Their major fundraiser in March should be on everyone's bucket list as should the women's and the family seders in April. Give a little. You'll get a lot in return. \Diamond

Nosh

Rabbi Agler and Torah Learning Feb. 11

Rabbi Richard Agler will be back at KICC on Saturday morning, February 11th, to offer another in his series of Torah Learning Sessions, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (The Torah portion that week will be Yitro, Hebrew for Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses. This is the Torah portion where God speaks - audibly - to the entire Hebrew nation encamped at the base of Mt. Sinai as they await the gift of the Ten Commandments and Torah. Rabbi Agler finds nuggets and fascinating elements in the driest of Torah portions. Imagine what he'll do with one so naturally filled with drama.) As usual, the morning will begin with a short service, to be followed by the discussion. And though led and guided by the Rabbi, it is indeed a discussion, an exploration of the Torah's ideas, non-dogmatic and open and often riveting. If you haven't joined in before, this would be the perfect time.

Alan's Computer Classes to Resume

On Tuesday evening, February 7th at 6:30, Alan Beth will resume his computer classes at KJCC. If you attended Alan's classes last spring, you know what a unique and rich source of both practical and insider information he is. (For those of you who don't know, Alan designed the brilliant KJCC database, which we're trying to get him to market to the outside world.) Previous classes have covered operating systems, security and understanding how to procure and use programs for computers, tablets and smart phones. Classes are intended to be on the first Tuesday of the month, at least for several months. Bring your problems (computer-related only, please) and your how-to questions.

Medina's Mother the Late Bloomer

Everyone loves a sweet story. Well, here's one. Medina Roy's mother Bianka, who's 96, recently moved to the Jewish Home in Miami. (The

TREE OF LIFE

Jim & Joan Boruszak

in honor of

Joel & Linda Pollack's 50th Anniversary

independent living wing, mind you.) As you know, such places always have lots of activities, including crafts. One of those crafts was conceiving and drawing/painting greeting cards. She'd never pursued anything artistic in her life, but the resulting cards were so beautiful that they're now being offered for sale in the KJCC Gift Shop. They really are charming. Come and take a look.

Yardena's Jerusalem Lecture Re-scheduled

Originally scheduled for January 29th, the final installment of Yardena's lecture series on the history of Jerusalem will take place Sunday, February 5th at KJCC beginning at 7:00 p.m. Part IV of this fascinating series will focus on Muslim Jerusalem under the sovereignty of the Mamelukes and Ottoman Turks beginning about 1,200 years ago. She will conclude with an overview of the problems facing Jewish Jerusalem today. (It was a restoration that took almost 2,000 years; you expected things would suddenly get easy?)

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to Jerri and Ken Grossman and their family on the death of Jerri's mother, Iris Jackson.

February Birthdays

| 2nd | | Evan Grossman
Roy Pollack |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 3rd.Caeleigh Stuart3rd.Dick Bromwich5th.Rebecca Smith Strasser5th.Robin Kantor6th.Martin Field7th.Erica Lieberman-Garrett7th.Larry Jacobs9th.Deborah Kaplan9th.Deborah Kaplan9th.Shirley Burnett10th.Shirley Burnett12th.Johnny Knowles12th.Johnny Knowles12th.Jerrold Benowitz14th.Debbie Madnick14th.Steven B. Sanders15th.Judith Weber18th.Beth Hayden21st.David J. Marmar22nd.Harry J.C. Friedman24th.Suzie Greenman25th.Rita Conklin26th.John D. Schur27th.Betsy Grossman | | |
| 3rd.Dick Bromwich5th.Rebecca Smith Strasser5th.Robin Kantor6th.Martin Field7th.Erica Lieberman-Garrett7th.Larry Jacobs9th.Deborah Kaplan9th.Linda Pincus9th.Shirley Burnett10th.Shirley Burnett12th.Johnny Knowles12th.Johnny Knowles13th.Jerrold Benowitz14th.Debbie Madnick14th.Steven B. Sanders15th.Judith Weber18th.Beth Hayden21st.David J. Marmar22nd.Harry J.C. Friedman24th.Suzie Greenman25th.Rita Conklin26th.John D. Schur27th.Betsy Grossman | | |
| 5th | | 0 |
| 5th | | |
| 6th | | |
| 7thErica Lieberman-Garrett7thLarry Jacobs9thDeborah Kaplan9thDeborah Kaplan9thRon Garrett10thShirley Burnett12thJohnny Knowles12thJohnny Knowles12th | | |
| 9th | | |
| 9th | 7th | Larry Jacobs |
| 9th | | |
| 10thShirley Burnett12thJohnny Knowles12thJohnny Knowles12thJerrold Benowitz14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick21stDavid J. Marmar22ndDavid J. Marmar22ndDavid J. Marmar22ndDavid J. Marmar24thDavid J. Marmar24thDavid J. Marmar24thDavid J. Marmar24thDavid J. Marmar25th | 9th | Linda Pincus |
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| 12thPaul Roberts13thJerrold Benowitz14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick15thDavid J. Marmar21ndDavid J. Marmar22ndDavid J. Marmar22ndDavid J. Marmar24thDavid J. Marmar24thDavid J. Marmar24thDavid J. Marmar24thDavid J. Marmar25thDavid J. Marmar25thDavid J. Marmar26thDavid J. Marmar25thDavid J. Marmar26th | 10th | Shirley Burnett |
| 13thJerrold Benowitz14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thJudith Weber18thJudith Weber18thDavid J. Marmar21stDavid J. Marmar22ndHarry J.C. Friedman24thEmily Caryn Gershowitz24thSuzie Greenman25thRita Conklin26thJohn D. Schur27thBetsy Grossman | l 2th | Johnny Knowles |
| 14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thDebbie Madnick14thSteven B. Sanders15thJudith Weber18thBeth Hayden21stDavid J. Marmar22ndHarry J.C. Friedman24thEmily Caryn Gershowitz24thSuzie Greenman25thRita Conklin26thJohn D. Schur27thBetsy Grossman | l 2th | Paul Roberts |
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| I 5thJudith Weber18thBeth Hayden21stDavid J. Marmar22ndHarry J.C. Friedman24thEmily Caryn Gershowitz24thSuzie Greenman25thRita Conklin26thJim Williams26thJohn D. Schur27thBetsy Grossman | l 4th | Debbie Madnick |
| 18th | l 4th | Steven B. Sanders |
| 21 st.David J. Marmar22nd.Harry J.C. Friedman24th.Emily Caryn Gershowitz24th.Muriel Swartz24th.Suzie Greenman25th.Rita Conklin26th.Jim Williams26th.John D. Schur27th.Betsy Grossman | l 5th | Judith Weber |
| 22ndHarry J.C. Friedman24thEmily Caryn Gershowitz24thMuriel Swartz24thSuzie Greenman25thRita Conklin26thJim Williams26thJohn D. Schur27thBetsy Grossman | l 8th | Beth Hayden |
| 24thEmily Caryn Gershowitz24thMuriel Swartz24thSuzie Greenman25thRita Conklin26thJim Williams26thJohn D. Schur27thBetsy Grossman | | |
| 24th | 22nd | Harry J.C. Friedman |
| 24thSuzie Greenman
25thRita Conklin
26thJim Williams
26thJohn D. Schur
27thBetsy Grossman | | |
| 25thRita Conklin
26thJim Williams
26thJohn D. Schur
27thBetsy Grossman | | |
| 26thJim Williams
26thJohn D. Schur
27thBetsy Grossman | 24th | Suzie Greenman |
| 26thJohn D. Schur
27thBetsy Grossman | 25th | Rita Conklin |
| 27thBetsy Grossman | 26th | Jim Williams |
| , | 26th | John D. Schur |
| 28thArlene Line | 27th | Betsy Grossman |
| | 28th | Arlene Line |

Her Daughter the Lawyer

Stuart—

The most amazing and wonderful thing happened on the 19th of January. Our daughter Sabrina Rachel Gillespie was sworn into the New York State Bar and is now officially known as Sabrina R. Gillespie, Esq. There is no prouder mother on G-d's green Earth. I want to share this wonderful news with my *mishpochal*! I left for California on January 5th and returned to the Keys on January 17th the proud mother of a wonderful young woman who makes my heart go

February Anniversaries

| | Y | ears |
|------|----------------------|------|
| 9th | Uri & Liliam Kamely | 20 |
| llth | Joel & Linda Pollack | 50 |
| 21st | - | |

pitter-pat, as she does all that meet her! Love to Lauren and hope to see you all very soon. —*Miriam*

A Request To Help the Keys' Hungry

I am a member of KJCC, but you probably don't know me because I never attend services. Well, almost never.

Recently, I started helping out at a local food bank, located at the Burton Memorial Methodist Church, almost next door. As far as I know, it's the only food bank in Key Largo. Indeed, people use it from as far as Marathon, so I'm guessing nothing exists further south.

Donations are always needed, for basics such as peanut butter, canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, pasta and tomato sauce, and much more. I was surprised to see how fast things go out the door at the food bank, and how difficult a time they have maintaining supplies. So I'm asking KJCC members to help.

Members could bring their donations to KJCC, and I'd be happy to coordinate and pick the items up. Or you could call me at 852-1183 or e-mail me at smiller52@gmail.com.

-Best Regards, Steven Miller

BOOK PLATE

From Keys Concert Series Committee

in memory of

Gary Kreitman

Steve Smith Shares a Personal Journey

Steve and Barbara Smith took a sentimental journey recently, back to Romania where Steve's family came from. Steve has turned this emotional trip into a PowerPoint presentation he'll be sharing with KJCC, on Sunday, February 19th. A Romanian-themed dinner will begin at 5:00, followed by Steve's presentation. Dinner is \$5 for KJCC members and \$10 for non-members and guests. Please R.S.V.P. by February 10th to Stuart at president@keysjewishcenter.com.

"Lunch and Learn" with Rabbi Agler.

On Sunday, January 29th at 1:00 p.m., Rabbi Agler will give the first of two talks on "How to Lead a Friday Night Service." This will be of special interest not only to anyone who has ever led a service or thinks they might like to try, but to anyone interested in the how and why of what we do together every Erev Shabbat. Anyone who was present at Rabbi Agler's talk on how to prepare and present a "D'var Torah" will tell you that he is an entertaining, insightful and inspiring communicator and teacher. The class will be short, about an hour and a half, and a light, delicious lunch will be served (a second session will be held in March, date to be announced). Come to the schoolroom. You will be glad you did. -Gloria

Religious Leaders Honor Fallen Homeless

On December 21st, three KJCC members participated in the National Homeless Person's Memorial Day Service. We honored eleven people who died this year, many fewer than last year. Names were read aloud and candles lit for each person. David Gitin and I took turns, along with Reverend Kerry Foote from Burton Memorial, reading the names. Reverend Pam Feeser, from the multi-faith group F.O.C.U.S., gave a talk. Father Charles Cannon gave each person a blessing, and Carol Steinbock, David, and I recited the mourner's Kaddish.

-Gloria

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 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.

New Year's Blessing of the Fleet

On January 1st, KJCC President Stuart Sax, Ritual Chair Gloria Avner, and KJCC's neighbor, Reverend Kerry Foote of Burton Memorial Methodist, stood at the top of Whale Harbor Bridge looking out at a long, snaking procession of boats great and small, as far as the eye could see. It was our second ecumenical event in ten days. (Photos of this annual event appear on Page 23 in Photo Gallery — Ed.)

Each boat approached the bridge in turn for its (her?) blessing. The day itself augured well: blue skies, calm seas, painterly skies, and warm breezes. Kerry, Stuart, and I took turns reciting blessings over the boats, their passengers and their worthy endeavors (loved Kerry's "May your wet side stay down and your dry side up"). -Gloria

Rabbi Agler's D'var Torah Class

We were 18 in all, sitting in the schoolroom on the last Thursday evening of 2011. It was a significant number (connoting both blessing and life) and a significant evening. In just over an hour, Rabbi Agler gave us a presentation on how to create an educational, interesting, inspiring, entertaining, and *brief* "D'var Torah." We were all spellbound. He generously prepared a onesheet guide, with all "how-to" elements clearly explained, and included excellent sources useful to the preparer. Write me (geetavner@gmail.com) if you are interested; I will e-mail you a copy of your very own. We will also be posting it on the KJCC web site. -Gloria

Linda & Joel to Get Re-Married

Of all nights, make sure to be at KJCC on Friday, February 10th for the 8:00 service. It will, to say the least, be a special night for Joel & Linda Pollack and everyone who loves them. Yes, they'll be celebrating their 50th anniversary (and yes, cake will be available at the oneg). Most importantly, though, you'll want to be there because they're going to be getting married all over again. For real. Rabbi Agler will be there to conduct the ceremony. For details, please see page 14 of this issue. It would be wonderful if we could truly pack the house that night. And don't forget to bring a hankie.

Memo

To: All KJCC members From: 2012-2013 Nominating Committee Subject: Recommended slate of Officers and Directors for 2012-2013

Following the instructions in the KJCC by-laws, the committee chair was appointed by the KJCC president. The committee was duly constituted when three KJCC members were chosen by the chair. This Nominating Committee has met as instructed and presented its recommendations for the slate below of 2012-2013 Officers and Board to the sitting KJCC Board of Directors, which approved it. The slate next will be formally presented to the general KJCC membership for final approval at the Annual Meeting at 11:00 on Sunday, February 12th. All KJCC members in good standing and present are eligible to vote in this election:

President: Stuart Sax Executive Vice-President: Bernie Ginsberg Vice Presidents: Gloria Avner, Marc Bloom, Susan Gordon Treasurer: Linda Pollack Recording Secretary: Beth Hayden Financial Secretary: Rene Rose Corresponding Secretary: Joyce Peckman Directors: Joan Boruszak, David Gitin, Steve Hartz, Dave Mont, Medina Roy, Gene Silverman, Sam Vinicur

Respectfully submitted, 2012-2013 Nominating Committee: Sam Vinicur (Chair), Alan Beth, Bernie Ginsberg, Steve Steinbock

| KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| BOOKPLAIE | 5 |
| Bookplates are available for our new siddurim. Donation is | \mathcal{D} |
| \$36 per plate. These can be purchased as honorariums or | 11 1 |
| memorials and as gifts. Place your order for one or | |
| several to support this new project. Use this form to send | |
| in your wording with your check. Be a regular presence at | |
| Services by having your message inscribed in our new | |
| prayer books. | |
| In Honor of | |
| for (occasion) | |
| or By | $n \sim$ |
| In Memory of | トノ |
| By | |
| | R |
| We will send a notification card to the honoree or giftee at your request.
Provide mailing information here: | 11/11/100 |
| | 111 |
| Contact Carol Steinbock for further information: |) <i> ' V</i> |
| (305) 852-6152/cac147@gmail.com
Mail to KJCC, PO Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070 | |
| Use back of form for additional information. | |
| | |
| | |

In Memoriam February 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Lou Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

In Memory Of

Ted Nyman

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake

Sunnie Bernstein

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

In Memory Of

Kitty Nyman

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake

In Memory Of

Robert Kinney

By Gerri Emkey

Eve Greenstein

By Barnet & Ellen Coltman

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Elsie Gilderman

By Larry & Stephanie Gilderman

William Feinberg

By Arthur Feinberg

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Charles Gilson

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

In Memory Of

Nicholas Goldenberg

By Mrs. Marty Graham

In Memory Of

Chalom Haviv

By Leo Haviv <><><><><>

In Memory Of

Isaac Jacobson

By Melvin Jacobson

Joseph Gorson

By Janice Gorson

In Memory Of

Robert Greenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

In Memory Of

Fred H. Hermann

By Robert Hermann

In Memory Of

Pinchas Kamely

By Michal Kamely

In Memory Of

Rose Gilson

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

In Memory Of

Samuel Wolfe

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Memory Of

llona Ban

By Franklin & Judy Greenman

In Memory Of

Fannie Phillips

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg

In Memory Of

J. George Cooper

By David & Lois Kaufman

Sn Memoriam _Sfebruary 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Sylvia Kay

In Memory Of

Samuel Marmar

Joseph Krissel

M. Teresa Astray-Caneda

By Teresa Kwalick

By Harvey & Joan Kay By Michael Krissel

In Memory Of

Sara J. Cohen

By Jim & Lynn Nobil

In Memory Of Irene Nobil

By David & Pamela Marmar

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Malka Frank

By Joel & Linda Pollack

William Pollack

By Joel & Linda Pollack

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Amos M. Present

By Marjorie Present

In Memory Of

Irving Sanders

By Steven B. Sanders

In Memory Of

Sara J. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

Minnie Berger

By Mark & Sofy Wasser

In Memory Of

David C. Willner

By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner In Memory Of

By Jim & Lynn Nobil

Ida O. Present

By Marjorie Present

> In Memory Of Al Roller

By Pauline Roller

In Memory Of

Miriam Blinder

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Shirley Horowitz

By Pauline Roller

In Memory Of

John A. Schur

By Lee Schur

In Memory Of

Ann R. Kapulskey

By George & Muriel Swartz

In Memory Of

Morris Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

10 Chai-Lights February 2012

In Memory Of Morris Estrin

By Ralph & Lillian Tallent

Sisterhood Lauren Sax



s I was presiding over our January meet- $\mathbf{\Lambda}$ ing, a song made famous by the Beatles, "Come Together," rang in my ears. There was much discussion over past and future events sponsored (and to be sponsored) by Sisterhood at the meeting, and many sign-up sheets were also being passed around the table. Much of the talk centered around the difficulty in getting KJCC members to respond early to various temple functions as well as recruiting Sisterhood ladies to help on committees. However, by the end of the meeting, our sheets of paper were full of names and helpers that we would be able to count on for our very special upcoming projects. And that's what it's all about.

We all came together for a fun and extremely filling dinner at our last Shabbat Dinner. For the first time, Directory and Chai-Lights advertisers were our guests for dinner. Thanks to a wonderful (and anonymous) donation, there was no charge to members for attending. I know I praise them often, but BIG applause to Erica and her entire crew of ladies for how they handle everything, from set -up to clean up. As I have said before, it is no easy task to clean up after 70-plus people and then quickly get reorganized for the oneg. We all should appreciate the hard work that goes into the planning and the execution of these Shabbat dinners.

As of this writing, big plans are being made for our Chinese New Year Tea. Teresa Kwalick and Kathy Shabathai are "coming together" to orchestrate an unusual and fun afternoon of schmoozing and noshing, strictly for Sisterhood. I will report back in the next issue of Chai-Lights.

Mary Lee Singer and Maryon Gould are "coming together" on our Passover Seder. Look for the promotion in this month's Chai-Lights and "come together" to join us. (April 7th might seem like a long way off, but it's not.) The evening is always a joyous one, with Jim Boruszak and Gloria Avner conducting a magical seder. There is always plenty of food and drink, and even doggie bags available at the end. Seating is limited, so make sure to get your RSVP in ASAP.

"Come together" to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on Sunday, March 18th. Joyce Peckman says there are still a few tickets left. As usual, we will carpool up to Actors Playhouse in Coral Gables. Their plays are always of the highest caliber and should not be missed. Call Joyce right away to reserve your seat.

Joan Kay is calling all Sisterhood ladies to "come together" at her house in Ocean Pointe for a monthly women's discussion group. Topics will be anything and everything— Jewish and non-Jewish. Our first organizational meeting will be Monday, January 30th at 7 p.m. Call or e-mail me if you plan to attend.

Please "come together" to help make our major Sisterhood fundraiser a big hit. By now you should have circled Saturday, March 10th on your calendars and received the mailing. The fabulous Sarge will be onstage live at the KJCC. Sarge is the ultimate entertainer, and it should prove to be not only a hysterically funny evening but also an enjoyable one. At our highest donation level, you get to have dinner with Sarge at a local waterfront restaurant before the show. We will be selling tickets to the public, so hurry and send back your response cards. For questions, contact Nancy Kluger or me.

So "Come Together," as I just need "A Little Help From My Friends." Please "HELP" us with our cause and be a "Hero" as, "United We Stand," we can do just about anything for our KJCC. ◊

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
Keys Concert Series Comm | In Memory of
Gary Kreitman | Knowles, Richard & Barbara | loved ones, past and
present |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| General Fund | In Honor of | Lieberman-Garrett, Erica | family's visit from
Toronto |
| Bitton, Michel & Sylvie Coeu | • | Mahjongettes | KICC |
| Ellner, Susan | | Shabathai, Kathy | loe's birthday |
| Gould, Maryon
Hartz, Steve & Jan | Jim Boruszak's birthday | Gross, David & Patti | Alvin Gross |
| | ou for the warm welcome | Tree of Life | |
| | on our visit | Boruszak, Jim & Joan | oel & Linda Pollack's |
| Kwalick, Teresa | Jim Boruszak's birthday
and anniversary | | 50th anniversary |
| Sachs, Joseph & Susan | Jim Boruszak's birthday | Yartzeit Contributions | In Memory of |
| Singer, Mary Lee | Jim Boruszak's birthday | Cohn, Nancy | David Cohn |
| - , | | Coltman, Barney & Ellen | Robert Coltman |
| General Fund | In Memory of | Emkey, Gerri | Nathan Weisberg |
| Sachs, Joseph & Susan | Alvan Field | Isenberg, Henry & Patricia | Ernest Isenberg |
| | | Olsen, Gerald & Sheila | Betty Weinstein |
| Oneg Fund | In Honor of | Steinberg, Richard & Sheila | Rose Steinberg |
| Boruszak, Joan | Jim's birthday | Steinberg, Richard & Sheila | Sally Sussman |
| Knowles, Richard & Barbara | Moira's and Richard's
birthdays | Taramona, Hermine | Norma Robinson |

How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the treasures that lie between these covers."

Tree of Life Leaves: We have two beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$50 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

Garden Bricks: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. No one ever made tastier blintzes."

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



The Best Jewish Food Books of 2011

The Jewish Daily Forward, commonly referred to as simply The Forward (or, as my grandfather lovingly called it. *The Forverts*) has been chronicling Jewish life since 1897. when it began publication only in Yiddish. The legendary newspaper, now weekly, has come out with its list of the best lewish food books of 2011. Among them are "Inside the Jewish Bakery: Recipes and Memories From the Golden Age of Jewish Baking," by Stanley Ginsberg and Norman Berg; "The Brisket Book: A Love Story With Recipes," by Stephanie Pierson; "Plenty," (a vegetarian cookbook) by Yotam Ottolenghi; and "Craft Beer Bar Mitzvah," a beer memoir by Jeremy Cowan and James Sullivan. Cowan is the founder and owner of He'Brew, believed to be the only American Jewish beer company. For the complete list of books with detailed annotations, go to http://blogs.forward.com/the-iew-andthe-carrot/147917/. (The Forward, 12-15-11)

And He Doesn't Drive on Shabbat

President Obama recently appointed Jacob (Jack) Lew as White House Chief of Staff. Lew is the first Orthodox Jew to hold this position. He lives an observant lewish lifestyle, eats kosher, does not drive on Shabbat and is a member of an Orthodox synagogue in Potomac, Maryland. He has close ties to the lewish community and is a staunch supporter of Israel. Under President Clinton, Lew was an adviser on domestic issues, including health care reform, and then moved on to head the Office of Management and Budget, a Cabinet-level position, where he was credited with helping balance the budget after years of deficits and at the end of the Clinton presidency providing the country with a large budgetary surplus. Rahm Emanuel, Obama's first Chief of Staff and now mayor of Chicago, and David Axelrod, former Obama

Senior Adviser who now heads Obama's reelection campaign, are also both Jewish, but neither are Orthodox. (*The Forward*, 1-9-12)

"Hidden Jews" Can Find Their Roots

Beginning over 500 years ago, during the Spanish Inguisition and the expulsion from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella. lews who wished to remain Jews dispersed across the globe. Those who stayed either had to convert or skillfully develop ways to hide their true identities. The latter group - no one really knows how numerous - are known as Anusim. (the Hebrew word meaning "forced"). or more commonly *Marranos* (Spanish for "swine," incidentally), Conversos and crypto-Jews. The descendants of these "Hidden Jews" now have access to a new online database. *NameYourRoots.com*, which allows anyone who suspects they might somehow have roots in Judaism to find out, or at least try. Launched at the end of December. the website has an extensive database of Sephardic Jewish names; individuals can begin their search by looking up the origins of their surname. Sylvie Sontag, the person responsible for the website's content, said that there is little documentation from the time of the Spanish Inguisition and that the major government decrees forcing Jews and Muslims to convert to Christianity or leave the country happened in 1492 and 1501. Jews who left the region from Iberia not only hid their identities, but also were deeply fearful of being exposed; that fear started during the Inguisition, but it eventually became culturally ingrained and was passed down for generations. They also often changed their names.

The website is provided free of charge in English, Spanish and Portuguese. It relies on sources gathered from museums, Spanish communal archives, geographical locations where people with Spanish Jewish names were registered, and Jewish names found in cemeteries and cities. According to Sontag, the number of descendants of the *Anusim* who are returning to their Jewish roots is steadily growing in places such as South America, Spain, Portugal and, interestingly, the southwestern United States. (Jerusalem Post, 12-28-11)

And the Winner is...

In a poll sponsored by American Airlines and Gaycities.com, Tel Aviv has come in as the Best Gay City of 2011, winning 43 percent of the votes, followed by New York City (14 percent) and Toronto (7 percent). "Winning this competition constitutes an additional strengthening of the fact that Tel Aviv-Jaffa is a city that respects all people and allows everyone to live according to his/her own principles," Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai said. More than 5,000 gay tourists visited Tel Aviv this past June for its annual pride parade. (www.jta.org, 1-11-12)

And He Still Makes House Calls

Dr. Fred Goldman, an internist who celebrated his 100th birthday in December, is the oldest licensed physician practicing medicine in Ohio. He works three days a week, seeing twelve patients a day, at the "dump." That's what he calls his non-computerized office. He also makes house calls. "Hell, when I became a doctor in 1935," Goldman said, "Freud was still seeing patients." During World War II, he enlisted in the Navy and recalls celebrating Passover while in the service. "The Navy sent a rabbi ashore to celebrate Passover with wine," he said. "Suddenly, everyone around me was lewish." Goldman's world-famous older brother Leon, who died in 1997 at the age of 91, founded the University of Cincinnati's dermatology department and was the father of laser surgery. Fred Goldman has survived major heart surgery and prostate cancer as well as having outlived most of his patients. He lost his wife of 60 years in 1998. He stopped hiking in the wilds of Alaska ("the place I love") in 2007. When he was asked

how it felt to be 100, he said, "Most people my age can't feel anything. They're dead." (*The Associated Press, 12-18-11*)

Reclaiming Names in France

At the end of November, French citizens who wanted to return to their former lewish surnames were triumphant when they received permission from the country's Justice Ministry. "Until now we could not go back to our old names," said Celine Masson, one of the leaders of La Force du Nom, an organization that successfully lobbied the government to have the law changed. For centuries, having a Jewish surname meant possible exposure to anti-Semitism, which is one reason why in France - and many other parts of the world - a long list of Jewish personalities from Leon Trotsky (Lev Davidovich Bronshtein) to Lenny Bruce (Leonard Alfred Schneider), have adopted other names. "Many wanted to forget and not have their children go through what they did. But now many people are claiming back their identity," Masson said. (lerusalem Post. 12-2-11)

I'm En Route: A Pastrami on Rye, Please

Millions of GPS (global positioning system) devices are sold each year with pre-installed points of interest (POI). Most also allow the user to install custom POIs. Now, for eighteen dollars a year, you can subscribe to *KosherRestaurantsGPS.com*, a database containing over 1,000 kosher restaurants that will give you addresses, phone numbers and directions while you are traveling in the United States and Canada. The database also contains 2,000 locations where you can find an Orthodox *minyan*, a list of *mikvahs* and even *Tfillot Haderech* (prayers for the traveler). Free monthly updates come with a oneyear subscription.

(www.worldjewishdaily.com, 12-28-11)

World Champion Debaters

Omer and Sela Nevo, Israeli brothers from Tel Aviv University, won the World Universities Debating Championships in the English-As-Second-Language category, held in Manila, Philippines, on January 3rd. More than 3,000 teams from around the world participated in the competition. Six months ago, the brothers won first place at the European championship that was held in Ireland. This is the second time in the past three years that an Israeli team has taken the world championship title. (www.ynetnews.com ,1-3-12)

In Memoriam

• Thomas T. Johnson, the judge who imposed a major setback for Holocaust deniers. has died at the age of 88. Johnson, a World War II veteran, made history in 1981 when as a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge he ruled that the Holocaust was "a fact and not reasonably subject to dispute." Johnson's ruling was in the case of Mel Mermelstein, a survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald who had sued the Institute of Historical Research based in Torrance, California. In 1980, the "institute," which labels the Holocaust a myth, had offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone who could prove that Jews were gassed at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Mermelstein submitted a notarized account describing how he saw Nazi guards take his mother and two sisters to the Birkenau gas chamber. When the institute reneged on the payment, Mermelstein sued for \$17 million. Judge Johnson applied the Doctrine of Judicial Notice, which allows courts to recognize as fact information that is common knowledge. Mermelstein ultimately won a settlement of \$90,000 and was issued a formal apology from the "institute." The trial was dramatized in 1991 in the TV movie "Never Forget," with Leonard Nimoy portraying Mermelstein. "By Bread Alone," is Mermelstein's autobiography. He is now 85. (www.jta.org, 1-1-12)

• Jerzy Kluger, a Polish-born Jew who was a life-long friend of the late Pope John Paul II (born Karol Wojtyla), has died. He was 92. Both the future Pope and Kluger were born in the southern Polish town of Wadowice and were boyhood playmates, friends from the first grade through high school. Kluger is credited with having had a major influence on the pope's relations with Jews. The two lost track of each other at the outbreak of World War II in 1939 with the German invasion of Poland. They did not see each other again until 1965; until that reunion, each presumed the other had died in the war. During the war, Kluger, along with his father, was arrested by the Russians and sent to a gulag in Siberia. In 1978, when Wojtyla became the first non-Italian pope in 455 years, their friendship reconnected and lasted right up to the time of the pope's death in 2005. Kluger was present in Rome's synagogue when the pope made his historic visit there in 1986, calling the Jews, "our beloved elder brothers." (www.uk.reuters.com .1-2-12)

 Vaclav Havel. Czechoslovakia's dissident playwright and human rights champion who became his country's first democratically elected president, has died at the age of 75. Havel, who repeatedly denounced anti-Semitism, helped lead Prague's 1989 "Velvet Revolution," a period of six weeks which resulted in the peaceful overthrow of the Czechoslovak communist regime, ending four decades of repression. In Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe, Havel had long been viewed as a hero in the Cold War struggle for democracy. In 1993, he oversaw the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia into two stable democracies, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and was elected president of the Czech Republic, where he served until 2003. Havel demonstrated his commitment to Jewish causes when he made a three-day visit to Israel in 1990, one of his first foreign trips after becoming president, bringing with him 180 Czech lews. In 2010, he was one of the founding members of the Friends of Israel group of international political figures. (www.jta.org,12-19-11) ◊

• Yaffa Yarkoni, known as Israel's "War Singer," who for decades entertained Israeli troops, has died at 86. Yarkoni was drafted into the army at the time of Israel's War for Independence and joined a military band. During her long career, she recorded hundreds of songs and was awarded the Israel Prize for her contributions to Hebrew music. In 2002, Yarkoni criticized the Israeli military for its treatment of the Palestinians. Her actions led to the cancellation of a tribute event to her career. (www.jta.org, 1-1-12) < Beshert - a Viddish word meaning inevitable, preordained, destiny, fate, it was meant to be, soulmate. It is difficult to explain how, after knowing each other for eight weeks, that 50 years later we are still best friends and soulmates.

It was 50 years ago, while the northeast and most of the country was mired in freezing snowy weather that two almost strangers became husband and wife in sunny Miami. As with most families and especially newlyweds, we have had our share of good and bad times, laughter and tears, sickness and health, and disappointments and triumphs. Although 50 years have gone by we are still the best of friends and soulmates - Beshert.

Occasion: 50th Anniversary, Joel & Linda Pollack

Place: Keys Jewish Community Center,

Date: Friday, February 10th, 2012

Time: 8:00 pm

We will be renewing our wedding vows during the course of the regular Friday night service. Services will be led by Stuart and Gloria, and Rabbi Agler will perform the ceremony. Afterward we will celebrate during the oneg shabbat with champagne and anniversary cake.

We hope you will be able to join us on this happy occasion.



Jewish Key West

by Lee Schur

The next time I visit Key West I will be more observant, in more ways than one. I knew about and had visited many Israeli-owned clothing, jewelry and souvenir stores on Duval Street. (I confess that I really hadn't noticed the mezuzahs affixed to the doorposts of their businesses.)

What I did not know was that Jews have had a presence and history on the island for some 127 years. If you visit the historic Old

Town, you will find streets with names such as Appelrouth Lane, Aronowitz Lane, Seidenberg Avenue, Ellsberg Court, Pearlman Court and Wolfson Lane, A famous home - with a mezuzah - that I have visited is the Curry Mansion Inn at 511 Caroline Street. It's currently owned by the Amsterdam familv. who have had a presence on the island for four decades.

Another famous

landmark is the Audubon House, which was facing destruction before being rescued by the Mitchell Wolfson family in 1958. That family has fascinating and substantial roots in Key West, and a long history. Many lews initially came to Key West via shipwrecks. Such was the case with young Romanian immigrant Joe Wolfson, in 1884. His ship went down, he looked around and saw the beauty of the island, and decided to stay. Three vears later, young loe, along with Abraham Wolkowsky and Mendell Rippa, organized Rodef Shalom, a congregation "for all Hebrews who believe in and subscribe tothe doctrines of the Hebrew religion." Today, at 750 United Street, sits congregation B'nai

Zion, founded exactly one hundred years ago. It has survived a merger and an arson attack and rebuilding in 2002. On my next visit to Key West I will try to visit the re-built synagogue, with an Ark designed by famed architect Morris Lapidus (who virtually defined 1950s Miami Beach, designing many hotels along Collins Avenue, most importantly the Eden Roc and Fontainebleau.)

Early Key West Jews had strong business

and personal connections with Cubans, only 90 miles away across the Florida Straits. Cigar connoisseurs still covet Cuban cigars, but prior to 1900 the tobacco industry included many Jewish cigar manufacturers. such as the Rippa. Julius Ellinger and Samuel Seidenberg families. who all used Cuban tobacco

Isadore Appelrouth was a passenger on Henry Flagler's

first train to reach Key West from Miami, on January 22, 1912. He later opened a shoe store, after purchasing Louis Wolfson's store of fashion on Duval Street.

A trip to Key West always includes a visit to Mallory Square for the sunset celebration. I was not aware that the Wolfson family had restored the waterfront area. Personally, I have long been interested in Pier House, which was the first resort in Key West. It was built by David Wolkowsky. Bob and I stayed there when it was first built, and were intrigued with its unique, charming design. Mr. Wolkowsky was very hospitable, and in his antique car personally drove us around the island, to show us the historic landmarks.



The Curry Mansion in Key West.

As you enter, look for the mezuzah.

Hemingway's granddaughter was also staying there, and joined us on this very personal tour. Pier House today, of course, has become a mega-resort, with many additions. Upon returning many years later, we were disappointed to see that it had become just another huge, impersonal resort.

Now, when I re-visit Key West, I'll do so with a very different perspective. I'll be more observant and investigate other Jewish Key West places of interest. I will look for and notice the mezuzahs and visit Jewish historical landmarks. One the side of Fast Buck Freddie's is a sign for the S. H. Kress Dime Store. I do not want to miss Louis Fine's old house at 1125 Duval, which is now the La Te Da Restaurant. I'll look for the little Kosher restaurant at 405 Petronia Street and maybe go to Shorty's Market at 215 Duval Street, which has a Kosher food section. \Diamond





For further information contact Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585 Patti Gross (305) 664-5168

Jewish Apps

It was inevitable. Software design is heavily populated by people with Bar Mitzvah gifts in their past. So after designing apps that make money, they were destined to use their talents to write apps to tickle the fancy of their bubbes. Since we're stealing here, we'll give credit: this piece was written by Sala Levin for Moment Magazine. (You know, the one started by Elie Wiesel, about Jewish ideas and culture.) Download away.

Oy! — Ever wonder when it's okay to toss out an "oy?" The opportunities, it seems, are endless. The Oy! app for iPhones and iPads provides five recorded variations on the go-to favorite for moments when no other expression of dismay will work. Does the situation call for a full-blown "oy Gevalt?" Done. Need a classic "oy vey?" No problem. The app even covers that perennial favorite, "oyyoyyoy."

Jewish Mother — The makers of Jewish Mother have remedied the logistical difficulties of constant maternal accompaniment: In lieu of an actual mother, a virtual version programmed with more than 100 phrases follows users. "Happy Hanukkah, *bubbeleh*," she might say. "Of course, I'd be happier if you had kids." The digi-mom even spouts out different phrases based on gender and marital status.

Gematria Calculator — Gematria, part of Kabbalistic thought, assigns a numerical value to each of the Hebrew alphabet's 22 letters, used to decode deeper meanings in Hebrew words and phrases. For those unable to perform such complex calculations in their heads, the Gematria Calculator determines the numerical values of phrases in Jewish texts, making the trajectory to spiritual reward a little less mathematically onerous.

Jewish Temple Jigsaw — Re-jigger this app's puzzle pieces to form the Holy Temple, known in Hebrew as *Beit HaMikdash*. Those who solve the puzzle are rewarded—the screen flashes: "You built a *Beis Hamikdash!*" Not even King David could say that.

Yiddish Slang Dictionary — The next time you're at a party and someone calls you a *shlemiel* when you spill your soda, whip out

the Yiddish Slang Dictionary on your smartphone for an appropriate retort. Thanks to this app, Yiddish experts and neophytes alike can parse the language's rich rhetorical epithets. The dictionary includes common words (schlep, mensch) along with more obscure bon mots such as tummler and schmutter.

The Amazing Jewish-Fact-a-Day

Calendar — Can you name the play into which Shakespeare slipped some Hebrew? What do you know about the Talmud's seemingly prophetic stance on airplanes? This app winforms users about important historical events that occurred on that date, fascinating religious practices and famous figures. Learn about everything from Louis Armstrong's early job working for a Jewish family to historic disagreements between Hillel and Shammai.

Going Paprikash — Before World War II, as many as 250,000 Jews lived in Budapest, filling the Hungarian capital's 125 synagogues. When they weren't praying, they were cooking up a treasure trove of culinary treats, such as *rakott krumpli* (potato casserole), *paprikas csirke* (chicken paprikas) and *gomboc* (dumplings). Those longing for a taste of Hungary's Jewish heritage can download this app, which features 120 kosher Hungarian recipes and the tales of how they came to be.

Judoku — Thumb-twiddlers on subways and in office meetings can now brush up on their Jewish symbols while passing the time: A new version of the popular logic game Sudoku, usually played with numbers, features images such as the shofar, the Star of David and Hebrew letters. Just make sure to follow the cardinal rule of the game: no more than one menorah in each three-by-three box. \diamond

KJCC Sisterhood presents an unforgettable evening of entertainment starring



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SIDESPLITTING COMEDIAN • PIANO VIRTUOSO

UNCANNY IMPERSONATOR
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SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012 Keys Jewish Community Center

Wine Reception 7:30 p.m. • Show starts 8:30 p.m. General Admission \$60

Additional donation levels are available for this major fundraising event

********** ********************* But Wait! There's More! We Are Also Offering a Fabulous "Island Retreat" Raffle. Tickets are \$10 or 3 for \$25 for a prize package of * Romantic one-night stay for two at the beautiful and tranquil Casa Morada in Islamorada (includes continental breakfast); * His-and-Her massages by licensed massage therapist Sofy Wasser; * Private sunset cruise from Casa Morada by Capt. Robert Werthamer; * Delicious gourmet hors d'oeuvre basket including wine from Bitton Bistro Café, to enjoy while sunset cruising; * Lunch at Cheeca Lodge; * Tote, towels, sunscreen and body lotion from Angelika. Total Value \$900 For further information, please call: Nancy Kluger 305-393-2129 or Lauren Sax 305-753-7623

Photo Gallery



The photo top left is from Yardena Kamely's December 15th lecture in the KJCC classroom, the third in her series about the history of Jerusalem. If you look very carefully, you can see the inset of the Temple Mount complex inside the walls of the Old City, to the right.

> My father, Alex Avner, became a sculptor after he retired, and carved this menorah/chanukiah out of black onyx 28 years ago. It's unbelievably heavy and I always feel a touch silly putting those skinny, traditional Chanukah candles into it. But, bottom line, I love it.

-Gloria

In the photo far left, Lauren Sax holds grandson Liam, who's clearly fascinated by the light emanating from the candles on Chanukah's eighth night. The two photos below were taken during Joyce Peckman's Chanukah visit to son Daniel's house in Denver.

Many of us would be quite content to never again look out our window on Chanukah and see snow. Joyce posed for the photo, but says

she then eschewed the ensuing cascade down the snowy/icy hill.





The photos on this page and the next are all from KJCC's Chanukah Shabbat dinner on December 23rd. Erica Garrett, who manages all of KJCC's dinners for Sisterhood, stands beside her pristine table at right, just micromoments before it was descended upon by ravenous latke-lovers.





Services followed dinner, of course. At left, Gene Silverman and Patti Gross light the candles, ushering in Shabbat. The service was led by Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon, at right.







Membership Chairman Dave Mont, second from right, and Roger Levy are flanked by two guests at the oneg after services,

above. Since it was Chanukah, Erica lit the candles on the KJCC Chanukiah, above right. In the center photo just right, Zoe Moshe stands with new hubby Joshua, both flanked by Joshua's twin daughters, visiting from Toronto.

As you can see from the cake, it was also Steve Smith's birthday. Skilled with any knife, he did the honors, surrounded by wife Barbara and KJCC's matriarch, Pauline Roller.



The photos on this page are all from Steve and Carol Steinbock's annual Christmas Day open house. In the background, above, you can see Carol's amazing cut-glass wall mosaic, which she finished just

in time for the party. Their Labradoodle, Sarah, finally tired of all the goingson, below.





Lauren and Stuart Sax pose with daughter Jorie, above, who flew in from Chicago for a quick holiday visit. In the photo below, Stove sits with Sarah and

Steve sits with Sarah and their new Cockapoo







puppy, Rebecca. (And, yes, they've already been told, more than once, that they now need to get two more dogs and name them Rachel and Leah.)





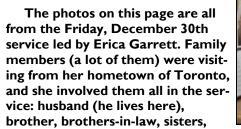
The three photos at top are from Rabbi Richard Agler's December 29th class on how to give an interesting and organized D'var Torah.

The bottom photos are from New Year's Day's annual Blessing of the Fleet. Blessers were in short supply this year, limited to our Gloria and Rev. Kerry Foote of Burton Memorial, shown below between Stuart and Gloria. But the blessees still came. The catamaran at right carries all four Steinbocks, two peeps and two pooches. (Our thanks to David Gitin for the photos.)



Above, Linda and Joel Pollack were among those who

turned out for the January 8th ceremony unveiling the new mural commemorating the centennial of Henry Flagler's railroad expansion into the Keys. The first train reached Key West on January 12, 1912. The mural measures almost twelve feet high and sixty feet long. It's near MM95 in Key Largo.



sister-in-law, nieces and nephews. All the women join in lighting the Shabbat candles, top left. Everyone was brought to the bemah for a reading, some twice. It was an evening that will be fondly remembered by all who were there. There was warmth, and laughter, and a thoughtful, reflective service. It was very KJCC.



26 Chai-Lights February 2012





There was a sale on at Ikea, so Candy and Alan (well, not exactly



Alan) decided to completely re-do the kitchen at their house in Sun City, near Tampa. First, of course, they had to rip out the old kitchen. You can see at right how the new kitchen came: not assembled or installed but in boxes. That's a level

Alan is holding, by the way, not a musket. The patient Golden you see at top is named Mason. (These are "before" pictures; "after" photos to come next month.)



January saw several talks and lectures by



members at KJCC. In addition to Yardena, on Sunday, January 8th, Judy Weber spoke to our Sunday School students about her children's novel "Seeking Safety," based on the true story of European Jews being

brought to an abandoned Army base in upstate New York during World War II. The following week, January 15th, Shirley Stein, below, regaled us with a PowerPoint presentation on the life and exploits of the indomitable Golda Meir.



Undercover...

In November 2947, Meir nur seith the king at a privare kome sekore Abdulish second Meir that hi country would use join the axack. Soon after the partition was approved, Abdulia

Soom agure the poststant near agreema, consume decided bate they would give the Arabs nears in engening the near state. Meter made a tocond server atomyr to dicestude him. Diopatend as on Arab persons roomats the journeeped to Aroman, Abdullah stal he could hock out of the alliance with alter Arab mattem.



On this page and the next, images from our January 13th Shabbat dinner. Why are we all wearing name tags, you ask? Because, to thank them for their support, we'd invited all our Chai-

Lights and Directory advertisers to join us for dinner, and at the beginning some weren't yet mishpocha.





It's always risky to wait until the end of dinner to take pictures. We wanted to assemble all our non-member advertisers/ guests for a photo, but some had already offered thanks and hugs and left. But we did manage to immortalize most of them, in the larger center photo, just as services were about to begin. (Several actually

stayed for services.) In the photo lower left, Lee Schur stands after dinner with son Paul, daughter Karen, grandson Michael and granddaughter Becky. Winter is always a great

time to visit Grandma Lee's Keys shul. In the photo bottom right, Lauren, Gloria and Susan chant the HaMotzi.











Saturday, April 7, 2012 6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact: Mary Lee Singer 305-240-0061, mizzleez3@yahoo.com or Maryon Gould 305-853-2541. Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116, Tavemier, FL 33070.

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will be opening this to the public after March 15th.



Members: Adults \$50; Children 12 and under are our guests. Non-Members: \$75

-This Month in Jewish History-February

362 – Roman Emperor Julian issues an edict recognizing equal rights for all religions in the Roman Empire. Occasionally referred to unkindly as Julian the Apostate, he effectively undoes the edicts of Constantine making Christianity the official state religion. He brings back old religions of the Empire, including those tied to Hellenism, the spiritual path he himself favors. Julian is sympathetic to the Roman Jews and is prepared to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. Unfortunately, he is murdered by a Christian Arab soldier possibly angered by Julian's decision to deny state support to Christianity.

1095 - Henry IV of Germany issues a charter to the Jews and a decree against forced baptism. He desires to protect the Jews during the Crusades and even permits forcibly baptized Jews to return to Judaism. He does this partly because he views the Jews as valuable property. The Church is not pleased.

1267 - The Old Lutheran Church Synod of Breslau (Polish Wroclaw, the main city of southwestern Polish Silesia) orders the Jews of Silesia to wear special caps.

1413 – The first sitting of a "disputation" begins in which Jews are compelled to listen to the treatise of one Geronimo De Santa, a convert to Christianity, who contends that the Talmud recognizes Jesus as the Messiah. This disputation is ordered by Pope Benedict XIII and will last until November 1414, with a total of 68 sittings.

1451 – Sultan Mehmed II inherits the throne of the Ottoman Empire. He conquers Constantinople in 1453, to the relief of Jews living there under the ruling Byzantine Christians, and renames it Istanbul. Mehmed allows Jews from today's Greek Islands and Crete to settle there. He invites Ashkenazi Jews of Transylvania and Slovakia to settle in the Ottoman Empire. He orders synagogues damaged by fire repaired. He employs at least five Jewish doctors as palace physicians. His declaration inviting the Jews reads: "Listen sons of the Hebrew who live in my country...May all of you who desire come to Constantinople and may the rest of your people find here a shelter".

1624 – Elias Legardo (or LeGarde), a 38-year-old French Jew, in Virginia since 1621 via the ship Abigail after being hired by a British company to plant a vineyard in the New World "and make it prosper," appears on a census of the city of Jamestown in Virginia. Two years later he will marry Rebecca Isaake, the only known Jewish woman in Virginia. (The first Jew on record in North America is Joachim Gaunse, a Bohemian metallurgist and mining engineer recruited by Sir Walter Raleigh to join North Carolina's Roanoke Island Colony in 1585, known to history as the "Lost Colony.")

1697 - In Great Britain, a site is acquired for the first Ashkenazi cemetery.

1738 – Heidelberg-born Joseph Süß Oppenheimer, a noted banker and court Jew, is hanged in Stuttgart. Falsely accused of a variety of crimes, he "confesses" after being tortured. Even facing death by hanging, he refuses to convert to Christianity. Hanging inside a human -size cage, surrounded by a huge crowd of spectators, his last words are *Shema Yisrael*. His name becomes part of an enduring anti-Semitic epithet – Jew Süss – and in 1938 he becomes the subject of the most successful anti-Semitic film of all time, made by Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels.

1749 – Sicily invites Jews to return to the island, ending a three-hundred-year ban. They hope that the Jews will restore trade to the island and improve its diminished economic conditions. In the same month, Pope Benedict XIV issues a papal bull, "Singulari Nobis Consoldtioni," that prohibits marriage between Jews and Christians.

1854 - Henry Ward Beecher (the father of Harriet Beecher Stowe) publishes a nowfamous article titled "American Slavery." He draws a distinction between slavery as practiced among Biblical Jews and the version existing in southern American states. "Hebrew slavery admitted that a slave was a man with all appropriate human responsibilities and made ample provision for his civil and religious instruction. American slavery stands upon the fundamental idea that a slave is chattel, not a man; and it makes teaching him to read a penitentiary offense." Slavery advocates of the time regularly cite the Bible as one of their defenses for that "peculiar institution," arguing that since slavery is accepted in the Bible it should be acceptable in their time. Beecher, a Christian minister, is among those who publicly expose the comparison as invalid.

1859 - *The Codex Sinaiticus* is discovered in Egypt. It becomes one of several seminal ancient texts found by the emerging science of archaeology - including the Rosetta Stone, the Cairo Genizah and the Dead Sea Scrolls that greatly advance knowledge of ancient civilizations. The earliest extant version of the Christian Bible, handwritten over 1600 years ago in Greek, the *Codex* gives all scholars, Jews included, many clues about life and practices in ancient Israel.

1875 - Violinist and composer Fritz Kreisler is born. Stories differ as to whether Kreisler is lewish. Kreisler himself saving nothing and his wife adamant that the answer is no. In a 1992 interview Franz Rupp, Kreisler's piano accompanist in the 1930s, quotes Kreisler's brother, the cellist Hugo Kreisler, as saying, "I'm a Jew, but my brother, I don't know." Some reports imply that Fritz Kreisler downplays his Judaism to placate his anti-Semitic Christian wife. According to one story, she replies to a question from Leopold Godowsky about Kreisler's Jewishness with a vehement "Fritz hasn't a drop of Jewish blood in his veins!" To which Godowsky retorts: "He must be very anemic."

1890 - Rabbi Zeev Yavet, one founder of the 32 Chai-Lights February 2012 *Misrachi* movement, takes students to plant trees at Zichron Yaakov. The Jewish Teachers Union adopts the custom in 1908. This is the origin of the JNF Tree Planting Drive, now tied to the modern observance of Tu B'Shvat.

1899 - The U.S. Senate ratifies the peace treaty ending the Spanish-American War. Approximately 5,000 Jews serve in the war, with fifteen Jewish crewmen aboard the battleship U.S.S. Maine when it explodes in Havana's harbor in 1898. That same year there are reportedly four thousand requests for furloughs during the Jewish High Holidays. The first trooper signing up to join the soon-to-be-famous Rough Riders is Jewish.

1901 - Yasha Heifetz is born in Russia. A child prodigy, he solos for the first time at the age of four. He dies in 1987, a performer of worldwide acclaim for eighty-two years. Why, a comedian once asks Heifetz, do so many Jews play the violin? Because, the violinist answers, it is a lot easier to carry than the bass fiddle when you are being chased out of a country.

1921 - Physicist and mathematician Ralph Asher Alpher is born. His 1948 PhD dissertation offers the first model for the Big Bang Theory.

1931 – At a meeting held at the 92nd Street Y.M.H.A. "Jewish athletic clubs and youth organizations" announce that the first worldwide Jewish Olympic games will be held in Tel Aviv the following summer. The groups have come together to "organize the first American chapter of the World Maccabee Union."

1943 – Heinrich Himmler receives a carefully prepared, detailed report on the quantity of garments collected from Birkenau. The list includes: 97,000 sets of men's clothing; 76,000 sets of women's clothing; 132,000 men's shirts; 155,000 women's coats; and 3,000 kilograms of women's hair. The hair alone fills an entire railroad car. Children's items include 15,000 overcoats, 11,000 boys' jackets, 9,000 dresses and 22,000 pairs of shoes. The clothing fills 825 freight cars. Included in this inventory is also close to half a million dollars in American currency and gold worth \$116,420.◆

Of Fruit trees, Self Defense, Arrogance, and Humility

(A Movie Review on Tu B'Shvat)

Text and Artwork by Gloria Avner

I watched a movie called "Lemon Tree" the other night. It was in Hebrew with subtitles. One phrase I heard consistently was "*Kol B'seder*." It came in both question and answer form. Is everything ok? Are you ok? It's ok. I'm ok. Everything is in order. Everything is fine.

Things in lemon-tree land, however, are anything but fine.

The beautiful lemon tree grove, owned and cared for by generations of one Palestinian family, now managed by the sole surviving, strong-willed widow, Zelma Sidana, sits cheek by jowl, on the border of Israel, with the Palestinian territories. It happens to abut Israel's newly appointed hardliner Defense Minister's brand-new expansive, high-end home. Despite the immediate building of a high lookout tower and installation of multiple television monitors, the minister and his associates quickly decide the grove is blocking the view of the secret service men protecting him and Israel from potential terrorists. The lemon trees are declared enemies of the state and scheduled for summary execution, in the form of uprooting. What ensues escalates into a life-death struggle, and the Israeli powers that be hold the lion's share of that power.

The military necessity to protect a small nation surrounded by enemies weighs heavily on one side of the scale. On the other is the lone dedicated empty-nester Zelma (who preserves the fruits in beautiful jars and makes her living selling them), and a community of trees, symbols of life, nourishment, and tradition, values held in high esteem by the Jewish people. In an act of chutzpah, the secretservice men walk through Zelma's grove and gather, without asking, lemons to garnish drinks at the minister's house-warming party. The effrontery is appalling and the Arab woman's rage is totally appropriate. It is not difficult to guess who will win this war, and it is disturbing. The defense minister, a political man professing a hawkish hard line toward the Palestinians, is embarrassed when the press, led by a female reporter, seizes upon the reverse David-and-Goliath story, and tension escalates dramatically.

The parable in the movie is as much about conflicting attitudes between men and women as between cultural historical enemies. The defense minister's empathetic wife sees the dilemma of the Arab tree-tender. She is compassionate as well as strong. Both women can visualize themselves in the other's shoes. The trees are strong too, glossy with health, abundant with round, ripening fruit.

Spoiler alert! The much-publicized issue comes to court, and though the power of the Israeli minister far outweighs Zelma's, he does not quite get his wish to uproot the trees. Neither the Palestinian people nor the trees are killed outright.

Though Biblical Jewish law is never mentioned in the movie, the judge in the case decides in favor of radical pruning over outright extermination. Perhaps she remembers the strictures regarding trees that we honor on Tu B'Shvat.

We are told it is a mitzvah to plant trees. Specifically, we are told that, even in wartime, we must not destroy fruit-bearing trees (Deuteronomy20:19-20). It is clear Halachic Law that we are not even allowed to eat the fruit of a tree less than four years old. The fruit is forbidden, non-kosher. Our ancestors protected a tree's chance to grow strong, and the chance to eat its fruits for years to come.

Now here we are, on the eve of the 15th (the numerical value of the Hebrew letters that make up the Hebrew word *Tu*) of Sh'vat, about to celebrate the "Birthday of the Trees." Our KJCC children will be tasting the "seven species" of fruit, out planting papaya seed-lings, saying blessings, singing, and dancing to the tune of "*Mayim, mayim*" as we offer our new trees water. In our last Sunday School class, Moira, Harry, Lili, and Natalie

had the opportunity to harvest from our "orchard" as well. What was the fruit? As synchronicity would have it. we were picking miniature lemons. from our own Calamondin tree. Its fruit, besides being delicious, relieves itching from insect bite, conditions hair, cures coughs, removes stains, and acts as antidote to poison. Who knew? The plant kingdom is full of unexpected gifts. We will make our own lemonade.

According to the Creation story, seedbearing plants and fruit trees were put on the

Earth before any other living thing (Genesis 1:11-12), well before man.

Eytz Chaim Hi, we chant in our Shabbat morning Torah service: "The Torah shall be as a Tree of Life to those who uphold and cling to it." Metaphors abound.

As the holiday approaches, it is good to remember that trees and their fruit are the source of our nourishment in more than material ways, woven into our history, inextricable from our culture. The Tree of Life, which God placed in the heart of the Garden of Eden, is a symbol of Jewish existence, a core value of continuity in individual and community lives.

Judaism has always said that man is like a tree. Our roots are key to our survival. Indi-

vidual men and women, like leaves, will wither and die in season, but there is always hope at the end of winter for the promise of new birth in the spring. Leaves will appear again. We witness the ongoing, dependable cycles of growth and dissolution.

Life is the issue, the key to both the movie and our understanding of man's relationship with nature, especially Jewish relationship to nature. In the movie, the trees are not killed, but they are reduced to malnourished skele-

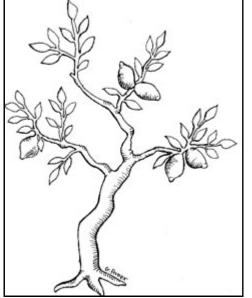
> tons. shorter than our own miniature lemon tree. grossly deficient in power to fill their mandate to live. to nourish, to reproduce their species; they suffer. It is painful to watch the withering of the once lush trees and piles of rotting fruit on the ground as the movie proceeds. Whether the debilitating pruning will ultimately destroy the trees. or the woman's ability to survive, is an open auestion.

The Defense Minister in the movie has to be tough on the Palestinians in order to defend his nation. The women see the flaw in his over-reaction. Neither

the Jewish people nor the Palestinians can be reduced to definitions as enemies. All want to protect their land; all have their own gifts, even if unknown to us, just as the lemon is emblematic of all the gifts of Creation.

Let the lesson from the movie and our celebration of Tu B'Shvat walk hand in hand. Save the trees. Save the people. "To life," we say, *L'Chaim*, every time we bless the fruit of the vine, giving credit to the God of our Ancestors for commanding us to be grateful for what we have been given.

As the Midrashic tale instructs us: If you are planting a fruit tree and someone tells you the Messiah has come, finish planting the tree. Then, you may go and welcome the Messiah. *Kol B'seder*. \diamond



Our Recent Trip to Israel

George and Muriel Swartz hadn't been to Israel, they said, in years. But they'd been planning. We think you'll agree, based on the evidence, that they planned well, and took in every detail. There's no typical narrative here, but we think you'll love the unique photo-plus-expanded caption format, which reads almost like a series of postcards. All the photos and caption text are courtesy of George and Muriel.



The Dome of the Rock, situated on the Temple Mount, is sacred to Muslims. The rock under the dome is sacred to both Muslims and Jews. That rock is the traditional site of Abraham's sacrificial altar for Isaac and also the sanctuary of the First and Second Temples. Muslims believe that from here Mohammed ascended to heaven.

After donating many times to the Jewish National Fund to plant trees in Israel, George got to actually plant one of the saplings! This took place in the Aminadav Forest, which is part of the memorial to John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. The following is a portion of the prayer we said: Heavenly Father/ Make deep their roots/ And wide their crown,/ That they may blossom forth in grace/ Amongst all the trees in Israel,/ For good and for beauty.//Look down from Thy holy habitation,/ From heaven,/ And bless this land/ That it may flow again/ With milk and honey./ Amen.





The Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E. was in reprisal for the preceding several years of armed Jewish revolt. In the Old City's Jewish Quarter are the remnants of the once-stately manor of an upper-class Jewish family of the priestly caste in Second Temple-period Jerusalem. We saw a small collection of period antiquities, including this spear.

The Dan River is the largest and most important source of the Jordan River. It is fed by the rain and snow that trickles down through the rock of Mount Hermon.





Three bullets ended the life of Yitzhak Rabin on November 4, 1995, in Tel Aviv's main plaza in front of City Hall, after a huge rally in support of his government's peace policy. A year later, the monument to Rabin was dedicated on that spot. Created by the sculptor Yael Ben-Artzi, the memorial is made of sixteen basalt stones from the Golan Heights sunk into the earth to symbolize Rabin's roots and his deep connection to the land. The stones are placed to suggest the effects of an earth-quake; indeed, a political and social earthquake had occurred on this spot.

George enjoyed a glass of freshly squeezed pomegranate juice from this shop in Nazareth. It was the pomegranate harvest season – right after Sukkot – so lots of the fresh juice was available virtually every place we visited.





This excavated wall is part of the wall that enclosed the City of David about 1,000 B.C.E. This was situated east of the present wall surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem, which had been built by Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent about 1527 C.E.

Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee), which divides the upper and lower portions of the Jordan River System, is the only freshwater lake in Israel. This view of the lake and the city of Tiberias is from Ben Gurion's favorite hotel (Rimonim Galei Kinnereth), where he would stay for each of his vacations.





עם הזמן הקם, למיען המטיילים, מאון המן למקום עבודה לגרשון ולחברים ספים במוון החל לעגן דגי אמנון וסרידינים מסנים במוון המונון חורחב והתפתח מסנים עם גב הצוולה ואלי אפילו הוותיקה. דונים עין-גב הצוולה ואלי אפילו הוותיקה.

After a tasty St. Peter's fish lunch at Kibbutz Ein Gev Restaurant (as delicious as a fish lunch at Islamorada Fish Company!), one of the Ein Gev residents explained all the workings of their kibbutz as he showed us their banana grove and their cows, goats, and ostriches.

Ein-Gev Fish Restauran



Pictured here is a pagan altar. It was at this archaeological site at Tel Dan that a stele was found referring to a king of Damascus defeating someone from the House of King David. This very early archaeological reference was from around the 9th or 8th centuries B.C.E.

Here is a view of the

model of ancient Jerusalem, a reconstruction of the city at the time of the Second Temple (66 C.E.). Yardena used diagrams of this model during her recent adult education lectures on Jerusalem.





On a hilltop in the heart of the modern city of Jerusalem stands the Knesset, Israel's parliament, set within President's Park. Opposite the gate stands a large menorah – symbol of the state of Israel – a gift to the Knesset from the Jewish communities of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. On the seven branches of the candelabrum are depicted in relief the principal figures and events marking the history of the Jewish people.

This memorial

sculpture at Yad Vashem represents incomplete children (no heads, no faces) denoting the unfinished lives cruelly ended for the children who were Holocaust victims.





Here at the Naot Farm, we tasted some of the best goat cheese. This Nachimov family enterprise is an active farm, raising goats and manufacturing cheese, and also a tourist resort for desert lovers. Overlooking the Dead Sea, the ruined village of Qumran was deserted for almost 2,000 years. The hidden scrolls found in the caves in 1947 exposed the secret life of the Essenes, a small ultrareligious sect who had disapproved of the corruption of the high priests of the Temple in Jerusalem. This photo shows the ruins of the Qumran pottery storeroom.





Excavated ruins of a Qumran mikveh.

Beit Alpha, the remains of a synagogue

from a Jewish village of the Byzantine period (5th-6th centuries C.E.), has the entire prayer hall floor paved in mosaic, with the Zodiac signs (a Hellenist influence) arranged in a circle accompanied by their Hebrew names.





While we were touring in Tzfat and learning about this holy city, considered the city of Kabbalah and the most mystical city in all of Israel, we saw several groups of young soldiers also touring and learning about their country. (This is part of their IDF training, whether they are sabras or recent immigrants, to insure that they become well-versed in the history of the country that they will be protecting and defending).

For generations Jews went to weep at the Western Wall for the fate of their nation, and it became known as "The Wailing Wall." Only after the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, nineteen years after the restoration of the Jewish state, was the Wall returned to Jewish hands. Since that



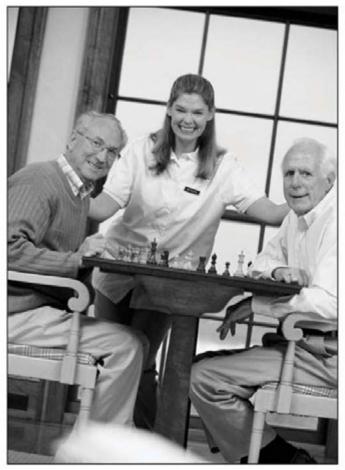
historic day, Jews from every corner of the world have been able to come and go freely and pray at the Wall.



The dove seeks peace for all mankind as she perches on the Kotel, the sacred Western Wall.

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1. Continuum of Care -

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2. Palace Training & Education Center

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

3. Local Ownership -

Founded in 1980 by Helen and Jacob Shaham, The Palace is privately owned and locally operated by these self-made individuals who foresaw the need for quality senior living environments. Their constant involvement today ensures the tradition they established for the communities and services bearing The Palace name: only the best.

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40 Chai-Lights February 2012





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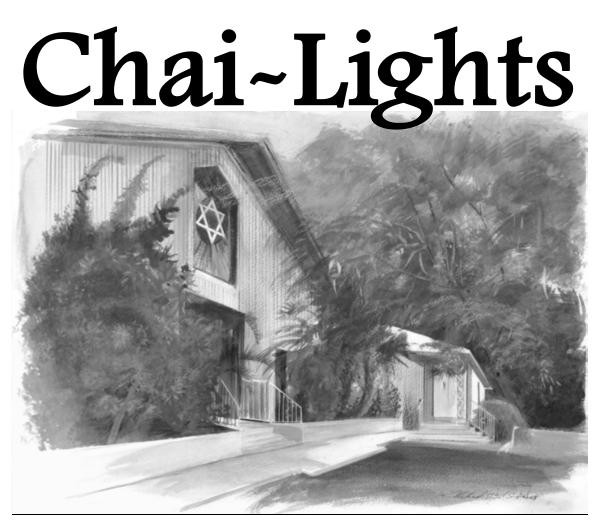
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March 2012

7 Adar - 8 Nisan 5772

Photo Gallery - page 15 Linda & Joel's Special Night at KJCC - page 23 Gene & Mort and Susan & Joe in Antarctica - page 32

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

March 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
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Gloria Avner,
Beth Hayden &
Sam Vinicur
Kathy & Joe
Shabathai | 3 |
| 4
KJCC
Sisterhood
Meeting
9:30 a.m. | 5 | 6 | 7
Megillah
Reading &
pizza 6: 30
Men's Club
Game
Night 8:00 | 8
Purim | 9
George Swartz
& Yardena
Kamely
<i>Carol & Steve</i>
<i>Steinbock</i> | 10 |
| 11
KJCC
Board
<u>Meeting</u>
9 a.m.
Daylight
Savings Begins | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16
Erica Lieber-
man-Garrett
Barbara &
Steve Smith | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20
First Day
of Spring | 21 | 22 | 23
Aidan Kahn &
Gloria Avner
<i>Joan & Jim</i>
<i>Boruszak</i> | 24
Aidan
Kahn's
Bar
Mitzvah
10 a.m. |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Dave Mont &
Georgia Landau
(6:30 service)
Jane & Steve
Friedman; Lee
Schur; Linda &
Joel Pollack | 31
Torah
Learning
w/Rabbi
Agler,
10 a.m. |

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message

Stuart Sax

There are many ways that life can be altered. Marriage. Children. Career. Illness. Retirement and many others. Lauren and I have just gone through a life changing event. Her name is Shayna and she is twelve pounds of fur and a ton of love. She is also Rebecca Steinbock's twin sister.

Until she entered our lives about eight weeks ago, we pretty much came and went on our own schedule. Now we are ruled by Shayna's schedule and have learned to alter our own. Often the two collide. Like when I am ready to settle down in my easy chair and she decides it's time to go for a walk. She wins. And I have not spent less than three minutes in the bathroom getting ready since my days in the Army.

Puppies teach you time management and how to maintain a regular schedule of events on a daily basis. Come to think of it. isn't that a lesson that we all can learn? To make the hours of each day more meaningful. To replace idle time with something of value. Having a puppy or someone in your life that alters your regular flow, means planning in advance for what lies ahead. Like planning to attend free classes in computer skills, digital photography, and how to lead a Shabbat service.



Like attending presentations on a variety of subjects from Jerusalem, the holocaust, or a scholar in residence program that is in the planning stages.

As our synagogue approaches perhaps the biggest event of the year, have you planned to make this a part of vour schedule? There is no doubt in my mind that Sarge is going to be a huge hit. Partly because he will be a welcomed change to our normal routine. While the main thrust of this show has been the general admission tickets at \$60 each. please consider an upgrade to the preferred seating package for two including an autographed DVD of Sarge for \$250. Or how about a unique waterfront dinner experience for two with Sarge before the show along with his autographed DVD and preferred seating for a contribution of \$500.

It is understandable that many of you will not be available for the show for one reason or another, but I ask you to consider making a donation, in kind, to the Sisterhood to help defray the expenses like the wine and desserts, publicity, housing, etc. associated with this event.

If you don't plan in advance, these opportunities may pass you by. ◆

Nosh

New Members

KJCC is delighted to welcome as new members Marcia Kreitman of Islamorada and Bunny Lohmann of Tavernier. Marcia is a long-time member of the Keys arts community and a regular at the Women's Seder, who many already know well. We all look forward to seeing and getting to know Bunny as well.

New Men's Club President

As of February I, KJCC has a new Men's Club president: Jeff Schocket. Activities increased greatly under his predecessor, Steve Friedman (thanks from all, Steve), and it's already clear that they'll continue with no letup under new leadership. Congrats, Jeff. And thanks also go to Bernie for reviving Men's Club in the first place.

Book Plates

By Pauline Roller In honor of Joel & Linda Pollack's 50th Anniversary

By Lee Schur In honor of Joel & Linda Pollack's 50th Anniversary

By George & Muriel Swartz In honor of Joel & Linda Pollack's 50th Anniversary

By Joel & Linda Pollack In Memory of Karen Hayhurst

TREE OF LIFE

Sam & Leslie Janowitz

in honor of Michael & Lillian Janowitz and Leo & Beulah Grossman

Steve & Carol Steinbock

In honor of Joel & Linda Pollack's 50th Anniversary

George & Muriel Swartz

In honor of Joel & Linda Pollack's 50th Anniversary

Ah, The Serious Merriment of Purim

Men's Club and The Religious Committee had a dilemma. Both had events scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 7. The first Wednesday of the month is always Men's Club Game Night. This particular Wednesday night would also be erev Purim, when Religious Committee wanted to stage our annual KJCC reading of the Megillah aloud. (It's a mitzvah, by the way.)

What to do? The solution, in a compromise not quite worthy of Solomon, was....both! After all, the festive atmosphere of Purim merges perfectly with the mirth and sport of KJCC Game Night. So here's the plan: our Megillah reading, replete with kids with costumes and graggers — in Hebrew it's called a *ra'ashan* — to drown out the name of Haman (hiss, boo) begins at 6:30. There will be pizza, and salad, and hamentaschen. (Julia Child was not consulted.) Then, after the Megillah reading is over, Game Night will begin, with assorted card games, board games and mah-jongg. (Tile games?) So come to fulfill the Purim mitzvah, eat and drink, then stay for fun and games. What could be better?

March Birthdays

| l st | Melvin L. Jacobson |
|------------|---------------------|
| l st | Sasha Dutton |
| 2nd | Barbara Kantor |
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| l 7th | Benjamin Schwaid |
| l 7th | Daniel E. Friedman |
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| 25u1 | Mishalla E David |
| 27th | Plichelle E. Denker |
| 28th | |
| 29th | Joel Pollack |

| 30th | Anthony A. Gutierrez |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 30th | David VanArtsdalen |
| 30th | Lee Schur |
| 3 st | Eva Faust |
| 31st | Jane S. Friedman |
| 31st | Robert Gintel |
| 3 st | Sari Elizabeth Goldstein |

Aídan Kahn and Famíly Cordíally Invíte All of KJCC to Joín Us for Aídan's Bar Mítzvah.



Saturday, March 24, 2012 10:00 a.m. at KJCC. Kiddush lunch to follow the service.

Rabbi Agler's Next Torah Service

Rabbi Richard Agler will lead another of his stimulating and interactive Torah learning services at 10 a.m. Saturday morning, March 31st in the KJCC sanctuary. Ask anyone who attends how invigorated (and Jewish!) they feel afterwards.

Rabbi Agler is also scheduled to give his first "Lunch & Learn" class on How to Lead A Friday Night Service, Sunday, April 1st at 1:00 p.m.

March Anniversaries

| | | Years |
|------|----------------------------|-------|
| lst | Jerry & Sheila Olsen | 53 |
| 2nd | Joe Gould & Marla Berenson | 16 |
| 7th | Joseph & Susan Sachs | 47 |
| | Henry & Patricia Isenberg | |
| 22nd | David & Patti Gross | 15 |
| 25th | Joseph & Susan Goldberg | 19 |

This Year's Shabbat Across America

On March 2nd, hundreds of synagogues across North America, spearheaded by Jewish Community Outreach Service, will unite for a special Shabbat experience! We at the KJCC will be listed, as we have been for the past two years, in a national directory of synagogues sharing a meal (or, in our case this year, an Oneg — we will still be full from Joshua and Zoe's food enjoyed at Steve Smith's Romanian night), and all the sweet ritual observances of Shabbat, our most important of all Jewish holidays. Any wandering Jew looking for a welcoming place to share this night in the Keys will know (or be told) where to find us. That night, at the service, we will observe the mitzvah to "remember the Sabbath and keeo it holy" with extra attention and songs.

-Gloria

The Seders Are Coming (and Soon)

Hard to believe, but it's almost time for the first of the three festivals mandated by the Torah. That's Passover, of course. Please make your reservations now for the annual KJCC Second Seder, to be held once again at the Islamorada Fishing Club. The ad on page 8 has specifics.

The Women's Seder, now in its ninth year, will take place at KJCC on Sunday, April 1st at 5:00. Please see the ad on page 28.

Susan and Patti, our Gift Shop managers, have a spanking new selection of seder plates, matzoh trays and matzoh covers, just in time. Come by and explore. Ask them to show you what else is new. \diamond

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 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.

In Memoriam March 2012

| On Memoriam March 2012 | | | | | |
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| In Memory Of | In Memory Of | In Memory Of | | | |
| Harvey Roazen | Robert Berman | Dorothy Stanlake | | | |
| By Sylvia Berman
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<><><><><>> | By Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake
<><><><><><><><><><><><> | | | |
| In Memory Of | In Memory Of | In Memory Of | | | |
| Robert Kohlenbrener | Louis Abraham Weinstein | Hilda Dorf | | | |
| By Jim & Joan Boruszak
<><><><><><> | By Dick & Rita Bromwich | By Barry & Natalie Dorf
<><><><><><> | | | |
| In Memory Of | In Memory Of | In Memory Of | | | |
| Maurice Field | Maxime Kaplan | Louis Weinstein | | | |
| By Carol Field
<><><><><><><> | By Marsha Garrettson
<><><><><><><> | By Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grace | | | |
| | | | | | |
| In Memory Of | In Memory Of | In Memory Of | | | |
| In Memory Of
Selma Greenspan | In Memory Of
Arlene R. Brenner | In Memory Of Louise Hermann | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Selma Greenspan
By Mrs. Marty Graham | Arlene R. Brenner
By Marilyn Greenbaum | Louise Hermann
By Robert Hermann | | | |
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By Robert Hermann
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By Jonathan & Arlene Line

By Bunny Lohmann

Chai-Lights March 2012 7

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

In Memoriam March 2012

| In Memory Of | In Memory Of | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mathew Mirantz | Louis Weinstein | |
| By Arline Mirantz | By Jerry & Sheila Olsen | |
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| Alice Weber | Deborah Eichler | |
| By Lawrence & Judith Weber | By Lawrence & Judith Weber | |
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Mishebeyrach List

those of you ight not make it vices regularly, eek we read the names of we know to be so that we may e their names in ial supplication to heal them. inted list is nd then the asks if anyone congregation mes to add. If n't be at serand would like ne you care to be included mishebeyrach call or e-mail us know. We'll y include any or names) you about. The KJCC r is 852-5235. ail Stuart at ent@ wishcenter.com.

Sisterhood Lauren Sax

isterhood has been very active, but then aren't we always?! If you haven't heard the news or read your various KICC materials, we now have a monthly women's discussion group. Joan Kay is the force behind it all. and we meet on the last Mondav evening of the month at her condo. For 11/2 hours, we discuss a pertinent topic that we have decided on the month before. As this goes to print, we are looking forward to Erica speaking on a holistic way of life and herbal medications. Next month's topic might be "getting along with your daughter-in-law" or "living in a non-lewish world." Come see what we are all about. Make sure to respond to me if you are interested in joining us.

Speaking of active, after our next meeting on the 4th, Anna from Curves in Key Largo will be doing a Zumba presentation. Come to our meeting (rescheduled for 10:30 a.m. with Zumba at 12:30) and afterwards join all of us on the ins and outs of this new craze. This should be good for a pound or two!

Reminder: April and Passover are just around the corner. Make sure you check out the Women's Seder and KJCC Seder pages in this issue and send your reservations in pronto. Both events are not to be missed. We also salute and wish a hearty *Mazel Tov* to Muriel Swartz, our Women's Seder honoree this year. An absolutely perfect choice.

Can't forget that a *Mazel Tov* is in order, as well, to Jeffrey Schocket, KJCC's new Men's Club president.

SARGE SARGE. Need I say more?

Much of my Sisterhood presidency revolves around emails. Emails have certainly become a way of life in our world today. Along with this computer life comes viruses and forwards. I detest forwards. However, once in a great while, I receive a decent one. I



especially like the following because I felt it might help not only me but also my sister friends at the KJCC. I hope you find the list of suggestions from experts below as informative as I did, and please: stay safe.

Things To Do In An Emergency Situation:

- The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough, use it!
- If a robber asks for your purse or wallet, toss it AWAY from you and run in the opposite direction.
- If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back tail lights, stick your arm out of the hole and start waving like crazy.
- If someone is in the car with a gun to your head, do not drive off. Instead, gun the engine and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your airbag will save you. If the gun-wielder is in the back seat, they will get the worst of it. As soon as the car crashes bail out and run.
- When getting into your car in a parking lot, be aware. Look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor and in the back seat.
- If you hear a crying baby outside or think you left the water running outside, especially if it is at night, DO NOT go outside or open the door. Call the police. ◊



Saturday, April 7, 2012 6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact: Mary Lee Singer 305-240-0061, mizzleez3@yahoo.com or Maryon Gould 305-853-2541. Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116, Tavemier, FL 33070.

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will be opening this to the public after March 15th.



Members: Adults \$50; Children 12 and under are our guests. Non-Members: \$75

YEDA VE'TORASHA Yardena Kamely



The Mashhadis: A History of The Double Life of Persian Jews

When I think of Purim and the Jews of Persia, I remember the stories of my grandparents, who all lived in Persia before they immigrated to Israel. Their stories were of survival and their complicated life as Jews; but they also remembered Persia with a fondness and love for the Persian culture. They liked the stories of the "good" Kings, and of the majestic life at the Persian courts.

Today, most people are familiar with the "hidden Jews" of Spain and Portugal, the

Anusim (Marranos) who were forced to convert to Christianity, but who, in secret, continued to practice Judaism. Less is commonly known about the "Mashhadi," the Jews of Mashhad, Persia, who from the 1830s were forced to convert to Islam but who also, secretly, continued to live as Jews.

The Persian Jewish community is the oldest documented community of the Diaspora. Jewish life in Persia can be

traced back to the First Exile, the deportation of the Israelites in 722 BCE from Samaria (by the Assyrians) and later the nation of Judea in 586 BCE (by the Babylonians) to the cities of Medea and Persia - known as "Iran" since 1935. During the Cyrus declaration (538 BCE, after Persia had conquered Babylon), some Jews were allowed back to their homeland, Judea. But many also stayed, especially those who were financially well established. These communities were probably the original Jews

Under Islamic rule (which began in 637 CE), Jewish colonies were established in all the Persian provinces.

Persia, who also expanded into the provinces of Ecbatan and Susan (Shushan). The tolerant attitude of the rulers at the time allowed personalities such as Ezra, Daniel, Esther and Mordechai to play a role in the Persian court.

Under Islamic rule (which began in 637 CE), Jewish colonies were established in all the Persian provinces. Later, during the Safawid's dynasty, Shiism was proclaimed as the state religion (c.1600). Intolerance for minorities burst forth. The second half of the

17th century was a difficult time for Jews. Shah Abbas II destroyed Hebrew books. Jews were made to wear special hand- and headgear for identification purposes. Then followed forced conversion, especially in the city of Isfahan. Despite the Islamization of the Jews, most adhered tenaciously in secret to their religion and began to live a dual life. In the 18th century the Jews began to migrate to Af-

ghanistan, Turkestan, Samarkand, Bukhara, Kurdistan, Egypt, and into India. The Kajar Dynasty, until well into the 19th century, was intolerant towards the Jews. Oppression and persecution followed as Jews were forced to convert, notably in the city of Mashhad under Muhammad Shah (1839).

The Jews of Mashhad (a city in far northeastern Persia, just below Turkmenistan and just west of the border with Afghanistan) deserve a special mention, as their life in Persia

of

was so remarkable and different from that of other Persian Jews. During the reign of Nader Shah (1736-1747) a group of Jews, some forty merchant families, had been ordered transferred from the northern provinces to the city of Kelat (the proposed capital at the time). This was because of their talents as business people, their reputation for trustworthiness, and their business and international connections. They were invited to participate in the running of the Shah's vast fortune and financial institutions. Hardly had the first family settled in the city when the Shah

(a member of the Sunni Moslem minority) was assassinated. There was no longer a reason to keep them in Kelat and the community dispersed. Many eventually moved to the nearby city of Mashhad for the next two centuries and were subject to all the usual constraints, often made even more difficult because of the importance of the city as a center of pilgrimage and its holiness in the Islamic world.

The Mashhad Jewish community was disciplined and self -motivated, with almost no in-

ter-marriages, not just with non-Jews but even with Jewish communities of other Persian provinces. Although outwardly made to convert to Islam, this community never lost its Jewish faith or neglected its religious rituals, remarkably surviving throughout its difficult history. It continued its Jewish religious activities to the full, even in secret.

In struggling for survival it developed a highly organized society and resolved its problems relying on an internal and integrated network of people and religious figures. My grandfather (on my mother's side) was one of those religious leaders. My mother told me stories about him and their life as *Anusim*. Jews attended services at the mosque. They appeared to fast during Ramadan, wore Muslim garb, and bought at Muslim shops. But at home, in basements, behind closed doors and shuttered windows, they

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In the market, the Mashhadi Jews purchased Muslim bread like everyone else, but as they walked home they gave the bread to the Muslim poor.

secretly continued to observe Jewish law. They had many little ways of maintaining their Jewishness: Shabbat candles, for example, were always lit under cover, so they couldn't be seen from the windows. Families kept dogs and cats, so they could feed them the Muslim meat they bought while they themselves ate kosher meat, *shechted* (ritually slaughtered) in secret and smuggled home under the women's *chadors* (long cloaks). In the market, the Mashhadi Jews purchased Muslim bread like everyone else, but as they walked home, they gave the

bread to the Muslim poor. In their basements they ground their own wheat and baked their own bread. My grandmother and my mother's aunts made wine in the basement, and *matzah* for *Pessah*. They'd give all the maids the day off, and then they'd cook and bake.

By the end of World War II all the Mashhadi Jews had left Iran, spreading out all over the world, with larger communities congregating in London, Milan, New York, and Jerusalem. It remains remarkable

that, though forced to flee many times in their history, they resolutely resettle in neighborhoods with other Mashhadis and conserve their uniquely Jewish/Persian cultural life. There are still about 15,000 Mashhadi Jews, with the majority living in New York and Israel. In Israel, life as a Mashhadi has become difficult for a different reason. "Here, life is very open. The ties have loosened," says Betsalelya, a Mashhadi woman living in Herzelia. "Before, the families were together, they did business together. But here, with the freedom, it's not necessary to do that anymore." But my relatives, whose life is within the big Mashhadi community in Great Neck, Long Island, are very conservative. They continue to live their very traditional Mashhadi lewish culture. and. as always, they will celebrate Purim with rich oriental. Persian-lewish traditions. >

World Jewish Report Medina Roy

A Disturbing Statistic

A recent survey published in the German magazine *Stern* indicated that more than 21 percent of young Germans between the ages of 18 and 30 know neither the name Auschwitz, by far the most notorious Nazi extermination camp, nor the crimes committed there. Almost half of those canvassed by the Forsa Research Institute said they had never visited a concentration camp. (This despite the fact that Germany has carefully turned all of them into permanent memorials to the dead.) The 67th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Russians was commemorated at the end of January. By the time Russian soldiers arrived at the camp in 1945, some 1.2 million people, most of them lews, had been murdered there. The same survey showed that 95 percent of people over the age of 30 had indeed heard of Auschwitz and the crimes perpetrated there. Why the survey? The German government is concerned about a spike in neo-Nazi crime and that young people ignorant of the past make easy targets for the propaganda of far-right neofascist groups. (www.dailymail.com, 1-26-12)

A Pledge for Tu B'Shvat

In early February, just before Tu B'Shvat (the new year for trees), the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) announced that fifty lewish leaders, from all branches of Judaism, had signed the "Jewish Environment and Energy Imperative" declaration. The signers' goal were a significant reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions plus advocacy for energy independence and security. They also pledged to reduce the Jewish community's energy consumption fourteen percent by the year 2014, which is the next Shmitah (the sabbatical year), the seventh year in the Jewish calendar's seven-year agricultural cycle when we are commanded to let the land lie dormant and refrain from any

form of working the land, allowing it to rest. *Tu B'Shvat* was celebrated on February 8th. *(The Forward, 2-7-12)*

A Super Bet

Jona Rechnitz, a graduate of Yeshiva University and an observant Jew, won \$50,000 betting that the New York Giants would win the Super Bowl. Rechnitz, 29, and a life-long Giants fan, placed a \$1,000 bet at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, where the casino gave him 50-to-1 odds. He bet that the first score of the game would be a safety in favor of the Giants. And that's exactly what happened. Rechnitz will be donating almost all of his winnings to charity. \$5.000 of which will be donated to a charity selected by Tom Brady, the guarterback for the other team, the New England Patriots. The Giants' defensive linemen will also select a charity where some of the money will go. When asked why he's giving the money away, Rechnitz said that it is "a nice way to make a kiddus HaShem" (sanctifying the name of G-d). (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-8-12)

Finally, After 1,500 Years....

The Talmud is an arduous body of work: 63 volumes of rabbinical discourse and disputation that, after the Torah, form Judaism's central scripture. It has been around for 1,500 vears and is studied daily by tens of thousands of Jews. Trying to navigate through it can be difficult, if not exhausting, because the one thing that's been missing in this monumental work is an accessible index. But there is one now and it's been compiled not by a Torah scholar but by Daniel Retter, a 66-year-old immigration lawyer from the Bronx. Called *HaMafteach*, Hebrew for "the key," the index, representing seven years of work by Retter, contains 6,600 topical entries and 27,000 sub-Chai-Lights March 2012 13



topical entries that direct users to the treatises and pages of text they are seeking. It's available in both English and Hebrew, the English version costing \$29.99. The first printing of 2,000 books – a market test – sold out in just a few days. When asked why the Talmud has never had a workable index, Rabbi Benjamin Blech, professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University, said that study of the Talmud is not supposed to be easy. "We *want* people to struggle with the text, because by figuring it out you will have a deeper comprehension," he said. "[The rabbis] wanted a living index, not a printed index."

The market for the index will be a boon for the thousands of Jews who participate in *Daf Yomi*, (literally, "the daily page") the page-aday cycle in which everyone studies the same *daf* (it's actually two full pages) every day for seven and a half years until all 5,422 pages are completed, when, as with the reading of the Torah, they begin all over again. (www.nytimes.com, 12-27-11)

2012 Sydney Taylor Book Awards

The 2012 winners of the prestigious Sydney Taylor Book Awards (named for the author of the classic children's book series, *All-of-a-Kind Family*) were recently announced. The award honors new books for children and teens that "exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience." The winners are:

Younger readers Category: Chanukah Lights, by Michael J. Rosen and Robert Sabuda.

Honor Books: *Naamah and the Ark at Night,* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti, and *Around the World in One Shabbat,* by Durga Yael Bernhard.

Older Readers Category: Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein, by Susan G. Rubin

Honor Books: Lily Renee, Escape Artist: from Holocaust Survivor to Comic Book Pioneer, by Trina Robbins; Hammerin' Hank Greenberg: Baseball Pioneer, by Shelley Sommer, and Irena's Jars of Secrets, by Marcia Vaughan.

<u>Teen Readers Category</u>: *The Berlin Boxing Club,* by Robert Sharenow.

Honor Books: *Then*, by Morris Gleitzman, and *The Blood Lie*, by Shirley Reva Vernick.

In addition to the aforementioned winners, the Award Committee designated eighteen Notable Books of Jewish Content. For a full listing, along with annotations, go to www.jewishlibraries.org. (www.jewishlibraries.org, 1-17-12)

MHK, the Patriots' Jewish Mother

Did you happen to notice the patch worn by the New England Patriots at the Super Bowl last month, the one that had the letters MHK? It was meant to honor the memory of the team's "Jewish Mother," Myra Hiatt Kraft. Mrs. Kraft on her own was a major philanthropist, and together with her husband Robert, the Krafts were generous benefactors of Israeli institutions and of Brandeis University, her alma mater. From 1983 to 2011, Myra Hiatt Kraft served on the board of the Boston Boys and Girls Club and, in 1995, became the first woman to chair that board. She also ran the Patriots' Charitable Foundation. More than 70,000 "MHK" pins were distributed to fans as they entered the stadium. (Jewish Women's Archive, www.iwa.ora, 2-3-12)

Educated Israelis

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Israel is among the world's most highly educated countries. The organization highlighted Israel for the high percentage of its population that holds post-secondary degrees. With 45 percent of Israelis completing university degrees, Israel ranks ahead of Japan (44 percent), the United States (41 percent), and the United Kingdom (37 percent), but lags behind Canada (50 percent). But the OECD also noted that the percentage of Israeli citizens obtaining post-secondary degrees is slowing down dramatically. (*The Jerusalem Post, 2-1-12*)

Y.U. at Number 4

According to a recent U.S. News and World Report ranking, Yeshiva University is the fourth most popular school in this country. The annual rankings are based on the percentage of students who attend a university out of the total number who are accepted to the school. According to the report, 70 percent of the accepted students enroll at YU. The top three spots went to Harvard, Brigham Young and Stanford universities, in that order. YU President Richard Joel said, "Most of our students have grown up with certain values and a certain belief system and we believe that those should not be compromised when they hit college. Our students are looking to continue growing in their Jewish and secular studies and they know that we provide the pre-eminent platform for them to grow Jewishly and intellectually . (www.jta.org, 2-2-12)

A Challenge to Hugo

Venezuelan opposition leader Enrique Capriles Radonski, governor of the Miranda state and the grandson of Holocaust survivors, will challenge President Hugo Chavez in the election scheduled for early October. Capriles, 39, won the primary in mid-February with 61 percent of the vote, making him the unity candidate against Chavez, who has held the presidency for thirteen years. Some three million people voted in the country's firstever primary. Capriles' maternal grandmother is lewish, but he was raised and considers himself a devout Catholic. "Because of my mother and grandmother, for Jews I'm Jewish, but I'm Catholic," he said. Yet Capriles has not escaped anti-Semitic attacks, despite considering himself to be a Christian. During the governor's race in 2008, government-aligned media described him as a member of the "Jewish-Zionist bourgeoisie," and "genetically fascist." In 2009, pro-government supporters surrounded his house and painted swastikas on the outer walls. (www.jta.org, 2-13-12)

In Memoriam

• Adrienne Cooper, American-born singer, teacher and curator of Yiddish music who worked tirelessly to keep the Yiddish language alive for younger generations, died recently at the age of 65. In the 1970s and 80s, Cooper and a handful of others started a Yiddish revival movement. They understood that people who were fluent in Yiddish were primarily Holocaust survivors and children of turn-of-the-century Jewish immigrants, two groups who were rapidly dying out. As a result of Cooper's efforts, numerous colleges began to offer Yiddish courses. She was one of the two founders of KlezKamp, which since 1985 has convened annually in the Catskills, drawing hundreds of musicians, lovers of the Yiddish language and those interested in learning about Jewish cultures of Eastern Europe. She called this annual gathering "a flying shtetl." On the liner notes of her last album, "Enchanted," Ms. Cooper noted that she embraced Yiddish for its "hard-to-describe delights, for the rage it brings to injustice and for its wonderful weight on the tongue." (www.nytimes.com, 12-28-11)

· Bill Mardo, a longtime sportswriter for the Communist Party newspaper "The Daily Worker" and one of the leading voices for integrating baseball in the 1940s, has died at the age of 89. Along with other Jewish colleagues, Mardo's columns and articles over the course of many years greatly helped create the moral case for opening Major League baseball to African Americans. Mardo is also credited with initiating the campaign to convince Brooklyn Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey to integrate the team. After lackie Robinson broke Major League baseball's color line, he and Mardo became good friends. Born William Bloom in Manhattan, he changed his name to Mardo as a tribute to his sisters Marion and Doris, using the first few letters of their first names. His interest in left-wing politics began when, as a teenager, he read "The Daily Worker," and then joined the Communist Party. Mardo began working for "The Daily Worker" in 1942. (www.nytimes.com, 1-24-12)

• Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, best known for authoring "The Torah: A Modern Commentary," the Bible widely used by Reform congregations (two copies of which are in the KJCC library), died recently. He was 99. Born in Munster, Germany, Plaut earned a law degree in 1935, fled Nazi Germany and came to the United States, where he was ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1939. Plaut was an internationally recognized religious leader and prolific writer and scholar. His papers are housed at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa. (*The Forward, 2-10-12*) ◊

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>
Roller, Pauline Joel & Linda
Schur, Lee Joel & Linda | In Honor of
Pollack's 50th anniversary
Pollack's 50th anniversary | Oneg Fund
Ellner, Susan | In Honor of
Thank you KJCC for the
warm welcome |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Swartz, George & Muriel | Joel & Linda Pollack's
50th anniversary | Janowitz, Sam & Leslie
Pollack, Linda
Schur, Lee | Leslie's birthday
Joel's birthday
Lee's birthday |
| Book Plates
Pollack, Joel & Linda | In Memory of
Karen Hayhurst | Gross, David & Patti | Alvin Gross |
| - | - | Scholarship Fund | |
| Chai-Lights
Plutzer, Arthur | In Honor of
Joel & Linda Pollack | Graham, Bea | |
| | Pauline Roller | Tree of Life | |
| | In Memory of
Al Roller | Janowitz, Sam & Leslie | Michael & Lillian Janowitz;
Leo & Beulah Grossman |
| General Fund | In Honor of | Steinbock, Steve & Carol | Joel & Linda Pollack's
50th anniversary |
| Anonymous | | Swartz, George & Muriel | Joel & Linda Pollack's |
| Begam, Delores | pray for us | | 50th anniversary |
| Cole, Ronald | love offering | | , |
| Knowles, Richard & Barbara | | Yartzeit Contributions | In Memory of |
| | Pollack's 50th anniversary | Emkey, Gerri | Robert Kinney |
| Peckman, Joyce | Joel & Linda Pollack's | Feinberg, Arthur | William Feinberg |
| | 50th anniversary | Friedman, Ingrid | Max Friedman |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren | Joel & Linda Pollack's | Friedman, Ingrid | Flora Rosenthal |
| | 50th anniversary | Friedman, Ingrid | Max Rosenthal |
| Schulberg, Alan & Elaine | Jim Boruszak's birthday | Geller, Milton | Louis Geller |
| | | Gilderman, Larry & Stephani | |
| General Fund | In Memory of | lsenberg, Henry & Patricia | Fannie Phillips |
| Pollack, Joel & Linda | Talia Agler | Krissel, Michael | Deborah Cannon |
| Pollack, Joel & Linda | Iris Jackson | Krissel, Michael | Joseph Krissel |
| | | Roller, Pauline | Al Roller |
| Meditation Garden | | Rubin, Mike & Myrna | Milton Applebaum |
| Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake | | Tallent, Ralph & Lillian | Morris Estrin |
| Silverman, Mort & Gene | Pollack's 50th anniversary
brick - Joel & Linda
Pollack's 50th anniversary | Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy | Samuel Wolfe |
| Werthamer, Robert & Heide | , | | |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren | Talia Agler | | |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren | Karen Hayhurst | | |

Photo Gallery



Last month we promised to show you "after" photos of the new kitchen Candy and Alan installed in their house in Sun City, near Tampa. They had

to assemble and fit all the cabinets themselves, remember. They did the tile work, too. But someone else did the granite countertops, though Candy was tempted.

The three photos at left were taken by David Gitin at Gloria's booth at San Pedro Church's Annual Art Among the Oaks on January 15th, where Gloria was showing at least twenty of her paintings. Many from KJCC stopped by, including Teresa, who'd be happy, we're sure, to tell the full story of the



plunger. Susan was there when real friends come, during set-up early in the morning, below.

The photo at bottom shows Brieze and Stellar Levy cavorting with paint Jackson Pollock-style during one of the "Third Thursday" evenings on the Islamorada Art Walk.



The Most ∫ Amazing Single Evening of Entertainment in the Upper Keys this Season.

One night only. Saturday, March 10, 2012. Wine Reception begins 7:30 p.m. At Keys Jewish Community Center in Tavernier. Sarge: the greatest entertainer you've never heard of. Brilliant vocalist and interpreter of the Great American Songbook. In his own voice plus uncanny impressions of many others. Double-over-funny stand-up comedy. Concert quality pianist. Tickets \$60 and up. (Ask. we'll explain.) Contact Nancy at 305-393-2129 or Georgia at 305-393-9885.





January 22nd saw an elegant Sisterhood tea at the bayfront home of Nancy and Kurt Kluger. These events have become a lovely way for Sisterhood members to get together with nary a task at hand or event to plan, just to enjoy each others' company.

Our thanks to Mary Lee Singer for the photos.









The three photos at left are from the early service on January 27th, led by Joyce Peckman and Beth Hayden. Carol and Steve Steinbock sponsored the Oneg in

honor of Carol's birthday. As you can see, there were several options for cake. In the photo at top, Yardena stands before her display in the KJCC lobby that same evening,



commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the day that Russian troops liberated Auschwitz.



The photos above, left and right are from the February I I th Saturday morning service led by Rabbi Richard Agler. Those of us who were there enjoyed a riveting discussion of the Ten Commandments. When's the last time you were sorry to see a service end?





All the photos on this page are from Sunday, February 12. At top, the newly sworn in KJCC Board is serenaded by the Sunday School students. Moira,

at top, had found a special English version of Shalom Aleichem. At the end of the meeting, current president Stuart Sax joined with past presidents George Swartz, Alan Beth and Steve Steinbock to read final prayers seeking wisdom and also health for the members of

the congregation. The Sunday School celebrated their Tu B'Shvat seder, center, then went outside to plant two new fruitbearing trees in the KJCC garden.









Tallit, Kipot, Kiddush Cups, Candlesticks Mezuzzot, Jewelry and More!



For further information contact Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585 Patti Gross (305) 664-5168

-This Month in Jewish History-March

515 BCE - Construction of the Second Temple is completed, according to the Book of Ezra. It is 71 years since its destruction by Babylonians.

322 BCE - Aristotle dies. He is almost universally held in high esteem by Jews, then and for millennia afterwards. The writings of Maimonides, some 1,500 years later, include this: "The words of Plato, Aristotle's teacher, are obscure and figurative: they are superfluous to the man of intelligence, inasmuch as Aristotle supplanted all his predecessors. The thorough understanding of Aristotle is the highest achievement to which man can attain, with the sole exception of the understanding of the Prophets."

1126 – Alfonso VII is proclaimed king of Castile and Leon. Under his reign Christian Spain becomes a refuge for persecuted Andalusian Jews. The capital city of Toledo becomes a new center for Jewish learning. The major reason for this great turn of Jewish fortune is the king's relationship with Yehuda Ibn-Ezra, who the king promotes to commander of the fortress of Calatrava as a reward for his bravery during its conquest. Ibn-Ezra then uses his influence to create a refuge for Jews fleeing Almohades, a religiously fervent Berber Moslem dynasty in southern Spain after successful conquests in parts of North Africa.

1152 – Frederick Barbarossa is elected Roman -German king. Known to history as Barbarossa or Frederick I, he rules as Holy Roman Emperor for forty years. He fiercely protects his Jewish subjects, warning local priests and monks not to preach against the Jews. He tells Parliament that anybody who kills a Jew will forfeit his own life. Thanks to Frederick, German bishops threaten excommunication for those who attack Jews. Jews sincerely grieve his death, and a Jewish commentator of the time writes: "Frederick defended us with all his might and enabled us to live among our enemies, so that no one harmed the Jews."

1239 – Spanish King James I codifies privileges of the Jews of Aragon with his Edict of Valencia. Jewish courts (The *Bet Din*) are authorized to try all cases except capital offenses. A little over two hundred years later, life for the Jews of Aragon will be decidedly worse.

1693 - Carlo Della Torre di Rezzonico is born. As Pope Clement XIII he will rule that there is no substance to the claim that Jews use blood in the preparation of their unleavened bread.

1791 - A Christian in Alsace is punished by the Church for lighting a fire for a Jew on Shabbat. Israel Jacobs of Pennsylvania takes his seat as the first Jewish member of the United States House of Representatives.

1799 - The French army under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte reaches the outskirts of Jaffa. This military action has nothing whatever to do with the Jewish people. It is, though, one of hundreds of examples throughout history, not to be the last, of Palestine being a magnet for armies because it is the land bridge between Africa, Asia and indirectly, Europe.

1801 – David Emanuel takes office as Governor of Georgia, the first Jew to serve as Governor in any of the United States. Emanuel is appointed to serve the last eight months of the unfinished gubernatorial term of a predecessor selected by the state legislature to serve a term in the U.S. Senate.

1820 - Alexander I of Russia prohibits the employment of Christian servants by Jews. On the other side of Europe, the revolutionary military leader and de facto Spanish leader, Riego of Spain, issues a decree ending the Inquisition. The Spanish Inquisition is officially and finally brought to an end in 1834, over 350 years after it is instituted in 1480.

1845 – Florida becomes the 27th state to join the Union. In 1763, the first recorded Jews in Florida come to Pensacola. More Jews move to north Florida in the next few decades, but the Jewish population remains small during this time, numbering no more than a dozen individuals. When Florida becomes a state, there are less than 100 Jews in a population of 66,500. The first U.S. Senator from Florida is a Jew, David Levy Yulee.

1866 - An article is published in New York describing the annual Purim Ball entitled "The Purim Ball: The Wonders of a Persian Temple - A Glimpse of the Glories of Babylon Fun, Frolic and Phantasmagoria." (They just don't make headline-writers like that any more.)

1893 - R.H. Macy & Co. advertises "Passover Goods for the Holiday" on the fifth floor of its new building, including "Matzoths, Matzoth Flour and Potato Flour" for nine cents a pound.

1894 - Coca-Cola is sold in bottles for the first time. Coca-Cola's initial introduction is in 1886 at the fountain of Jacob's Pharmacy in Atlanta, owned by Dr. Joe Jacobs, who becomes one of Atlanta's most prominent Jews. Coke is certified as Kosher and Kosher for Passover in 1935, thanks to the efforts of an orthodox Atlanta rabbi named Tobias Geffen.

1899 – Bayer registers aspirin as a trademark, claiming that Felix Hoffman, an "Aryan" scientist, develops the drug to alleviate the symptoms of his rheumatic father. But according to Diarmuid Jeffreys, the author of *Aspirin: The Story of a Wonder Drug*, it is in fact a Jew named Arthur Eichengrün who is the Bayer chemist who first finds an aspirin formulation tolerable to the human stomach and without the unpleasant side effects of nausea and gastric pain. Jeffreys writes that Eichengrün also invents the name "aspirin" and is the first person to use the new formulation to test its safety and efficacy. Eichengrün, however, is excluded from the official version of Bayer's history in 1934 because he is Jewish.

1901 - Master bridge player Charles Goren is born. The lawyer from Philadelphia probably does more to popularize the game of bridge than any other single American.

1903 - Congress passes legislation to curb immigration to the United States. The bill requires immigrants to pay a two-dollar head tax each (possibly more money than many poor immigrants have ever seen). It also gives immigration officers the right to peremptorily exclude those whom they deem anarchists. The legislation is obviously aimed at the flood of hopefuls coming from Southern and Eastern Europe, including large Jewish populations from the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires.

1911 – Fire breaks out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. At least 146 workers die, many of them immigrant Jewish women, some as young as fourteen. This single event causes laws to be passed mandating worker safety and is largely responsible for the growth of the New York garment unions.

1912 – Hadassah is founded by Henrietta Szold. At a meeting at Temple Emanu-El in New York City, Szold – scholar, teacher, journalist, editor, social worker and pioneer Zionist – convinces the Daughters of Zion study circle to expand its purpose and embrace "practical Zionism," work to help meet the health needs of Palestine's people. The meeting is held around the time of Purim, so the women call themselves "The Hadassah chapter of the Daughters of Zion," adopting the Hebrew name of Queen Esther.

1914 - Arthur Ruppin writes in his diary: "Today I succeeded in buying from Sir John Gray Hill his large and magnificently situated property on Mount Scopus, thus acquiring the first piece of ground for the Jewish University in Jerusalem."

1938 - Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia. The connection with modern Jewish history has been continuous and complex ever since. \diamond

. Joel and Linda Pollack

Were married on February 11, 1962 in Miami. At the Friday night service on February 10, 2012, a few hours before their 50th anniversary and in front of a full sanctuary of KJCC friends and admirers, plus family and lifelong friends from Texas, New York and California, they renewed their vows. Rabbi Richard Agler performed the ceremony. As Joel pointed out in his invitation to all of KJCC to join them that night, it's been a pretty special run for two young kids who had barely known each other for eight weeks.





We hope you'll enjoy the photo album from this wonderful evening that appears on the next several

pages. Our great thanks to Barbara and Richard Knowles and Mary Lee Singer for their photo contributions.















Thank you, Joel and Linda, for all you've given and all you mean to the Keys Jewish Community Center. We all felt honored to have been part of your evening.





Keys Jewish Community Center 9th Annual Women's Seciet Sunday April 1, 2011

5:00 PM @ KJCC Homemade Seder Dinner w/Wine

Come celebrate the 9th Women's Seder Donation: \$18 chai + \$9.00 for 9 years = \$27.00

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

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A Brief History of the Durimspiel The Evolution of a Uniquely European-Jewish Art Form

ife for the Jews of 12th century Europe was gray, bleak, and precarious. Yes, there was Rashi, and a generation later Maimonides, and the great Jewish poet Abraham ibn Ezra. But there was also the relentless looting and pillaging of the grim slog history called the Second Crusade, as well as Genghis Khan's Mongol cavalry swooping in for conquest and additional pillaging from the opposite direction. Yet somehow the Jews persevered, kept the Sabbath and their identities, and whenever possible studied. They don't

seem to have celebrated the holidays and festivals quite as Jews did during the Temple period or as their descendants would during later periods of European history. Passover seems to have been important, but not Succot or Shavuot. Chanukah was acknowledged more than celebrated, with Chanukah menorahs often lit in secrecy so as not to draw the attention of unfriendly neighbors.

Interestingly, the one lesser holiday that seems to have been

considered important and whose practices were dutifully followed was Purim. Scholars don't seem to fully agree as to why, but perhaps people trying desperately to cope with the typically horrid and Jew-phobic conditions of Europe found a way to identify with the difficulties and persecutions suffered by the Persian Jews in the Book of Esther. (As they apparently also did with the enslaved Jews craving deliverance from Pharaoh's Egypt.)

At any rate, they do seem to have regularly celebrated Purim. As the 12th century dawned the readings of the Purim Megillah tended not to be synagogue rituals but public entertainments, a reader holding the scroll aloft and booming out its contents to as many as could be assembled. This made sense. It wasn't going to the synagogue that was the mitzvah; it was the *hearing* of the story. For people like these, typically eking out a miserable living, it was hard enough to stop working for a day on the Sabbath. They were going to forego another day of work, and possibly eating, just to go listen to the Book of Esther? At this time, in such a place, it made perfect sense for the scroll and story to be literally brought to them. If God was portable, why not Purim?

There had, since the days of the dueling Talmuds in Palestine and Babylon, been a merriment component to Purim. (Purim's importance

> was also underscored by how many Talmudic tractates were devoted to explaining its proper observation.) Unlike many Biblical stories, this one is a flat-out triumph for the Jews, not a complex story with a heavily layered set of moral lessons. It engenders joy and celebration, which was encouraged by the rabbis. (Of course, there was that small matter of slaughtering 75,000 Persians even after they'd won, just in case, though that aspect of the story never seems to get

into the summaries.) Soon, the out-loud readings began to diverge from the actual text. Rhymed couplets began to appear, which enabled both easier assimilation of the material and also an opportunity for the readers to add their own creative elements to the story. This slippage of the prim mask of sobriety was abetted by that virtual command to revelry issued from the sage Rava in his now-famous dictum in the Babylonian Talmud, that "a man is obligated to get drunk on Purim to the point where he can no longer distinguish between 'cursed is Haman' and 'Blessed is Mordechai.'" (This excess so horrified Maimonides that he tried to re -formulate the instruction to be that we should drink only enough to fall asleep. But the vox *populi* was far more attuned to the first guy.) Jews in Italy, southern France (in Provence) and elsewhere soon began to see Purim represented Chai-Lights March 2012 31

Readings of the Megillah tended not to be synagogue rituals but public entertainments. by full parodies on the Purim text and other stories of the Bible and Talmud, plus the liturgy and other familiar aspects of Jewish life.

By the 1400s, as the Renaissance began to spread from Italy throughout Europe, Jewish creativity, though not quite offered a full seat at the banquet that would forever banish the darkness of medieval Europe, exploded into the opening created by Purim. In Provence they had begun to don masks and costumes for Purim. Even sermons were occasionally played for laughs. Monologues began to give way to simple plays, with expanded characters and even more divergence from the actual Purim story. These activities began to be called Purimspiels, "spiel" being the Yiddish word for story, play, or skit.

By the 1500s Purimspiels would often become staged entertainment at the homes of wealthy Jews. Yeshiva students would be recruited as actors (or stooges), and they would usually wear masks and costumes. By the 1600s, the repertoire broadened considerably (both meanings intended). Satire and teasing often gave way to lampoons and grotesque parodies. It was inevitable, since these were pure examples of folk art, that vulgarity and profanity would also become incorporated into the Purimspiel writing. And it did, to the point in the 1700s that the city fathers of Frankfort actually staged a public burning of a printed Purimspiel because of its undisguised vulgarity. As you can imagine, the writers of these skits took great liberties with the events and characters of the Purim story. Many threw off the con-

straints of the original story altogether, some satirizing other Bible stories such as David and Goliath or the selling of Joseph by his brothers, some dropping any Biblical pretext at all and lampooning elements of contemporary Jewish life and politics. It was all an irreverence that would be tolerated only on Purim.

By the 1800s, many Purimspiels had become full-fledged plays, usually still with a satiric edge, often with music and dance – influenced by European opera – and were commonly produced and staged by professional acting companies with large casts. These spiels were often performed in public places and charged admission. It seems clear that the Yiddish Theater, which began about this time, had its roots in the writing and production skills and creative imagination learned from creating Purimspiels.

So Mel Brooks had his antecedents. There's a long history of satiric or broadly comic musical plays in the Jewish tradition, all of it seemingly evolving from the simple mitzvah of hearing the Purim story. It's a shame those grand and passionate productions from the 17^{th} and 18^{th} centuries aren't available on CD. How wonderful it would be if we were able to enjoy and groan and hoot at their audacity now. \diamond

An Artist Remembers pre-Holocaust Purim in Poland



From They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust. – Mayer Kirshenblatt and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett. His entire collection of paintings can be viewed at nyu.edu.

"A highlight of the holiday was the Purim play, one of which, "The Cracow Wedding," is the subject of this painting. The troop would rehearse for months in advance. Most of the performers were laborers and artisans. They wore homemade costumes, the styles going back to the 18th century. The female characters are wearing the national costume of the Cracow region. You can see them to this day at folk festivals. If the women look masculine, it is because men are playing the female parts. In the Jewish tradition, women would not perform this sort of thing. Those playing male roles are wearing *shako* hats, inspired by the hats that soldiers wore during the Napoleonic Wars to make them look taller and more intimidating. "The Cracow Wedding" was the only Purim play that required instrumental music.

"The Purim players would perform for five or six families in an evening. They did not visit every house, only those of prominent citizens. They wouldn't come to my house. We loved to follow the Purim players from place to place. You can see us standing outside Zayfman's home, watching the Purim play through the window."

The World-Famous Story of Purim

by Meish Goldish

The story of Purim in an international tale, told Purimspiel-style.

King Achashverosh was Finnish with his disobedient wife Vashti. "You Congo now!" he ordered her. After she had Ghana way, the King's messengers went Roman the land to find a new queen. And India end, the beautiful Esther won the crown.

Meanwhile, Mordechai sat outside the palace, where the Chile Haman would Czech up on him daily.

"I Haiti you because you refuse to bow to me!" Haman scolded Mordechai. "USA very stubborn man. You Jews are such Bahamas! If you keep this up, Denmark my words! I will have all your people killed! Just Kuwait and see, you Turkey!"

Mordechai went into mourning and tore his clothes – a custom known as Korea. He urged Esther to plead with the King. The Jews fasted for three days and grew very Hungary. Esther approached the King and asked, "Kenya Belize come to a banquet I've prepared for you and Haman?" At the feast, she invited her guests to a second banquet to eat Samoa.

The King asked: "Esther, why Jamaica big meal like this? Just tell me what you want. Unto half my United Kingdom will I give you." Esther replied: "Spain full for me to say this, but Haman is Russian to kill my people."

Haman's loud Wales could be heard as he carried Honduran this scene. "Oman!" Haman cried bitterly. "Iraq my brains in an effort to destroy the Jews. But that sneaky Mordechai...Egypt me!"

Haman and his ten sons were hanged and went immediately to the Netherlands. And to Sweden the deal, the Jews were allowed to Polish off the rest of their foes as well. "You lost your enemies and Uganda friend," the King smiled.

And that is why the Purim story Israeli a miracle. God decided to China light on His chosen people.

So now, let's celebrate. Forget all your Syria's business and just be happy! Serb up some wine and Taiwan on! Happy Purim!

What A Purimspiel Playbill Might Look Like

From the title page of the Purimspiel "Squanto Teaches the Pilgrims to Fish, a Purimspiel featuring the Three Wise Men of Bethlehem, Morty Chai and Vashti Stewart (Martha's ancestor)"

"Squanto Teaches the Pilgrims to Fish" will offend (slightly) all of the following:

- Reform Jews;
- Conservative Jews;
- Orthodox Jews;
- Native Americans;
- Goyim and their friends, the Gentiles;
- Gays (metrosexuals might be offended, or might not);
- Abbott and Costello;
- The Catskill Mountains;
- Mrs. Haman. 🗞

Our Amazing Vacation Cruise to Antarctica

Mort and Gene and Joe and Susan Visit the Bottom of the World

by Gene Silverman

We arrived in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Monday, January 2nd. After checking

into our hotel we had a private guide take us to see the Libertad (which is the oldest. and still used) and Yesod Hadat synagogues. which are mostly traditional, somewhere between Conservative and Orthodox. All Jewish buildings in Buenos Aires have very large cement barriers in front with many



Just before boarding ship, there was time to explore Ushuaia, Argentina, the world's southernmost city.

cameras. We visited the Jewish neighborhood of Once (pronounced *on-say*), the Israeli Memorial Embassy Square and AMIA, the Israeli Mutual Association of Argentina. The Israeli Embassy was bombed in April 1992, killing 32 people. In 1994 AMIA, the Jewish community headquarters, was also bombed, killing 87 people and wounding more than 100 others. Its original building was destroyed in the bombing.

Argentina is the second-largest nation in Latin America and has the largest Jewish community. Jewish people here have enjoyed periods of peaceful coexistence and also periods **34** Chai-Lights March 2012 of intense anti-Semitism. We weren't allowed to take photos outside any synagogue because of the terrorist attacks that have occurred there. Inside the Metropolitan Church

there is a special memorial. It consists of two glass plates surrounding prayer book pages rescued from the ruins of Treblinka, Auschwitz and the Warsaw Ghetto. There is also a Kaddish score and two book covers, one a book of tales in Yiddish found under the rubble of AMIA's building, and the other the Book of Samuel, found during the tense search for survivors after the Israeli diplomatic building exploded. The Israeli Embassy has been relocated, but on its former site there is now a quiet square planted with trees in memory of all who



perished there. After our tour we managed to be dropped off on Florida Street for a bite of lunch. then off to do some leather shopping. We were quite surprised when we

realized that the days of "cheap leather" were over. Prices were nowhere near cheap, but one has to keep up the foreign economies, so we did manage to spread around some Argentinean pesos.



At right, Mort and Joe in the seedy but colorful La Boca district of Buenos Aires.



with hikes to see the sea lion colony, the elephant seal colony and the bird life. Then came Bleaker Island with the rockhopper penguins (one



The following day, our second in Buenos Aires, Susan and loe Sachs arrived, so our foursome was now complete. The following day we would all travel about 1,200 miles



south to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world, where we would board *Le Boreal*, the ship that would take us all to Antarctica.

We departed Ushuaia on January 4th. Our first stop two days later was to



The Buenos Aires tomb at left has both a cross and menorah. A Marrano with regrets?



This is how they'd board the Zodiacs when off for an exploration of some island or the shallow water off Antarctica itself.



the Falklands (actually Sea Lion Island),

of the family of crested penguins) and over 9,000 pairs of king cormorants.

We sailed eastward upon the Scotia Sea, en route to the island of South Georgia, the easternmost island of the Falklands. On this



passage we endured 30-foot seas for two days, but thankfully none of us suffered *mal de mer*. It was amazing to watch the liquid

Above, A Magellanic penquin poses. The device at right was for cleaning our shoes.





saw many fur seals and blackbrowed and grey-headed albatross in their nests. By the way, we did these viewings aboard Zodiacs – large, sturdy, motorized rubber dinghies – traversing the very cold waters for sometimes more than one hour.

On January 10th we arrived at Grytviken Island and St. Andrews Bay. We walked around the remains of the old whaling station and the



Susan's smiling, but she wasn't too comfortable about the steady approach of that elephant seal.

iling, sn't rtthe of ant museum. Walking here means avoiding the lounging elephant seals

in our glasses not move from side to side as the seas were roiling over the windows.

On January 9th we first went onshore at Salisbury Plain (yes, the same name as the area around Stonehenge, but it is a British island, after all) to see the largest king penguin colonies in the world. In the afternoon we went to Elsehul Bay, where we



and king penguins. In the afternoon, back aboard ship, we sailed into St. Andrews Bay, where the Heaney and Cook Glaciers tumble down from rugged 10,000-foot mountains to the bay.

On January 11th we entered Gold Harbour, South Georgia, situated near the southern end of the island. This is home for a large king penguin colony and Gentoo penquins, elephant and fur seals and light mantled sooty albatrosses. Later we sailed into Drygalski Fjord, which has breathtaking scenery.

On January 12th

white craggy place, with spectacular scenery of sea ice and tabular icebergs. We traversed this in our Zodiacs, taking deep breaths every time the Zodiac brushed







King penguins, as far as the eye could see, above.



and 13th we sailed south to-

wards the Weddell Sea and Paulet Island. This sea is a great





Our ship as shot from the Zodiac, above.

against these floating "ice-chips!" Paulet Island is a small, circular volcanic cone with more than 100,000 pairs of Adelie penguins; it's awash with guano, too, which can be smelled from miles away. Wilson's storm petrels, snow petrels, sheathbills and blue-eyed

shags are also seen here.

On January 16th, after an outdoors barbeque lunch, we ventured into Paradise Bay. Here we set foot on the Antarctic Continent at the Argentine Station of Brown. We had



The Scotia Sea, above.







There are eight types of penguins, and they saw them all.





were thrilled to see three very large humpback whales swimming happily along with us. That was immediately after we spotted a very large leopard seal lounging on a floating iceberg. All in all we saw all eight families of penguins, all the birds on this continent, pilot and

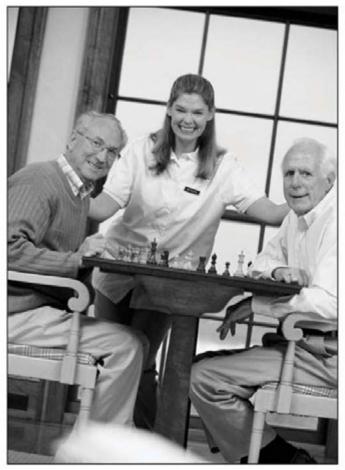
finally set foot on our seventh continent. (Note to self: check item off bucket list.) Paradise Bay is often filled with ice, which started to fill in around the ship (it was summer in the southern hemisphere, remember), so our Captain had



humpback whales, seals of all kinds and the most majestic scenery our welltraveled eyes have ever seen. It truly was the trip of a lifetime and one that none of us will never forget. ◊

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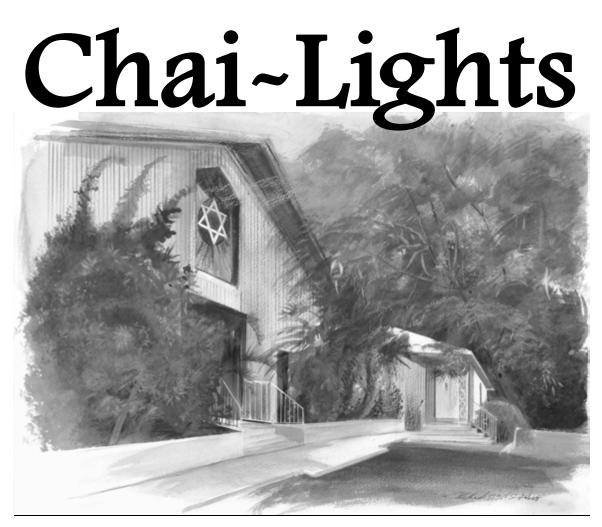
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May 2012

9 Iyar - 10 Sivan 5772

Aidan's Bar Mitzvah - page 23 The KJCC Women's Seder - page 30 Gloria on *Pirkei Avot* - page 38

Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com Chai-Lights May 2012 I May 2012

9 Iyar - 10 Sivan

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2
Men's Club
Game
Night
7 p.m. | 3 | 4
Ken Atlas
Carol Steinbock | 5 |
| 6
Sisterhood
Meeting
10:30a.m.,
luncheon
12:30 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10
Lag Ba-Omer | 11
Erica Garrett &
Marc Bloom
<i>Medina Roy &</i>
Bernie Ginsberg | 12 |
| 13
KJCC Board
Meeting
9 a.m.
Mother's Day | 14 | 15
Digital Pho-
tography
with
Barbara
Knowles,
6:30 p.m. | 16 | 17 | 18
George Swartz &
Yardena Kamely
Steve & Barbara
Smith,
Medina & Carl
Roy | 19 |
| 20
Yom
Yerushalayim | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25
Medina Roy &
Gloria Avner
6:30 Service
Yizkor Service
Joan & Jim
Boruszak | 26
Rabbi
Agler
Torah
Learning
Service
10 a.m. |
| 27
First Day
of Shavuot | 28
Second Day
of Shavuot;
Women's
Discussion
Group 7 p.m. | 29 | 30 | Italicized r | enote leaders of Friday
names are Oneg sponso
held every Friday even | ors. Services |

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message

Stuart Sax

Late last month there was a program held in Princeton, New Jersey to re-unite the Torah scrolls of Susice, Czechoslovakia along with survivor and guest of honor, Hana Bruna who escaped that small village. On the surface it seemed like a very wonderful tribute, but numerous questions arose from the organizers of the event and our interaction with them.

Firstly, the information stated that this event was an attempt to bring together the ten to twelve scrolls of Susice. Ten to twelve? We were told there were three. Thanks to the efforts of our valued member and holocaust historian Dr. Steve Smith and others, we were able to sort out additional details of the story.

The records indicate that in the mid-1800s the population of Susice was about 300 and it is estimated that there were about 100 residents in 1930. It is believed that there were several synagogues within 50-100 miles when the pogrom began and the scroll from these communities were brought to Susice for later transport to Prague. When rescued, all of the scrolls were cataloged as being from Susice. There is more to this story and Dr. Smith is sorting the information and, when completed, we will print it in Chai Lights.



If you look at the calendar on the opposite page it is clear to see that there are fewer dates with information listed in them. Some would interpret this to mean that we are slowing down and heading into our own version of a recession.

I choose to see this as an opportunity especially for those of us that are here to endure the long, hot, and humid summer ahead. We may not have all the extra-curricular activities that we have "in season", but we still have opportunities. We will still gather each Friday evening for Shabbat services and then retire into the social hall to share in an oneq and spirited conversation. The women will still gather for their monthly discussion group. The men (and even some women) will play cards and socialize on the first Wednesday, and Dave Mont will continue to lead his monthly kayaking expeditions.

Beginning this month, with fewer planned events on our calendars, we have a golden opportunity to get together socially outside of the synagogue. Maybe see a movie together or meet at a local eatery for a good meal and some lively conversation. The summer months may be light activity wise, but they are what we make them. The opportunities are there, will you take advantage of them? \diamond

Nosh

A Trip to Israel is Being Planned

Preliminary plans are being made for a KJCC trip to Israel early summer 2013, probably in June. Big deal, you say! People go to Israel all the time! But wait. The tour guide and leader of this trip will be none other than Rabbi Richard Agler. He speaks fluent Hebrew, and has been leading trips to Israel for years. Word is he's pretty good at this. He has a slew of contacts, both in the travel industry and in places of special interest for Diaspora Jews visiting, whether for the first or the tenth time. This is not intended to be a typical trip. Rabbi Agler says it will be customized to the interests of the group that goes. He's also said that Bar or Bat Mitzvahs could be scheduled as part of the trip; there's already interest in that.

Early projections are that the trip will cost approximately \$3,500 per person, excluding air fare. There needs to be at least a group of twenty. Coordination from the KJCC end is being handled by Dave Mont (305-393-9883 or moogoodave@yahoo.com). David Gitin (305-393 -4979 or ddgitin@gmail.com) knows the itinerary and would be happy to share his experiences with anyone considering the trip.

Sisterhood's Last Meeting of the Season

Sunday, May 6th, will be the last Sisterhood meeting of the season. As has become traditional, this meeting will not really be about business, but will be basically a social occasion, allowing everyone to offer their best wishes and goodbyes to those who leave the Keys for the summer. The meeting will begin at KJCC at 10:30 (note the new time), and then all will repair to Bitton Bistro Café in Islamorada at 12:30 for a wonderful luncheon, where your hosts will be KJCC members Michel and Sylvie. (Well, okay, there might be a minimal amount of Sisterhood business conducted during the two hours.) Contact Lauren with any questions or to put yourself down as a definite. We at KJCC will count our 49th day of Omer one day early this year, on Friday night the 25th of May (so all can keep their Memorial Day Weekend plans, having already celebrated "Revelation," the receiving of the Torah.)

As early (beginning at 6:30) services conclude, we will close our eyes and imagine we are hearing that wake-up call, the blowing of the shofar, the deafening blasts of thunder and lightning as the sound echoed down Mt. Sinai. (The rabbis say all our souls were there.) Gathered around the bimah, we will receive the Ten Commandments and then move to the Social Hall for a "milchedicke" Oneg of cheesecake, blintzes, other dairy treats, discussion, and learning. It is a special night, our fourth annual observance of Tikkun Leil Shavuot. We repair the mistakes our ancestors made the first night of Shavuot, when they nearly missed the great gift of Torah by oversleeping. Save the date. (It is also our yearly opportunity to look over a list of all 613 mitzvot.)

-Gloria

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to Barney Coltman and his family on the death of Ellen Coltman

Rabbi Agler Service on May 26th

Rabbi Richard Agler will once again be here at KJCC on Saturday, May 26th, beginning at 10 a.m., to lead another in his series of Torah Learning services. (For those who like to know such things, the Torah portion that week will be *Bamidbar*, which translates as "in the desert." It's the first section of the Book of Numbers,)

For those who miss formality, we do open our Holocaust Torah during the service. But the real attraction is the ensuing discussion.

May Birthdays

| lst | Jonathan Schenker |
|--------|----------------------|
| 2nd | Barney Coltman |
| 4th | Pamela G. Marmar |
| 4th | Ryan Curtis |
| 5th | Richard Palacino |
| 7th | Murray Rapoport |
| 8th | Kelley Greenman |
| 8th | Sidney Boruszak |
| 9th | |
| 9th | |
| l l th | Richard Agler |
| th | Sheila R. Steinberg |
| I2th | Madelyn Ruby Pollack |
| I2th | |
| I2th | Robert Silk |
| I3th | Rose Marie Gordon |
| I4th | |
| I4th | Eva Ban |
| I4th | |
| I4th | |
| I4th | |
| I5th | |
| I7th | Alex Shatz |
| 18th | |
| 18th | |
| 19th | |
| 19th | Sylvie Coeurjoly |
| 20th | Rita Williams |
| 2 st | Tracey Greenberg |
| 22nd | |
| 22nd | Sharon Repka |
| 23rd | Bianka Kirschenbaum |
| 23rd | Jenny Margulies |
| 23rd | Jules Seder |
| 23rd | |
| 25th | Carolyn Kaufman |
| 25th | |
| 25th | Susan Schwaid |
| 26th | |
| 27th | |
| 27th | |
| 27th | |
| 29th | |
| 29th | |
| 29th | |
| 30th | |
| 31st | |
| 31st | |
| 3 st | Wes Conklin |

May Anniversaries

| | | Years |
|------|----------------------------|-------|
| 2nd | Bennett & Deborah Beinfest | 22 |
| 4th | Alan & Susan Cooper | |
| 24th | Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl | 53 |
| 29th | Lawrence & Judith Weber | 50 |
| 30th | Harold & Shelley Schenker | |
| | , | |

Bemah Melodies

At his lunch-and-learn session on Sunday, April 1st (what will surely go down in KJCC lore as by far the busiest day anyone can remember), Rabbi Agler talked a lot about flexibility in the service, about local *minhag* (custom) being an important component of how the service is structured. Many prayers or songs have a variety of melodies, and the ones each synagogue chooses to use are up to them.

Except, he said laughing, there are two that have to be sung a certain way, and we do both of them, well, incorrectly. (He has a patent on the Yiddish shrug.) The melody we use when lighting the candles should only be used when lighting Chanukah candles. And the melody we use for the Barchu, the call to prayer, should actually only be used for aliyahs at the Torah. Oops. Gloria now has the correct melodies. She'll be teaching them to all of us, little by little.

Book Plates

In Honor of Georgia Landau & Dave Mont's Marriage on 12/27/2011 By Muriel & George Swartz

> From Stuart & Lauren Sax In Loving Memory of Sam & Babe Sax

One Rabbi Honors Another

For boring technical reasons, the only way to get the photo on page 20 of the Center for Girls in Nairobi, Kenya named after Talia Agler was to go to the web site Rich and Mindy have set up. Something posted there jumped out, which Rabbi Agler has give us permission to reprint:

Rabbi Efrem Goldberg of Boca Raton Synagogue, which is Orthodox, went to pay a *shiva* call on the Aglers after the death of their daughter Tali...

"...Rabbi Broide and I went to the Aglers' home to simply communicate that we care, feel their pain and pray for their comfort.

"The time we spent together, and the inspiration Rabbi Broide and I received that day, were remarkable. I asked Rabbi Agler how this tragedy impacts his faith in the Almighty. As a rabbi, he undoubtedly has spoken about bad things happening to good people, but now he had lived it.

"His answer blew me away. He said, 'My Judaism, my relationship with God and my faith are what empowered me to raise such a wonderful daughter, and these values are what gave her life meaning and purpose. Why would I throw away the very things that made her so special, just because she was taken so prematurely and tragically? Faith allowed me to raise a special daughter, and faith will guide me through the tragedy of her death.' "

May Oneg Sponsors

May 4th: Carol Steinbock, in honor of Mother's Day.

May 11th: Medina Roy and Bernie Ginsberg in honor of their shared birthday.

May 18th: Steve & Barbara Smith in honor of son-in-law Christian Strasser's birthday, and Medina & Carl Roy in honor of Medina's Mom Bianka's 97th birthday.

May 25th: Jim & Joan Boruszak in honor of Joan'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, 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 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.

Sn Memoriam May 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Rose Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

In Memory Of

Charles S. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Hal Burnett

By Shirley Burnett

In Memory Of

Sam Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Neil H. Tomor

By Barbara A. Calev

In Memory Of

Emanuel Schafer

By Barry & Natalie Dorf

In Memory Of

Hyman Goldberg

By Joseph & Susan Goldberg

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Albert Gilderman

By Larry & Stephanie Gilderman

 $\langle \cdot \rangle$

Gertrude Weisberg

By Gerri Emkey

> In Memory Of Julie Gorson-Marrow

> > By Janice Gorson

In Memory Of

By Marilyn Greenbaum

In Memory Of

Jack Kantor

By Erwin Kantor

In Memory Of

Morris Kornbloom

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

In Memory Of

Robert Schur

In Memory Of

Lilyan Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

By Lee Schur In Memory Of

Morris Moshe Grossman

By Stuart Grossman

In Memory Of

Grace Kaufman

By David & Lois Kaufman

In Memory Of

Florence Savage

By Marjorie Present

In Memory Of

Robert W. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

Chai-Lights May 2012 7

Belle Kirschenbaum

In Memory Of

Esther Jacobs

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs

In Memory Of

Cele Rosen

By Harvey & Joan Kay

In Memoriam May 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Rose Wainer

Sam Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Ida S. Reider

Phillip Temkin

By George & Muriel Swartz

In Memory Of

By Salomon & Mary Terner

In Memory Of

Itka Raij

In Memory Of

By Robert Temkin

Benjamin Weber

By Lawrence & Judith Weber

In Memory Of Morris Kornbloom

Morris Moshe Grossman

By Stuart Grossman

In Memory Of

Lilyan Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

In Memory Of

Robert Schur

By Lee Schur

In Memory Of

Etia Terner

By Salomon & Mary Terner

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

In Memory Of

Susan Cimkowski

By Stephen & Carol Steinbock

In Memory Of

Robert W. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

In Memory Of

Norma Cutler

By Donald Zinner

Mishebeyrach List

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

Sisterhood Lauren Sax



April came and went in two seconds! Unfortunately, we had to say good-bye to many of our snowbirds. Not only do we enjoy socializing with them, but they are also a source of support for many of our activities.

A whopping *thank you* to all those involved with our Passover seders. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend either seder; however, the buzz was extremely positive for both of them. Beth Kaminstein, Erica Garrett and Gloria Avner and the rest of their crew outdid themselves. It seems as though the Women's Seder keeps getting bigger and better each year. In the spirit of *Tikkun Olam*, they have decided to donate their proceeds to the Children's Shelter of the Upper Keys, to Tornado Relief through The Temple in Louisville, Kentucky and to our own KJCC Holocaust Fund. Thanks, ladies, for a job well done!

Our new chairperson this year for the KJCC Family Seder, Mary Lee Singer, showed off her organizational expertise and pulled off a beautiful evening, about which we are still getting phone calls thanking us for a wonderful time. Maryon Gould was Mary Lee's able-bodied assistant; Jim and Joan Boruszak are to be applauded, as they were the behindthe-scenes coordinators. Jim and Gloria used new Haggadahs and the service was concise but yet very meaningful. And thank you to all who attended.

Our final (not possible!) Sisterhood meeting of the year is Sunday, May 6th. Note our time change to 10:30 a.m. in the social hall. From the meeting we will proceed to Bitton Bistro Café in Islamorada for our end-of-theyear luncheon. Separate checks as usual and the crepes are to die for. If you haven't responded to me, do it now!

Finally, I never expected this to happen. One day I am a congregant and the next a Sisterhood president. But I had done this be fore. Presidencies in various other organizations would give me the

experience I needed for my reincarnation as a KJCC Sisterhood President. Not a big deal. I could do this yet again. However, I never imagined how protective I would turn out to be with this presidency. This time around I feel like a mother hen with her chicks. I am ever so grateful for "my girls" and their willingness to be there for me when needed. Yet I am also very conscious of the work and how much they do. I never want "my girls" to feel over-worked or under-appreciated. The problem is that there doesn't seem to be a large enough flock. We have a nice membership, but, like many other organizations today, it is always the same people doing the work.

In order for the KICC Sisterhood to move forward with the times. we need some new chicks. New faces bring new ideas. Our season is coming to an end. Notices for next year's events will be in the mail shortly. I implore you to think hard and long about what you would like to see at the KICC. What can Sisterhood do for you? More luncheons, an enhanced discussion group, card games, health or investment seminars? Please contact me. I will try to fill those needs. Just know that those things take manpower. Onegs don't just happen. Neither do Shabbat dinners or installation brunches. If you want those things, plus what you have come to expect from the KJCC, step up to the plate. We need to continue to make next year. and those that follow, winning years. \diamond

The KJCC is looking for good homes for the piano and electric organ in the sanctuary. These would be good starter instruments for anyone interested in learning to play. For a modest donation, either or both can be yours. Contact Stuart for additional information. -Lauren

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 | In Honor of | Meditation Garden | In Memory of |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Swartz, George & Muri | el Dave Mont & | Graham, Bea | bricks - Talia Agler & |
| Georgia Landau - wedding nuptials | | | Karen Hayhurst |
| | | Rose, Skip & Rene | bricks - Talia Ágler & |
| Book Plates | In Memory of | · | Karen Hayhurst |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren | Sam & Babe Sax | | |
| | | Scholarship Fund | In Honor of |
| General Fund | In Honor of | Eisman, Mildred | Herbert Schulman |
| Begam, Delores | pray for us | Sax, Stuart & Lauren | Sam Vinicur receiving |
| Ehrenreich, David & Ro | oberta Joel & Linda Pollack's | | Joel S. Cohen Award |
| | 50th anniversary | | - |
| Gelbard, Sy | | Sisterhood | In Honor of |
| Kwalick, Teresa | Joel & Linda Pollack's | Davidson, Foster & Carol I | Laskin Joel & Linda |
| | 50th anniversary | | Pollack's 50th anniversary |
| Lewis, Phil & Arleen | We love your synagogue | Ellner, Susan | My birthday |
| Schur, Lee | Dave Mont & Georgia Landau | Steinbock, Steve & Carol | Happy Mother's Day |
| | wedding nuptials | | |
| | | Yartzeits | In Memory of |
| General Fund | In Memory of | Coltman, Barney & Ellen | Eve Greenstein |
| Pollack, Joel & Linda | Ralph Tallent | Graham, Bea | Marty Graham |
| • | | Rubin, Mike & Myrna | Herman Rubin |
| Meditation Garden | In Honor of | Sheinker, Miltra | Warren Sheinker |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren | Dave Mont & Georgia Landau | Tallent Family | Ida Tallent |
| | wedding nuptials | Temkin, Robert | Anne Temkin |
| | | | |

How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the treasures that lie between these covers." *Tree of Life Leaves*: We have two beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$50 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

Garden Bricks: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those yummy blintzes."

YEDA VE'TORASHA Yardena Kamely



Jerusalem of Gold

"Yerushalayim Shel Zahav" – Jerusalem of Gold – was written as a personal song, a song of longing and nostalgia. But for a nation once again at war, once again fighting for survival, it became a hymn of victory.

In Israel, after Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) of 1967, one song was sung everywhere: "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav." Within three weeks it became a national hymn and prayer. Over thirty versions appeared in Israel. Eddie Fisher recorded it in London, Larry Adler played it on the harmonica, and in America it was soon heard in every Jewish community. "Jerusalem of Gold" is in the heart of every Israeli and lives on as a reminder of the Six-Day-War in June 1967.

In Tel-Aviv, Naomi Shemer was sitting and reflecting over her latest composition. For her, it was a miracle that began on May 15. 1967. Some 3,500 people had crowded into Beit Ha'umot, Nation Hall in modern Jerusalem, to attend the annual Song Festival commemorating Israel's Independence Day. That year, five of the country's top composers had been assigned to create songs. The director of the festival said that they were free to write about anything they wanted, but then Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem expressed a strong wish that one of the five compose a song about Jerusalem. Four were not interested. Naomi Shemer, then 36, the popular composer of more than 200 songs, accepted.

She thought about the Jerusalem she had known as a girl. She remembered how her Polish parents spoke of their hometown Vilna (now Vilnius), a marvelous city, as "the Jerusalem of the Diaspora." She remembered the colors, the sounds, "the silent mood" of Jerusalem, her childhood visits to Biblical places, closed to her since 1948. She thought, too, of a story from the Talmud in which the wife of the great Rabbi Akiva lived in poverty for years, so that her husband could study. When Rabbi Akiva became a famous and learned man, he gave his wife a "Jerusalem of Gold," a gold brooch in the shape of the ancient city, to wear as a symbol of her devotion.

Naomi Shemer took the Talmudic phrase, "Yerushalayim shel zahav," and used it as the title for her song. It was to be a song of nostalgia for a city she had personally lost. "Jerusalem of gold, of copper, and of light," went the refrain; then, quoting from the medieval Hebrew writer, Yehuda Halevi, she continued, "Let me be a violin for all your songs..." For the first time in modern song, she referred to the "ancient wall" which Jerusalem "carries around her heart," and talked of the sights of the old city, sights that could not be visited by Jews:

The water cisterns are dry, The marketplace is empty. We cannot visit our temple in the ancient city, Where winds wail in the rocky caves.

Over the mountains, We cannot go to the Dead Sea By way of Jericho. Your name burns my lips like a Seraphim's kiss, Let me not forget thee, O Jerusalem of gold!

At the Song Festival in Jerusalem, it was already close to midnight when the song was sung. Fourteen other songs had already been performed. Then a young girl, discovered by the composer only a few days before, and unknown to the audience, walked out on stage. Her only accompaniment was her guitar. "As she sang *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*,"



A photo then and now: After the recapture of East Jerusalem in June, 1967, three young Israeli soldiers gaze toward the Temple Mount. They were reunited recently for the same photo, over forty years later.

described the newspapers, "the audience grew hushed. When the young singer finished there was a second silence, then earsplitting their homes and prepare for war. Naomi's song was played over and over on the radio during the early days of mobilization. Soldiers wrote to tell Naomi Shemer how they sang her song in the fields during the eve-

ning. A high commander of *Tzahal*, the IDF, called to invite Naomi to sing her song for the troops stationed near Jerusalem. Although she didn't perform often, she accepted. Many of the faces in her audience she recognized. (Israel is a small country.) Some, she remembered, had fought in 1948 and 1956. They stood around her in a circle, with only the headlights of a truck giving some light in the darkness, and she sang to them, and with strong voices the soldiers joined in the refrain.

On Sunday, June 4, Naomi Shemer was introduced to some of the top military commanders – Ezer Weitzman, Itzhak Rabin, and the man who was to lead the Sinai campaign, Ariel Sharon. Sharon

turned to her, and in his usual *tachles* – blunt – style said, "It's important you should come to sing for us." Naomi Shemer flew down to the *Negev*, to the encampment of the troops, in Ezer Weitzman's plane. A light dinner was served. Nobody talked much. Naomi waited to be asked to sing, but she was not. Finally, Sharon's aide told her: "The war will be tough. And we have reason to believe it will

applause for nearly seven minutes." Naomi Shemer's personal sense of loss was felt by every Israeli. "Jerusalem of Gold" was played once more, and the entire audience joined in the refrain.

On the same night that the audience in the Festival was singing of a Jerusalem they could not visit, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt was moving his troops into Sinai. The soldiers of Israel began to leave



Israeli Army troops rest at the Kotel — the Wailing Wall — after dramatically recapturing it during the Six-Day War.

be soon, very soon. We have decided there will be no singing tonight." She said nothing. "Still," he added, "vou do not know how important it is to us to have you here. It's difficult to explain, but you are a poet, a musician. and somehow we wanted someone with a soul to share this time with us." Late that night, verv late. the men moved out from the base, and on Monday

morning, radios announced that war had broken out. Naomi Shemer stayed with the troops in Sinai, helping in the only way she knew, singing for them in the evening. On Wednesday they moved to El Arish; fighting was still going on. She and other singers (soldiers themselves) were listening to someone's transistor radio. Suddenly they heard the announcement: "The city of Jerusalem has been taken!" Gunfire could be heard in the background as the announcer described the paratroopers' street-by-street fight into the heart of the Old City. "They are advancing towards the Kotel (Wailing Wall)," the announcer said. Then, in the background. the radio listeners could hear the sound of a song, "or rather a hymn, sung by what sounded like hundreds of men. in hoarse voices: Yerushalavim shel zahav. ve'shel nechoshet, ve'shel or. Halo lechol shirayich ani kinor (Jerusalem of gold, of copper, and of light. Let me be a violin for all your songs)," remembers Naomi Shemer.

As Naomi listened to the broadcast describing the tanks and trucks coming into the Old City, many of them with banners reading "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav," tears ran down her cheeks. Then, in the middle of the sounds of battle still going on in El Arish and Jerusalem, a thought came to her: she would have to rewrite the second stanza of her song. There was no longer the need for nostalgia: Jerusalem was reunited.

Later that evening, when the Israeli soldiers had gathered in their camp in the desert, Naomi Shemer got up and told them: "I shall sing for you a stanza I have just added to 'Jerusalem of Gold', because when I first wrote the song, Jerusalem was just a beautiful dream for all of us. And now...." As the soldiers listened, she sang:

We have come back now to the water cisterns. Back to the marketplace. The sound of the shofar is heard From the Wailing Wall in the ancient city. And from the rocky caves in the mountains, A thousand suns are rising. We shall go now to the Dead Sea, Go by way of Jericho.

Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day, will be commemorated this year on Sunday, May 20th. In 1983, Naomi Shemer was awarded the Israel Prize for her great contribution to Israeli music. She died in 2004 and is buried in Kibbutz Kinneret on the Israeli shores of the Jordan River, where she was born in 1930. \diamond

Mount Herzl

Jerusalem is a city of many ancient memorial sites. In the western part of the New City, there are two of the most emotionally draining sites in the entire city: Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial, and Mount Herzl. To experience a particularly Israeli sorrow, walk through the quiet lanes of Mount Herzl, the burial site for prominent Zionists, Israeli politicians and those figures who greatly influenced the development of the State of Israel - Theodor Herzl. Levi Eshkol. Golda Meir. Yitzhak Rabin, and other leaders. But there is an even more hallowed and moving section. Mt. Herzl is also the location of the Israel Defense Forces' official military cemetery.

The initial impression of Mount Herzl is that no country so young should have a military cemetery so full, and that feeling grows as one sees the graves, the thousands of modest engravings honoring those who fell for their country, many still in their teens. On *Yom Hazikaron* (Memorial Day) we honor the fallen soldiers of the IDF with ceremonies on Mount Herzl. The day officially ends between 7–8 p.m., and somber reflection turns to celebration. At that point *Yom Ha'atzmaut* – Israeli Independence Day – begins, and the flag of Israel is returned to full staff.

-Yardena

Keys Jewish Community Center

Date: Sunday, May 20, 2012

Rec

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Actors Playhouse, Coral Gables

A smart, comic cruise through the perils of middle-aged longing and regret, Becky's New Car, is a laugh-out-loud amusement park ride where the comedy spins out of control like a bumper car. In this new play, playwright Steven Dietz maps out a very funny and touching trip about "the life not taken.' Becky is married, in her 40's, and working at a car dealership when one night by chance she's offered an opportunity to step into another life, and takes it. This fresh, new, delightful and devious comedy is about life, love, marriage, and the detours we make on our way to happiness.

For tickets and for information about carpooling, contact Joyce Peckman (305) 451-0665 joycepeckman@gmail.com

Donation: \$40

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



It's Like Waiting for the Messiah...

Observant Jews living in high-rise apartments or staying at towering hotels depend on a "Shabbat elevator," an elevator that is set to stop on every floor automatically. Waiting for such elevators has been described as like waiting for the arrival of the Messiah. But that is about to change, thanks to Shlomo Friedman, a 24-year-old Jerusalem inventor and biomedical engineering student. "BeeOnTime," the first tracking device to inform individuals when the elevator will reach their floor (while they remain in their rooms or apartments) will soon be on the market. and has been approved by rabbis for use on Shabbat. Friedman graduated from high school at 16 and started building "smart homes" (whose functions are monitored and controlled by a computer system) four years ago. Working for a family in a luxurious penthouse, Friedman heard that sometimes they had to wait more than fifteen minutes until the elevator arrived, since it is programmed to move only one floor at a time. (According to *halacha*, one may not press the elevator button on Shabbat or festivals.) Friedman's innovation was a timer that would tell building residents how many minutes and seconds remained until the elevator's arrival. The invention is believed to have a potential market of 30,000 five-star Israeli hotel rooms, 70,000 high-rise apartments in Israel that use Shabbat elevators, as well as vast numbers of tall buildings abroad where religious residents now must just stand and wait till the elevator arrives. The device can be installed over an apartment door in a few minutes. (Jerusalem Post, 3-15-12)

Einstein Goes Digital

Israel's Hebrew University recently announced that it is expanding its digital version of Albert Einstein's archives, bringing the number of items listed online to 80,000. The items include Einstein's scientific work as well as documents from both his public and private lives. New items include a 1930 letter Finstein sent to the editor of the Arab newspaper *Falastin*, proposing that Jewish and Arab sages work together to find a solution to the Jewish-Arab conflict. Also included is a letter from Betty Neumann, a former lover, fifteen years after their relationship ended. plus an invitation to Einstein's wedding to his first wife. Mileva. The Einstein archive initially went online in 2003 with a catalog listing 43.000 of the documents the famed physicist bequeathed to the university. Digitization is funded by the London-based Polonsky Foundation, the same organization that digitized the Isaac Newton archives (reported on in the April Chai-Lights) at Cambridge University. (By the way, the Newton papers had more than 23 million views within the first 24 hours of going online). (www.haaretz.com, 3-20-12)

Future Nobel Prize Winners?

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo, who got his operatic singing start with the Israeli Opera Company, is this year's co-winner of the exclusive Israeli Wolf Prize for his contributions to the musical arts. Sharing the prize with him is famed British conductor Sir Simon Raffle. The Wolf Prize, established in 1976 to promote achievements in the arts and sciences, is named for Dr. Ricardo Wolf, a former Cuban attaché to Israel. The awards ceremony will be held in the *Knesset* later this year. As a side note, many of the four decades of Wolf Prize recipients have gone on to be honored with the Nobel Prize. (World Jewry Digest, April 2012)

Anne Frank's Tree Lives in Jerusalem

At the end of March, a sapling from the chestnut tree that Anne Frank wrote about numerous times in her diary was planted at Yad Vashem, near the Children's Memorial and the International School for Holocaust Studies. The sapling, donated by The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, was taken from the 150-year-old tree that was toppled by a storm in 2010. Hanna Pick. a Holocaust survivor and childhood friend of Anne. attended the ceremony. Other saplings have been sent to institutions around the world. The tree, which gave Anne hope for the future, was last entered in her diary on May 13, 1944. You can view the recent planting of the sapling on YouTube at *http://www.youtube.com/watch?* v=EN_8iF37a01 (The Forward, 3-22-12)

The New Mayor of Frankfurt

Peter Feldmann, 53, has been elected the first lewish mayor of Frankfurt. Germany (or. for that matter, of any major German city) since the end of World War II. He received 57 percent of the vote. With a population of 700,000, Frankfurt is Germany's fifth largest city and its main financial center. It has, along with Berlin and Munich, one of Germany's most active Jewish communities. An estimated 7.200 lews live in Frankfurt today. In 1924, the city had the second largest Jewish community, after Berlin. At that time, Ludwig Landmann was elected its first, and up till now only, Jewish mayor. He served till 1933, when the Nazis expelled him. He later died of starvation while hiding in the Netherlands during their "Hunger Winter" in 1945. Feldmann, a member of modern Germany's Social Democratic Party, will take office on July 1st. (World Jewish Congress, 3-26-12)

They Went to South America

German prosecutors were recently granted access to secret files in Brazil and Chile that confirmed the true number of Nazi war criminals that escaped to South America after World War II. According to the documents, an estimated 9,000 fled there, including Holocaust mastermind Adolf Eichmann and Auschwitz doctor Josef Mengele (who hid out in Argentina till his death in 1979). It is thought that perhaps as many as 5,000 went to Argentina, 1,500 to 2,000 to Brazil, 500 to 1,000 to Chile, and the rest to Paraguay and Uruguay. The total number includes some who aided the Nazis, but does not include several hundred more who fled to the safety of right-wing regimes in the Middle East. The files also show that during the war, Argentine President General Juan Peron sold 10,000 blank Argentine passports to ODESSA - the organization set up to protect former SS men in the event of defeat. As important as these documents are for historical purposes, they may also provide clues to Nazis who managed to sneak back to the Fatherland to live out their days undetected. It is also possible that a living fugitive might be located. (www.dailymail.co.uk, 3-19-12)

Song of The Century's Forgotten Author

Time Magazine called it the song of the century in 1999. Billie Holiday dared to record it in 1939, then claimed to have written it. But the real author of the song, still haunting to listen to and still famous on its 75th anniversary, was a Jewish high-school teacher in New York, Abel Meeropol. "Strange Fruit" was first a poem, then he wrote music for it. ("Southern trees bear strange fruit, blood on the leaves and blood at the root.") Meeropol's songs always had a social element. (He also wrote "The House I Live In.") But now Meeropol has escaped anonymity. His name has been added to the American National Tree in Washington, one of 100 "whose actions have helped write the story of the Constitution." (The Forward Online, 3-27-12)

In Memoriam

• Stan Stearns, the photographer who captured one of the most poignant and reproduced images of the last 50 years, namely John F. Kennedy, Jr. saluting his father's coffin, has died. He was 76. The 1963 photo (the younger Kennedy back then was known as "John-John") falls into the group of iconic images such as the flag-raising at Iwo Jima during World War II, a South Vietnamese general executing a suspected Viet Cong, and the picture of a naked Vietnamese girl fleeing a napalm bomb. Stearns was born in Annapolis, Maryland, where his parents owned a jewelry shop. For his Bar Mitzvah, he received a Brownie Flash Six-20 camera. At age 16, he worked as a photographer at the Capital newspaper in Annapolis. He later became an Air Force photographer and then went to UPI. The only extra compensation Stearns received for the JFK, Jr. photo, reprinted probably thousands of times over the years, was \$25. The photo won "picture of the month" at UPI. (www.washingtonpost.com, 3-2-12)

 Samuel Glazer, a co-founder of the company that gave the world "Mr. Coffee," the automatic drip coffee maker, has died at the age of 89. Before Glazer and his partner Vincent Marotta developed the "Mr. Coffee," people made coffee at home either by percolating it (smells good but can taste bitter) or using instant coffee mixed with boiling water (not as good as brewed). The partners hired two former Westinghouse engineers to create a compact version of commercial-type dispensers. "Mr. Coffee" was introduced in 1972 and caught on guickly, with more than a million sold within the first three years. Although many other companies developed their own version, "Mr. Coffee" held almost 50 percent of the market share into the late 1970s, mainly because of its association with baseball legend loe DiMaggio. DiMaggio promoted the coffee maker in television and print advertisements for 14 years. In 2002. the trade publication Home Furnishings News listed "Mr. Coffee" among the most important home products of the last 75 years. The company was sold in 1987 to a securities firm in an \$82 million leveraged buyout. (www.nytimes.com, 3-21-12)

• Albert Abramson, a principal force in the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., has died at 94. Abramson joined the drive to create an American memorial to the Holocaust in the mid-1980s, a time when Holocaust survivors were aging and dying. Abramson was frustrated by the slow pace of raising money and developing architectural plans. His aggressive approach put him at odds with Elie Wiesel, chairman of the council overseeing the museum. Wiesel wanted to remodel two existing red brick buildings, claiming that they reminded him of concentration camps. The two men argued, and Abramson threatened to resign unless given more autonomy. After receiving the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, Wiesel resigned as chairman, saving the organization needed someone with expertise in administration, finance and construction. exactly Mr. Abramson's argument. The museum was dedicated in 1993. In 1998, President Clinton awarded Abramson the Presidential Citizens Medal, the secondhighest civilian honor a president can bestow. (www.nytimes.com, 3-13-12)

• Gerald (Jerry) Estrin, a computer pioneer who built the first computer in the Middle East, has died. He was 90. Both Estrin and Thelma. his wife of 70 years, earned their doctorates in electrical engineering and worked for John von Neumann, the principal architect of the computer age, at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. In 1953, the Estrins accepted an offer from the Weizmann Institute of Science to build from scratch the first computer in the Middle East and the first outside the United States and Western Europe. The computer. named WEIZAC - is the final "C" secretly pronounced like an "S?" I wouldn't be surprised! with its closet-sized main frame, went online in 1955 and was retired in 1963, after 46,000 hours of solid service. Estrin's legacy was important because WEIZAC produced a group of engineers and technicians who, with their successors, went on to staff Israel's much-admired high-tech industries and academic institutions. In 1956, both Estrins joined the UCLA faculty in Los Angeles, Jerry to create a program in computer engineering and Thelma as a pioneer developer of data processing in brain research. lerry later developed the concept of "reconfigurable computing," which led to the creation of new types of programmable computer chips that are still in use today. He also served more than two decades on the Weizmann Institute's Board of Governors. (www.jta.org, 4-3-12) ◊



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Mezuzzot Handpainted by Rosie Biskar

Photo Gallery





The four photos at top were taken after the KJCC theater outing on March 18th. Wouldn't you go for Chinese food after

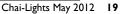


seeing a live performance of "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat?"

At left are two photos from Friday, March 23rd, as Aidan Kahn led services (with Gloria's help) the evening before his Bar Mitzvah.

The two photos at bottom are from Passover. Or rather, the one at left is just before Passover. Keith Peckman and daughter Libby burn *chametz* at their home in New Jersey. And as you can see, Milton and Joan Wohl had a full house for their first-night family seder in Philadelphia.

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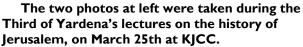




The four photos at top were Taken on March 24th, during the Redbone Cystic Fibrosis Walk.

Elaine and Alan Schulberg were Co-Chairmen.





The three photos at bottom were taken by David Gitin on March 27th at Bitton Café in Islamorada. The monks were here once again this year as guests of Keys to Peace. Yes, they once again created a

magnificent sand mandala, only to once again destroy it as a symbol of earthly vanity and impermanence. Gloria was one of the artists who helped with Keys To Peace fundraising by painting an old diving bell. She calls her creation "Infinite Blue," (in

the photo lower right) and says it was proba-



bly the most unusual "canvas" she's ever worked on. (It's to be auctioned off.)



The four photos at top are from Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning service on Saturday, March 31st. This series has already become an important

part of the life of KJCC. We open the Torah, we listen, we sing. As a group we all discuss the Torah, and it comes magically to life.



The center three photos are from Rabbi Agler's lunch-and-learn class at KJCC on April 1st. The topic? How to effectively lead a Friday service. (A good thing to know since we're lay-led.) The two

photos at bottom were taken by David Gitin just before lunch during the Sunday School seder. The Women's Seder was that same night. It was a very busy April 1st at KJCC.



On April 10, Bernie Ginsberg, top photo, represented KJCC at the interfaith discussion series being held at Mariners Hospital. The topic was caring for the poor among us. The photo far right is of a large poster featuring Pauline Roller in the main hallway

of the first floor at Mariners. It's one of a series of posters celebrating Mariners' 50th year, and Pauline was chosen to represent their volunteers.

The building in the photo near right is the newly named Talia Agler Girls Shelter in Nairobi, Kenya, in-

tended to help the many local girls ages 10-18 who are victims of trafficking. Talia had worked tirelessly on this project.







As part of a study series on Israel and Judaism, members of the Calvary Chapel Florida Keys conducted an outreach program with the KJCC. Pastor Jeff Denis, his wife Kathleen, Jacob DeVries, Patty Cook, and Cindy McClain joined Steve Steinbock, Stuart Sax. and Joshua Bern-

stein in sprucing up the Meditation Garden on Sunday, April 15th. (*Two photos at left.*) Debris was collected and disposed of, rocks added around many plantings, bricks and mulch added along the pathway, and new flowers added, courtesy of our guests.

22 Chai-Lights May 2012

-Stuart Sax

-This Month in Jewish History-May

1096 - On their way to join eastern Christians in Byzantium for the first Crusade, both knights and peasants attack the synagogue at Speyer, in southwestern Germany. It is the first in a series of attacks that will gather momentum over centuries, though not all atrocities are committed against lews and not all local authorities, civic or clerical, turn a blind eve. According to Maggie Anton, author of the book series about Rashi's daughters, the local bishop, Bishop John, actually meets the Crusaders with an army, which routs the mob and cuts off the hands of the worst offenders. Far worse massacres occur later in the month in the cities of Worms. Mainz and Cologne. who make middling efforts to protect their lewish citizens.

1260 - Kublai Khan becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire. Many travelers report meeting Jews engaged in trade there. Marco Polo records that Kublai Khan himself celebrates the festivals of Muslims, Christians and Jews alike, indicating enough Jews in the country to warrant attention by its rulers. Historical sources also describe Jewish communities at various trade ports, including Hangzhou, Guangzhou, Ningbo, Yangzhou, and Kaifeng.

1348 - Charles University in Prague, Bohemia is established as the first university in Central Europe. Over four hundred years later, near the end of the 18th century, Jews (as well as Protestants) are allowed to attend. In 1911, Albert Einstein is appointed a full professor at the school, a position he holds until 1914.

1588 - The Council of Hanover in Germany orders the severance of all business connections between Jews and Christians.

1847 - The first Australian opera is performed at Sydney's Royal Victoria Theatre . "Don John of Austria" is a collaboration of composer Isaac Nathan and librettist Jacob Levi Montefiore. 1849 - An uprising in Dresden begins, the last of the German Revolutions of 1848, also called the "March Revolution." These uprisings are a widespread rebellion against the rigid, autocratic structure of the states of central Europe that occupy the former territory of the Holy Roman Empire. Middle and working class Germans demand increased political freedom, democracy and liberalization of social policies. The conservative aristocracy withstands this challenge to their rule and the movement fails. Many Jews participate in this movement toward liberalism and modernism. Its failure is a major spur toward the large migration of German Jews to the United States in the mid-19th century, bringing with them Reform Judaism, education, banking and commerce, widespread middle-class prosperity, and a thorough change to the face of American Judaism.

1861 - Dr. David Camden De Leon, known as the "Fighting Doctor," is appointed as first surgeon general of the Confederate Army. Born in South Carolina in 1822, De Leon receives medical training at the University of Pennsylvania. Following graduation, he joins the United States Army, where he serves with distinction during the Mexican War. As a native of the South, he chooses to resign his commission and join the Confederacy. His Union counterpart as surgeon general is one Dr. Jonathan Horowitz.

1863 - The Battle of Chancellorsville ends in the Shenandoah foothills. Perhaps its greatest importance is the death there of Robert E. Lee's top lieutenant, Stonewall Jackson. (Many claim his absence is deeply felt at Gettysburg two months later.) During the battle, Lt. Col. Edward Salomon leads the 82nd Illinois, which contains a heavily Jewish company from Chicago. Salomon will become a hero at Gettysburg and one of the highest-ranking Jewish officers in the Union Army, ultimately being brevetted as Brigadier General.

1864 - Leopold Karpeles, a young flag-bearer in

the Union army, rallies Union troops retreating under heavy fire during the Battle of the Wilderness, a bewildering, mostly smokeenshrouded bloodletting that takes place in a dense thicket with minimal visibility. Born in Prague, the Jewish immigrant moves to Texas, but unable to identify with slaveholding joins the U.S. Army at the beginning of the Civil War. He receives the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery during the Battle of the Wilderness.

1873 – Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis receive a patent for their unique manner of manufacturing durable blue denim work pants.

1884 - Judah P. Benjamin dies in exile and is buried in Paris by his only daughter. Born in the West Indies in 1811 to observant lewish parents, Benjamin is raised in Charleston, South Carolina, where his father is co-founder of the first Reform Congregation in the United States. At age 14 he attends Yale Law School and then practices law in New Orleans. A founder of the Illinois Central Railroad, a state legislator, a planter and slaveholder, Benjamin is elected to the U.S. Senate from Louisiana during the 1850s. He twice declines appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court. (It will be another 62 years, until 1916, until Louis Brandeis becomes the first lew to sit on the Supreme Court.) When the South secedes, Benjamin joins the Confederate government. appointed by Jefferson Davis in turn to the three highest cabinet positions: Attorney General. Secretary of War and Secretary of State. After the war, Benjamin seeks refuge in England, where he prospers in a second legal career.

1891 – An article entitled "Russian Jews" appears in the *New York Times*. It opens with the statement that "Every American will be glad to see the announcement of a scheme to colonize the Jews who are expelled from the Czar's dominions on an immense tract" of land in Argentina, in a project being underwritten by Baron Hirsch. The United States, says the article, already has too many Jewish immigrants from Russia. It describes Russian

Jews as impoverished, ignorant, a burden on society and a mass that will never assimilate into American life.

1902 - Theodore Herzl writes to the Sultan of Turkey appealing for the establishment of a Jewish university in Palestine. The idea of a Jewish university, and all that such a university implies, quickly becomes an important part of the Zionist vision.

1904 – The United States begins construction of the Panama Canal. A Jewish community already exists in Panama, founded as *Kol Shearith Israel* in 1876 in territory then part of the nation of Colombia. By 1911, when the canal is almost ready to open, the Jewish community numbers approximately 500.

1910 – Tel Aviv is founded, according to most sources. Seeking a healthier environment than that of crowded and noisy Jaffa, Palestinian Jews form a company called *Ahuzat-Bayit* and, with the help of the Jewish National Fund, purchase twelve acres of sand dunes north of Jaffa. In 1910, the suburb is named Tel Aviv after Nahum Sokolow's translation of "Altneuland," Herzl's fictional, utopian depiction of a Jewish State written in 1902.

1912 – Columbia University approves plans to award prizes in several categories of American letters as proposed by the late German-Jewish immigrant Joseph Pulitzer. Pulitzer's will provides a \$2 million endowment for the establishment of a school of journalism at Columbia University and a fund to establish annual prizes for literature, drama, music and journalism. In 1922 a prize is added for cartoonists.

1930 - Roberta Peterman is born, the only child of Ruth (née) Hirsch and Sol Peterman, a shoe salesman and hat maker. As Roberta Peters, she will achieve the longest tenure of any soprano in the history of the Metropolitan Opera, a lead coloratura for over 35 years. She also appears on *The Ed Sullivan Show* a record 65 times. ◆

AIDAN'S BAR MITZVAH

We met Aidan's mother, Jessica Hernstadt, one year ago at our Women's Seder. She like us. We liked her. A conversation about her son Aidan led to a

meeting, then a study plan, commitment, friendship, affection, hard work and lots of travel from Marathon, alternating with computer sessions via Skype. The result was a beautiful Bar Mitzvah.

This bright, enthusiastic young man, Aidan Kahn, is taking his place among the young, future On Saturday morning, March 24th, our sanctuary was full. Friends from Marathon and Miami, KJCC members, and family from as far away as Maine had all con-

verged to witness this event. Passing the Torah from generation to generation was especially moving, as so many of Aidan's grandparents and extended family members took part. We KICCers kvelled, too, as Bernie and Susan Gordon made personal, glowing speeches and presented our congregation's gifts, a Tanakh and a Kiddish cup.

As Aidan's tutor, I was especially proud of

him, and moved by his statements on Friday night as he and I led services: "I used to think going to Temple was boring," he said, "but now I think it's fun. I have met

leaders of our Jewish community. Aidan chanted his *maftir* from the Torah like a pro. Our own Yeshiva scholar, Dr. Bernie Ginsberg, who ably assisted in this rite of passage, was impressed. Aidan genuinely liked learning trope and took pride in puzzling out the



melody of each new verse, building on what he had learned the weeks before.

so many nice people here, I want to keep coming to services once my Bar Mitzvah is over." We are grateful to have Aidan and his family among our *mishpacha*. (And we are especially grateful that he recovered so well from his emer-

gency appendicitis surgery—just two days after his Bar Mitzvah!). *Mazel Tov*.

-Gloria Chai-Lights May 2012 25









Aidan's Bar Mitzvah were taken by Barbara & Richard Knowles. We thank both for allowing us to reproduce their work here.

Shavuot Shards

Shavuot is the culmination of probably the most intense fifty days on the Jewish calendar. First there's Passover, which some rabbis and scholars think is pre-eminent because, well, one has to throw off one's shackles before one can even think about forming a nation. Then the Omer counting begins, filled with ancient meaning, though practically forgotten. There's the seven weeks of sadness broken only by Lag B'Omer, a period also almost exploding with mystical explanations and interpretations. It all leads to Shavuot, according to the Torah one of the mandated festivals, but to the rabbis the day the Torah itself was given and therefore the day the real history of the Jewish people began. Happy birthday, Torah. Yours is a rich and never-ending story.

• Shavuot, as other Jewish holidays, is known by a variety of names, each one representing different aspects of the festival. It is the *Hag HaKatzir* (harvest festival), *Hag Ha-Shavuot* (festival of weeks) and *Hag Habikkurim* (festival of first fruits). The Torah describes the biblical festival in all three ways.

• In the Talmud, the word *atzeret*, meaning "cessation" or "solemn assembly," is used to reflect how the rabbis viewed Shavuot as a conclusion to Passover and the Omercounting period of 49 days that immediately follows. Talmudic rabbis also used the description z'man matan torateynu ("time of the reception of the Torah"), thereby anointing Shavuot as the moment when all Israelites gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah. (The Bible is not specific as to when this momentous event actually took place. So naturally the rabbis spent many years studying and arguing about it. All the Bible says, in Exodus 19:1, is that "on the third new moon after the Israelites had gone forth from the land of Egypt...they entered the wilderness at Sinai." The calculations go from there, and they finally agreed that the day was Shavuot.) By linking Shavuot to the day Torah was received - merely the most important day in the history of the lewish people - rabbis assured that the celebration of a middle-eastern agricultural harvest would forever be infused with powerful and lasting significance. Indeed, today Shavuot is known

mainly as the "birthday of the Torah." References to its origins as an agricultural festival persist but are secondary and seem almost quaint.

 Religious scholars speculate that Shavuot was probably not celebrated until Solomon's Temple was built, some 300 or so years later. (Until that point, the simple child might ask, where would one have taken their grain offering?) It would also have been the most difficult festival to observe, coming as it does in the middle of the growing season. Still, there is evidence of its dutiful observance: the Roman/lewish historian losephus (first century C.E.) speaks of large attendance in Jerusalem for Shavuot. The Mishnah, in the section known as *bikkurim*, describes the bringing of first fruits as a gala affair, and included all seven species for which the land of Israel is praised: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.

• One might today consider it a simple thing – especially with the issue now resolved – but there was great controversy in the beginning about when to begin counting the Omer. The Torah says to make the first offering (and therefore begin the counting) "on the morrow after the Sabbath" of Passover. Clear and direct, right? Well, no. A serious dispute arose over what "Sabbath" meant here. The Pharisees (who were not evil as western culture often has them; in fact, they were the centrists among the sects and castes and Hellenizers and barefoot ascetics of their day) were the first to say that "Sabbath" here meant any prescribed day of rest, and therefore referred to Passover itself. Over the centuries, the rabbis and sages came to agree with this view, and mandated that we begin counting the day after Passover. This is, of course, now considered settled practice. But the Sadducees, who included the Second Temple priestly class and

who tended to be more literal in their readings. claimed that "Sabbath" meant nothing other than the Sabbath itself, and therefore counting must begin only after the first Saturday during Passover. And the Sadducees were not alone in this view. Their sub-sect the Boethusians also held this view. as did later Biblical literalists the Karaites (a few of whom still exist). and. interestingly, Catholics (they get to vote?) and much secu-



Israeli farmers still have their harvest at Shavuot. But now, in addition to *bikkurim*, they have something else to showcase: their modern farm equipment.

lar scholarship. The author of the fascinating and controversial Book of Jubilees, which was not included in the Hebrew canon, also begins counting on the Sunday after Shabbat, so his math does not agree with that of the Talmudic rabbis.

• Because of Shavuot's connection to the gift of Torah, Eastern Europeans Jews in the 17th century began the practice of introducing very young children – often between the ages of three and five – to Torah study on Shavuot. This initiation would include cakes, honey and candy so that the children would quickly associate Torah study with sweetness. Some would even daub honey onto the Torah pages for the children to literally lick off. The early Reform movement, using similar reasoning, initiated their confirmation ceremonies for 15 - and 16-year-olds on Shavuot; this practice is still in widespread use today. • Some say the *Zohar*, the major work of mystical Judaism, was written by Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai in the second century C.E. Others, including most scholars, believe it was written in the 13th century by Moses de Leon. It's fairly well established that de Leon was the first to publish it. Since the days of Rabbi Isaac Luria in the 16th century, mystical practices and ideas have been connected to Shavuot. It was probably Luria and his Safed mystics who began the practice of *Tikkun Leil*

Shavuot, the reading of sacred literature the entire night of Erev Shavuot. To mystics, the nation of Israel is seen as a groom and the Torah as its bride. Shavuot then becomes a kind of anniversary. The counting of the omer has been especially infused with mystical meaning. The number seven repeats. There are 7×7 weeks of counting the omer. Seven equals the davs of creation. "Sefirah" means the

counting of the omer; but "sefirah" also is the word for each of the levels of divine emanation in Jewish mysticism. (Of the ten levels, the lower seven are seen as within human comprehension.) Those of a mystical bent often spend the seven weeks of the Omer preparing and studying to be ready, on Shavuot, for the gift of the Torah. In Jerusalem, beginning in 1967 after the city's reunification, tens of thousands of Jews finish off a night of study by walking to the *Kotel*, the Western Wall, to join a sunrise minyan.

• Some customs connected to Shavuot reveal old remnants of its agricultural traditions. Because arid Mt. Sinai was said to have suddenly blossomed with flowers in anticipation of the giving of the Torah, many synagogues honor Shavuot by decorating their bemahs with plants, colorful flowers and leafy branches, some creating a canopy of flowers and plants so that it resembles a chuppah. Some eastern Sephardim actually read out a ketubbah between God and the nation of Israel as part of their service. (The Vilna Gaon in the 18th century once cancelled the tradition of decorating with plants because it was too similar to the decorations Christians used for their holidays.)

• Kibbutzim and Moshavim in Israel offer a

special celebration of the agricultural origins of Shavuot. In parades and other ceremonies, they show off the fruits produced in their fields, in the manner of the *bikkurim* taken to the Temple in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. Agricultural equipment is also put on display, aids to farming not available to those making pilgrimages to the Temple.

• There are no firm rules regarding Jewish rituals or practices on Shavuot. But one important custom (*minhag*) is the consumption of milk and cheese

dishes. There is no clear trail here of rabbinic instruction, but one explanation focuses on Solomon's verse in the Song of Songs, where he talks of spring in the Holy Land and compares the study of Torah to a taste: "like honey and milk, it lies under your tongue." Since Torah was given on Shavuot, Jews honor the holiday by eating milk products. (Many traditional Jews eat dairy as the main meal on the first day and meat as the main meal on the second day.) The *gematria* (numerical equivalence) of the Hebrew word *chalav* (milk) is 40, exactly the number of days and nights Moses spent on Mt. Sinai before returning with the Torah.

Another explanation is that, prior to receiving the Torah, Jews were not obligated to follow its dietary rules. But after receipt of it they immediately realized that their existing meat had not been slaughtered in a kosher manner, and their pots and dishes were unclean. So they opted to eat dairy. As part of our celebration of Shavuot we do the same.

• It is traditional to read the Book of Ruth on Shavuot. That book's story actually takes place during the spring barley and wheat harvest seasons. (A hungry, widowed Ruth goes to the fields of Boaz during the harvest to glean un-

gathered grain as food for herself and mother-in-law Naomi.) Her desire to become a member of the lewish people is also seen as a parallel to Shavuot, when through accepting Torah the lewish people actually became...the lewish people. Also, the final lines of the Book of Ruth detail her lineage; King David, Ruth's great-grandson - Ruth's son was Obed, whose son was Ishai, whose son was David - is believed by tradition to have both been born and died on Shavuot.

• Just before the morning reading of the Torah on the

first day of Shavuot, Ashkenazi Jews hear Akda*mut*, a liturgical poem written in Aramaic by Rabbi Meir of Worms late in the 11th century. The renowned rabbi had been forced to defend Torah in debates with local priests, and this poem conveys his love of God, the Jewish people, and reverence for Torah. It is one of two *piyyutim* (medieval poems usually set to music) meant to strengthen the faith of Jews during the Crusades. (Rabbi Meir's son had been killed during the First Crusade in 1096.) The other *piyyutim*, also in Aramaic, is a poem of praise and wish for protection written by Rabbenu Tam and read on the second day. Sephardim do not read Akdamut, but before the evening service sing Azharot, a poem that sets out all 613 mitzvot. Positive commandments are recited on the first day and negative commandments the second. <





Ruth gathers grain for herself and Naomi from the fields of Boaz. Her Book is read at Shavuot, in part because that's when it takes place.

The Ninth Annual Women's Seder

Once again this year, over 50 women, KJCC members and not, from at least four generations, celebrated women's roles in the Exodus. Miriam, we lift our cup.

Two women were joint honorees at this year's Women's Seder, and their names will soon be

added to the Women's Seder Quilt of Honor. Muriel Swartz, a woman of grace and letters and friend to all, was there to be honored. The late B.Z. Slutzker, KJCC's first historian, was fondly remembered as an important early member of KJCC.





Our great appreciation and thanks to Holly Padgett, who for the second year in a row took all the photos you see here of the Women's Seder.



Once a librarian...







In the photo just above, 2012 honoree Muriel Swartz stands with her two daughters, who flew in for the event. At left, in the white top, is Diane Sredl; to the right is Karen Ray.









KJCC'S ANNUAL SECOND SEDER

A Report on the 2012 Version. Memories Made in Words and Pictures.

eople started filing in early, some that we had not seen in years (what a treat to welcome Barbara Galanty, one of our founding members), some that were brand-new faces: by 6:30 we were nearly ready to start. (Okay, so one couple thought the event was at the Islamorada Fish Company and couldn't find us until the meal was about to start: we were

still happy to see them and they had a wonderful time.)

Jim Boruszak and I led the seder again this year, with Stuart Sax doing pass-themicrophone duty. commuting from table to table so that the whole room could participate.

There were 98 of us, including 13 chil-



dren. It was wonderful having a crowd of youngsters gathered at the mike to chant the four questions. The food



was excellent and plentiful (almost as many doggie bags going home as plates coming out of the kitchen); we loved our own personal seder plates and sang lots of songs. Best of all,

everyone staved until the last glass of wine was drunk and Hatikvah sung. We obeyed the mitzvah of telling this most important of our stories to the next generation. And because not one of the children could auess where lim had hidden the matzoh (he had hidden it in his





mind), there was no lack of reward for "afikomen" hunters. Faces were beaming as each child who ventured a guess (or

two or three) received a crisp \$2.00 bill.

Kudos go to Mary Lee Singer and Maryon Gould, who did excellent planning and coor-

dination this year, with advice and assistance from last year's coordinator, Joan Boruszak, and Lauren Sax. *L'Shanah Ha Ba*. Next year in Jerusalem...or Islamorada? -*Gloria*











On the Path From Pesach to Shavuot A New Look at Old Words: "Pirkei Avot"

by Gloria Avner

group of us were discussing Torah on a recent Shabbat morning. One of our members made a comment. "When a Torah talk gets boring," he said, "I just turn to the back of the *Siddur* and read from "*Pirkei Avot*." I had forgotten all about this book's maxims and nuggets of wisdom. As synchronicity would have it, we are *supposed* to read one of the six chapters of this book on each of the six Shabbats between Pesach and Shavuot. Who knew? What an opportunity to look at one of the best-known and most quoted texts in Jewish literature.

"Pirkei Avot" translates literally as "Chapters of our Fathers," but is known by most as "The Ethics of our Fathers." The book is filled with easy-to-remember, spot-on lessons to live by. Even if we were not familiar with this book. found in the Avot section of the Mishnah and compiled by our great rabbis on the cusp of the first millennium (100 BCE to 200 CE), we would recognize its sayings. These are Hillel's words: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? (1:14)" Shammai, Hillel's rival, said: "Say little and do much (1:15)." Ben Zoma taught: "Who is wise? He who learns from every man. Who is a hero? He who controls his passions." Ben Zoma also gave us what has to be the world's best definition of happiness: "Who is rich? He who is happy with what he has."

One of the songs we sing on Shabbat, "Al Shlosha D'varim," comes directly from Pirkei Avot: "The world is built on three things: Torah, prayer, and acts of loving-kindness (1:27)."

In some communities, it is customary to read a section of *Pirkei Avot* every Shabbat. I can understand why. The words are clear, the concepts are basic; they pierce the heart of things. "Do not do unto others that which is hateful unto you," said Rabbi Hillel. He was standing on one foot, responding to a mocking questioner who thought to embarrass him by asking for a one-footed explanation of Torah. Hillel takes up the challenge, espouses the golden rule, and tells the chastened mocker that the one statement contains the whole of Torah. The rest is commentary, Hillel says, as he exhorts us as well as the questioner to go forth and learn.

Hillel and the other rabbis quoted here were brilliant, dedicated men. As they saw the Temple being destroyed, they had no choice but to write down the wisdom of our oral legacy, foreseeing the devastating loss that exile could bring.

I used to dislike the parts of the Torah that seemed mere lists of names. Now I think I get it. In fact I am impressed with the foresight of our fathers. They sought to establish the chain of transmission of our heritage. It is clearly laid out in the first sentence of *Pirkei Avot*: Moses received the Torah from God at Sinai, transmitted it to Joshua, who passed it to the elders, who gave it to the prophets, who passed it to the members of the Great Assembly, the brilliant rabbis of the day (1,1).

Placing themselves in a line that begins with Sinai, the rabbis of the *Mishnah* define themselves as the possessors of the authentic tradition and establish their authority to make the legal rulings that make up most of the book.

One of the most appealing things about *Pirkei Avot* is that it does not deal with the complexities of *Halacha* or case law. Instead, the text offers simply stated teachings by each of the rabbis mentioned.

Here's one example: "Shemayah and Avtalyon received the tradition from [their teachers]. Shemayah taught: Love work; hate positions of domination; do not make yourself known to the authorities. Avtalyon taught: Sages, be careful of what you say lest you be exiled by the authorities. Hillel and Shammai in turn received the Torah from them. Hillel taught: Be a disciple of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace...Shammai taught: Make the study of Torah your primary occupation...

(1:10-15)."

From their teachings, we not only get a sense of the personality of each rabbi, but we also get insight into their times. Shemaya and Avtalyon, who were the heads of the rabbinic court in Jerusalem in the first century BCE, are clearly worried about upsetting the authorities. The Jewish

community in Jerusalem must have felt how precarious it was to live under Roman rule in the period just before the destruction of the second Temple.

The aphorisms that make up the first four chapters of

Pirkei range in topic from the ethics of everyday human interaction to advice for aspiring sages to statements about the relationship of God and humanity. The rabbis' worldview emphasizes learning, service to God, ethical behavior, humility, and fair judgment. Another personal favorite comes from Hillel: "A person who is [too] shy [to ask questions] will never learn, and a teacher who is too strict cannot teach (2:5)."

VEPEY

The next two chapters were probably added later. Chapter Five is made up almost entirely of anonymous numerical lists, all containing ten, seven, or four items, a standard device in rabbinic discourse: "The world was created by ten utterances...There were ten generations from Adam to Noah...there were ten generations from Noah to Abraham...Ten things were created on the eve of the Sabbath of creation at twilight...There are seven characteristics which typify the clod and seven the wise person...(5:1-9)." The lists must have been helpful learning devices.

Individual Pirkei Avot have often been designed and framed as artwork. At top is "This World is an Antechamber," at right "Who is Wise?" Below left is "Truth Stands Large."



The sixth and final chapter. Kinvan Torah (the acquisition of Torah), is a rabbinic statement that alorifies the study of Torah and lays out a program by which students can come to possess Torah.

Ah, we come to the point. What are we supposed to be doing from *Pesach* to *Shavuot*? Yes, we keep track of

our journey through the desert by counting out loud the 49 days from bringing the Omer (the grain offering) to the Temple on the second day of Passover. But the purpose of the entire process is to become worthy to possess Torah. In short, transmission not only happens in every generation; it happens every year. We are next in line.

It is just a few weeks since we sat together in community and family seders, being exhorted by these same ancient rabbis to act and feel at that moment as if we personally were leaving Egypt, wandering the desert, uplifting ourselves and our ethical behavior so that we can rise above the 49 degrees of degradation we sank to over the course of hundreds of years in slavery. When the deafening blast of thunder from Mt. Sinai assaults our ears on the fiftieth day of our desert journey from *Mitzraim* (Egypt) to Sinai, when we close our eyes and listen to Bernie blowing the Shofar on *Erev Shavuot*, we want to be wide awake. *Shavuot* is the culmination of our seven-week journey. Like Joshua, the elders, and the ancient Rabbis, we want to be worthy of receiving Torah. \diamond

P.S. Although Jews no longer bring *omer* to the Temple, the forty-nine days are still called

"the Omer." Many kabbalists (Jewish mystics) saw it as a period of preparing oneself to receive the Torah by reflecting on how to become a better person. They taught that each week of the Omer should be dedicated to enhancing a different spiritual quality, such as hesed (kindness), gevurah (strength), tiferet (balance) and yesod (confidence). We have workbooks in the office that anyone interested in this process of self-betterment can borrow.

A Pirkei Avot Sampler

As with most of Rabbinic literature, to fully understand Pirkei Avot one must devote long hours of study. As we know, sometimes what we initially think the text might mean isn't what was intended at all. Context is important. Ideally one should know Hebrew, and Aramaic, because there are nuances in the original that simply can't be translated perfectly. That said, here are some sayings and guidance taken from the six chapters. Items overtly insulting to women have been omitted.

-Let your house be a meetinghouse for the sages and sit amid the dust of their feet and drink in their words with thirst.

-Provide for yourself a teacher and get yourself a friend; and judge every man towards merit. -He who aggrandizes his name, loses his name. He who does not increase his knowledge, decreases it. He who learns not, forfeits his life. He who makes unworthy use of the crown of Torah shall pass away.

-Great is study of the Torah when combined with a worldly occupation, for toil in them both puts sin out of mind. All study of the Torah which is not supplemented by work is destined to prove futile and causes sin.

-Do not separate yourself from the community; and do not trust in yourself until the day of your death. Do not judge your fellow until you are in his place. Do not say something that cannot be understood but will be understood in the end. Say not: When I have time I will study because you may never have the time.

-A brutish man cannot fear sin; an ignorant man cannot be pious, nor can the shy man learn, or the impatient man teach. He who engages excessively in business cannot become wise. In a place where there are no men strive to be a man.

-If you have learnt much Torah, do not claim for yourself moral excellence, for to this end you were created.

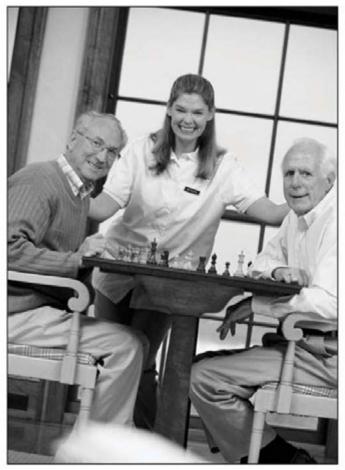
-He in whom fellow people find no delight, in him the G-d finds no pleasure.

-It is not in our power to explain the well-being of the wicked or the sorrows of the righteous. -Let the honor of your student be as precious to you as your own; and the honor of your colleague as the respect due your teacher; and the respect towards your teacher as your reverence for God.

-Whoever leads the masses in the right path will not come to any sin, but whoever leads the masses astray will not be able to repent for all the wrong he commits.

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44 Chai-Lights May 2012





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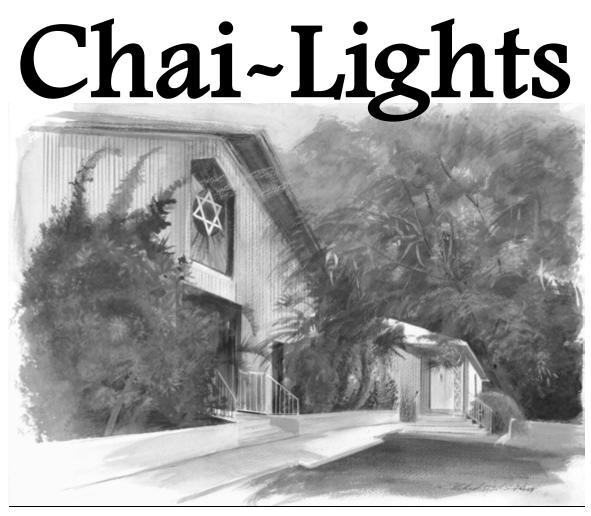
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June/July/August 2012

11 Sivan - 13 Elul 5772

Carol Steinbock on KJCC's Meditation Garden - page 25 Bernd Wollschlaeger's Journey to Judaism - page 33 Steve Smith on KJCC's Holocaust Torah - page 37

Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com June 2012

11 Sivan - 10 Tammuz

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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& Sam Vinicur
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Joyce Peckman
Steve & Amelia
Kasinof | 16 |
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Summer
Solstice | | 22
Stuart, Lauren &
Kathy Sax
Joan & Milton
Wohl
Rene & Skip Rose
Lauren & Stuart
Sax | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Erica
Lieberman-
Garrett
6:30 service | 30 |

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message

Stuart Sax

Well, the summer has arrived and that means a hiatus for the Sisterhood and for the Board of the KJCC. But it does not mean that we come to a screeching halt for a couple of months and put our operation on hold. Quite the contrary.

Beginning this month, various committees will meet to formulate their strategies for the fall and winter season ahead. Gloria and the Ritual Committee will still be coordinating our service leaders for the summer months. They will also be hard at work planning for our third year of inspirational High Holiday Services with Rabbi Danny and Cantor Mark. Joyce will continue to notify our congregants of vahrzeit mentioned in our services and to coordinate the onegs that follow them. Rabbi Agler will continue to lead Torah study services and fine tune our trip to Israel that is planned for lune of next vear. Be sure to visit the KICC website for all the details.

The Sisterhood will be meeting to discuss dates for Shabbat dinners and other fund raising opportunities. The Capital Improvements and House Committees will be working on our "bucket list" of wants and needs for our future. The Membership Committee will be meeting to discuss new strategies to grow our membership even



higher than our current record number.

And, of course, our Finance Committee will be discussing revisions to our fees structure and formulating the dues and contribution packages that will go out next month. While our membership income has gone up. unfortunately. our contribution income has not. Our operating expenses are also up and continue to rise. This has led to a discussion of increasing our dues slightly and also soliciting those with greater means to consider a "Fair Share" donation in addition to membership dues.

We welcome your input into any of these committees. New input often leads to exciting new ideas and, ultimately, greater income and reduced expenses to the KJCC. And these ideas need not come from just those that are here in the summer. Our electronic world means that your ideas can be on our agendas instantaneously. Have an idea for the growth of our congregation? Email it to me and I will see to it that it gets to the proper committee for consideration.

It is our goal to spend the summer formulating a positive strategy for next year. It won't happen by itself. It takes dedicated people to make it happen. Roll up your sleeves and be a part of it. \diamond

Chai-Lights June/July/August 2012 3

Nosh

Chai-Lights Summer Hiatus

It's that time again. After ten consecutive months of publishing, Chai-Lights will once again not publish this year during the summer. What you're holding is a combined June/July/August issue. See you in September as we all begin preparations for High Holy Days.

A Special June 1st Friday Night Service

Typically, of course, we have one intrepid KJCC member leading Friday night services, or at most two. For the first service in June, be prepared for up to...ten? That evening services will be led by the KJCC Religious School students, guided and supported, of course, by Yardena and Gloria. They're all working very hard in preparation. So if you're still here, come and be part of one of our most sacred *mitzvot*, to teach our children the ways of Jewish life.

If You Haven't Seen the Video Yet...

As many of you know by now, there was a reunion on April 22nd, in Princeton, NJ, of six Holocaust Torahs from Susice, Czechoslovakia. (Make sure to read Steve Smith's illuminating, updated story of our Torah on page 37. There are also some photographs of the Princeton event on page 18 of Photo Gallery.) We were sent the lovely, 20-minute video shot during the occasion, and Alan has uploaded it to the KJCC web site. Hana Gruna, 92, likely the last survivor from Susice, was there. It's professionally done, and it's impossible to watch this video without being very moved. Once on the web site, click on "misc." and then you'll see the link to the video.

More on The KJCC Israel Trip

Planning continues for the KJCC group trip to Israel being planned for a year from now, and to be led by Rabbi Richard Agler. The minimum group size is twenty. We have additional infor-

Years

| Ist Jim & Rita Williams | 28 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| Ist Joel Bernard & Joan Stark | |
| 5th Stephen & Carol Steinbock | |
| 7th Richard & Sheila Steinberg | |
| 8th Stephan & Jane Friedman | |
| 10th Mark & Sofy Wasser | |
| 12th Steven & Jan Hartz | |
| 12th Harvey & Beverly Robins | 55 |
| 12th William & Donna Bolton | |
| 14th Harvey & Joan Kay | 42 |
| 14th Jim & Joan Boruszak | 59 |
| 18th Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grac | e18 |
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| 20th Milton & Joan Wohl | 61 |
| 21st Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake | e25 |
| 23rd Skip & Rene Rose | 57 |
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| 25th Herbert & Elinor Grossman. | 55 |
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| 28th Wes & Rita Conklin | 42 |
| | |

mation in this issue on page 24, and even more information has been posted on the KJCC web site. (It's keysjewishcenter.com.) Once again, click on "misc." and follow the link to Israel trip.

Sisterhood Needs Utensils

Sisterhood is in need of some items for the kitchen before Rosh Hashanah. If you have any of the following that you would like to donate, please contact me at hippiejap@hotmail.com

-Glass cake-serving dishes and plates;

-Large- and medium-size glass serving bowls;

-Glass serving trays, round and square;

-Stainless steel cutlery sets;

-Stainless serving spoons/pie servers/large forks;

-Kitchen towels and oven mitts. Thanks.

-Erica Lieberman-Garrett

June Birthdays

| 2nd | |
|--------|------------------|
| 3rd | Abraham Rakov |
| 3rd | Elanor Forbes |
| 4th | |
| 4th | |
| | |
| 5th | |
| 5th | Joseph Sachs |
| 6th | Donna Bolton |
| 6th | Nancy Klugor |
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| 8th | Bunny Lohmonn |
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| 9th | |
| l l th | Deborah Weiss |
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| 12th | |
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| l 2th | |
| l 3th | Israel Mayk |
| l 3th | Iustin Greenbaum |
| l 4th | lennifer Nobil |
| 15th | |
| | |
| l 5th | |
| l 6th | Peter Kantor |
| l 7th | Anita Krieger |
| l7th | |
| 18th | |
| | |
| 18th | |
| 18th | |
| 19th | Danielle Pincus |
| 19th | |
| 20th | |
| | |
| 20th | Judy Schmidt |
| 21st | |
| 21st | Taryn Nobil |
| 23rd | Dale Chasteen |
| 23rd | Joseph Goldborg |
| | |
| 24th | |
| 24th | |
| 27th | |
| 27th | |
| 28th | |
| 29th | |
| | |
| 29th | |
| 30th | Bob Friedman |
| | |

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June 1st - Steve & Barbara Smith in honor of Carrie's birthday. June 8th - Carol & Steve Steinbock to celebrate their Anniversary. June 15th - Steve & Amelia Kasinof in honor of Amelia's birthday. June 22nd - Joan & Milton Wohl, Rene & Skip Rose and Lauren & Stuart Sax, all celebrating their anniversaries. July 6th - Joyce Peckman in celebration of her birthday. July 13th - Barney Coltman In Loving Memory of Ellen. July 20th - Barbara & Steve Smith in honor of son Brian's birthday. August 3rd - Patricia & Henry Isenberg in honor of Emma Feig's birthday.

August 10th - Barbara & Richard Knowles in honor of their anniversary. Also Barbara & Steve Smith to celebrate Barbara's birthday.

August 24th - Georgia Landau in honor of (husband) Dave Mont's birthday.

July and August Service Leaders

July 6th — Steve Steinbock July 13th — George Swartz July 20th — Ken Atlas (Rosh Chodesh Av) July 27th — Joe Shabathai (6:30 service) August 3rd — Erica Lieberman-Garrett August 10th — Stuart Sax August 17th — Bernie Ginsberg August 24th — Beth Hayden & Sam Vinicur

July Anniversaries

| Years |
|-------|
|-------|

| 2nd | Douglas & Rozi Graham | 8 |
|------|----------------------------------|----|
| | Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly | |
| | Jason & Debbie Madnick | |
| | Dick & Rita Bromwich | |
| 29th | Bernard & Elaine Solas | 56 |

July Birthdays

| l st | Alex Hudson |
|------|--------------------|
| l st | Jennifer Gilson |
| l st | Patti Gross |
| 2nd | Elissa A. Denker |
| 3rd | Max Finkelstein |
| 3rd | Michael Kaufman |
| 4th | Pauline Roller |
| 5th | Ron Levy |
| 8th | Erica Morgan Shatz |
| 9th | Joyce Peckman |
| | |

| 10th | Lindsay Gould |
|--------|-------------------------|
| | Steven Hartz |
| I2th | Rebecca M. Schur |
| I2th | Richard Steinberg |
| 13th | Dot Brooking |
| I4th | David Gross |
| I4th | Paul Eric Bernstein |
| I 5th | Danna Levy |
| I7th | Foster Davidson |
| I7th | Robert Werthamer |
| I7th | Shira Listman |
| 18th | Zachary G. Kwalick |
| 20th | Carol Laskin |
| 20th | Roosmary Benowitz |
| 21 st | Arlington Garrett |
| 21 st | Brian Smith |
| | Joshua Samuel Bernstein |
| 21 st | Linda Perloff |
| | Carrie Temkin |
| 26th | Carol Field |
| | Lance Royce Kaufman |
| 27th | Marc Bloom |
| | Rachael Bloom |
| 28th | Lila E. Juenger |
| | Bruce Boruszak |
| | Candy Stanlake |
| | Mary Lee Singer |
| | Molly Bloom |
| 3 st | Drew Nobil |
| | |

August Anniversaries

Years

| 7th | Larry & Dorothy Wolfe | 55 |
|-------|---------------------------|----|
| l 5th | Paul & Susan Roberts | 44 |
| l 5th | Richard & Barbara Knowles | 13 |
| l6th | Ira & Shirley Stein | 54 |
| 22nd | Franklin & Judy Greenman | |
| 27th | Israel & Nissan Mayk | 40 |
| 28th | Kurt & Nancy Kluger | 24 |
| | . – | |



CATHY KAPLAN SISTERHOOD KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Dear Stuart and Members of the KJCC Board,

For the past nine years, members of Sisterhood, our friends, and guests have gathered in the Social Hall at Passover to celebrate a special Women's Seder. We honor Jewish women who have made contributions to our own community and Jewish women of the world who have had an impact upon history. We create art together, have fun, and eat delicious food in the process of having a meaningful spiritual experience, but our deepest goal has always been *Tikkun Olam*, taking part in making the world a better place.

This year we are happy to present \$300 from our Women's Seder earnings to the KJCC Holocaust Education Fund. We believe the work it does in bringing High School students from Monroe County face to face with Holocaust survivors will make a lasting impression on these young people as they become our next shapers of the world. We are also happy to help replenish this fund in gratitude to the members of the Holocaust Committee who make the work happen: Yardena Kamely, Medina Roy, and our own Honoree of the Year, Muriel Swartz.

Sincerely,

The Women's Seder Committee: Beth Kaminstein, Gloria Avner, Marcia Kreitman, Erica Garrett, Lee Schur, Joan Stark, Muriel Swartz, and Susan Gordon, on behalf of the KJCC Sisterhood.

August Birthdays

| l st | Nicholas Rivera |
|-------|---------------------|
| 2nd | Marc S. Field |
| 4th | Jessica Forman |
| 5th | David Kaufman |
| 5th | Nissan Mayk |
| 7th | Emma Feig |
| 8th | Ilana Gilderman |
| 9th | Eric Freundlich |
| I 0th | Barbara Smith |
| I 0th | Rozi Graham |
| I 3th | Brian Gilderman |
| I 3th | Gina Moritz |
| I 3th | Stephan L. Friedman |
| l 4th | Heide Werthamer |
| I 5th | Danielle Zinner |
| I 5th | Eileen Kominsky |
| | - |

| | Patricia Isenberg |
|-------|------------------------|
| l 6th | Alan Lindenbaum |
| | Alison Thompson |
| 18th | Zachary Schrader-Grace |
| 19th | Pamela Friedman |
| 20th | Amanda Nobil |
| 21st | Rachel Zinner |
| 23rd | Dave Mont |
| 23rd | Morris Willner |
| 26th | Mikhaela Bitton |
| 27th | Jaimee Marshall |
| 27th | Judy Greenman |
| 28th | Evan Stuart |
| 30th | Robert Temkin |
| 30th | Sue Ann Weihl |
| | |

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 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.

In Memoriam June, July and August 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Samuel Segal

William Owen

By Nancy L. Cohn

In Memory Of

Louis R. Coltman

By Barnet O. Coltman

Esther R. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn <><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Leo Finklestein

By Max & Mildred Finklestein

In Memory Of

Samuel Schneider

By Maryon Gould

In Memory Of

Sam Ruskin

By Allan Holbrook

In Memory Of

Ruth Rosen

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In Memory Of

Esther Kwalick

By Teresa Kwalick

In Memory Of

Lionel Cinamon

By Arline Mirantz

In Memory Of

Saul Elson

By Mrs. Marty Graham

In Memory Of

Rose Kantor

By Erwin Kantor

In Memory Of

Emilia Mendez

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In Memory Of

Bill Kwalick

By Teresa Kwalick

In Memory Of

Dale Gerber

By Dave Mont & Georgia Landau

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

In Memory Of

Lois Owen

By Nancy L. Cohn

In Memory Of

Betty Weiss

By Janice Gorson

In Memory Of

Kurt Scaller

By Herbert & Elinor Grossman

In Memory Of

Lucy Kaufman

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In Memory Of

Arthur Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

In Memory Of

E. Enrique Astray-Caneda

By Teresa Kwalick <><><><>>

8 Chai-Lights June/July/August 2012

In Memoriam June, July and August 2012

Sarah Oshinsky By Gerald Oshinsky

In Memory Of

Morris Rose

By Skip & Rene Rose

Ian Finer

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

In Memory Of

Leslie Peckman

By Joyce Peckman

In Memory Of

Milton Lang

By Skip & Rene Rose

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Rose Graff Rosenfeld

By Morton & Gene Silverman

In Memory Of

Irma Weihl

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl

In Memory Of

Phyliss Bloom

By Marc Bloom <><><>

In Memory Of

Max Gould

By Maryon Gould ~~~~~~~~~

In Memory Of

Margaret Isenberg

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg In Memory Of

Ben Horwitz

By Pauline Roller

In Memory Of

Leon Kirschenbaum

By Medina Roy

In Memory Of

Wally Steinberg

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

Rose Fine

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Memory Of

Rose Goldberg

By Joseph & Susan Goldberg

In Memory Of

Jason Grossman

By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman ~~~~~~~~~~

In Memory Of

Sydney Emsig

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs Chai-Lights June/July/August 2012 9

In Memory Of

Leonard Tobin

By Andrew M. Tobin

In Memory Of

Sidney Stark

By loel Bernard & Joan Stark

In Memory Of

S. Marshall Gorson

By Janice Gorson ~~~~~~~~~

In Memory Of

Sylvia Hershoff

By Jay Hershoff

In Memoriam June, July and August 2012

Sidney Kaplan By Ronald & Deborah Kaplan

In Memory Of

Otto Kluger

By Kurt & Nancy Kluger

In Memory Of

Gordon Present

By Marjorie Present

In Memory Of

Sylvia Sachs

By Morton & Gene Silverman

In Memory Of

Mollie Z. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

Milton Swartz

By George & Muriel Swartz

In Memory Of

Catherine Kaplan

By Ronald & Deborah Kaplan

In Memory Of

Irwin Kwalick

By Teresa Kwalick

In Memory Of

Paula Travers

By Michele Riley

In Memory Of

Jack L. Sachs

By Morton & Gene Silverman

In Memory Of

Ben Steinbock

By Stephen & Carol Steinbock

In Memory Of

Ida Estrin

By Lillian Tallent

In Memory Of

Seymour Werthamer

 In Memory Of

Frieda Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Memory Of

Celestina Bravo-Mendez

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In Memory Of

Fred Ross

By Joyce Peckman

In Memory Of

Frank Stanley Sachs

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

In Memory Of

Stanley H. Klipper

By Mary Lee Singer

In Memory Of

Mack Swartz

By George & Muriel Swartz

In Memory Of

Alfred Eichler

By Lawrence & Judith Weber

In Memory Of

Henrietta Zinner

By Donald Zinner

In Memoriam June, July and August 2012

In Memory Of

Morgan Rowen

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

In Memory Of

Franne Alter

By Barry Alter

In Memory Of

Gary W. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

In Memory Of

Robert Davidson

By Foster Davidson & Carol Laskin

In Memory Of

Jesse Ginsberg

By Bernard Ginsberg

In Memory Of

Henry Kirschenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

In Memory Of

Manuel Hershoff

By Jay Hershoff <><><><><>> Aaron Schmidt

By Judith Schmidt

In Memory Of

Isaac Berman

By Sylvia Berman

In Memory Of

Sandra Kanarek

By Wes & Rita Conklin

In Memory Of

Dorothy Schafer

By Barry & Natalie Dorf

In Memory Of

Jeanette Gould

By Maryon Gould

In Memory Of

Florence Grossman

By Herbert & Elinor Grossman

In Memory Of

Chanoch Levy

By Michal Kamely

In Memory Of

Kitty Roemer

By Harvey & Susan Schwaid

In Memory Of

Priscilla Leshin

By Jim & Joan Boruszak

In Memory Of

Mark Sands

By Murray & Claire Cooper

In Memory Of

Harriet Feinberg

By Arthur Feinberg

In Memory Of

Richard Gould

By Maryon Gould

In Memory Of

Margaux Rene Grossman

By Stuart Grossman

In Memory Of

Charles Kantor

In Memoriam June, July and August 2012

Eva Raub

By Harvey & Judith Klein

In Memory Of

Max Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

In Memory Of

Erik S. Persoff

By Jim & Lynn Nobil

In Memory Of

Howard Shutan

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

In Memory Of

Samuel Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

Ralph Tallent

By Lillian Tallent

In Memory Of

Seymour H. Levin

 In Memory Of

Shirley Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

In Memory Of

Isaac Cohen Pardo

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

In Memory Of

Beryl M.O. Present

By Marjorie Present

In Memory Of

Selma Smith

By Steven & Barbara Smith

In Memory Of

Erwin Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

Joel Reed Baker

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

In Memory Of

Joseph Wasser

By Mark & Sofy Wasser

In Memory Of

Billie Kornbloom

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

In Memory Of

Dorothy Marmar

By David & Pamela Marmar

In Memory Of

Erik S. Persoff

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

Meyer G. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

Irma Weihl

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl

In Memory Of

Florence Grossman

By Herbert & Elinor Grossman

In Memory Of

Priscilla Leshin

By Jim & Joan Boruszak

Sisterhood Lauren Sax



O no last time on the 2011/2012 season. We put the finishing touches on our very successful year while also setting the date of Tuesday, May 29th at 1 p.m. for our planning meeting for next season. Following the meeting we all traveled down to Bitton Bistro Café in Islamorada for our annual endof-the-year luncheon. We toasted each other for a season well done and gave ourselves a much-deserved pat on the back. Many thanks to Michel and Sylvie for their wonderful hospitality and fabulous food!

Sisterhood could use volunteers for our Friday onegs during the summer and fall, to cut up cakes, fill wine cups and just perform general KP duties. If you can give a couple hours of your time, please contact Joyce Peckman to select your date. By now you should have received our letter — with price list and return envelope — asking that you begin scheduling your oneg sponsorships for the coming year. Please contact loyce with any questions. Also, speaking of the kitchen, we are already looking towards the High Holidavs. Our break-the-fast has become quite a tradition at the KJCC and is more like a restaurant buffet. Consequently, it is no small task to feed some 70 people after a day's fast, and it takes guite a few people to shop, cut up and plate food as well as clean up. Consider starting out the new year by performing your mitzvah and giving a bit of your time for your synagogue. Please say "yes" when called on.

Next time you are at the KJCC take a peek in the gift shop, as Susan has been busy marking some merchandise down to 50 percent off. This might be the chance to grab some great bargains. And next to the gift shop make sure you check out the gorgeous tapestry handmade by our ladies for the Women's Seder. It is a beautiful work of art listing our honorees past and present, which we plan to keep on display for many years to come. Special thanks to KJCC member and local artist Marcia Kreitman, who spearheaded the entire project. A donation was also made to the Holocaust Fund from some of the proceeds from the Seder. Kudos to all those on the Women's Seder Committee.

As I write my last column of the season, it is hard to believe that I will not be turning in my September article to Sam. I can honestly say it was a pleasure to work with Sam the past 1½ years. He was always there to help when I couldn't find the right words to say. Never turning down "something Sisterhood" for any month's Chai-Lights, Sam is indeed Sisterhood's BFF. (*Well, maybe after Marc Bloom – SV.*) You better not edit this out, Sam! Thanks, Sam, for a great run. Enjoy your newfound freedom and don't be surprised if I still call on you for help!

Lastly, through lots of hard work, Sisterhood was able to present the KJCC Board of Directors on Sunday, May 13th with a sizeable check, almost three times more than we'd been able to give the year before. It was a nice way to end the year, but how did we accomplish this? First, with the help of my amazing officers and Sisterhood ladies, who gave of their time, monetary donations and their dedication. Second. because of the temple members who supported us financially through oneg donations, fundraising, gift shop purchases, and more. Without the elbow grease of all our members, our KICC projects would fall short and we would not be able to help the synagogue that we have all come to love and treasure. Heartfelt thanks and a wonderful, healthy summer to all. ◊



Come See Our Sale Items!



Tallit, Kipot, Kiddush Cups, Candlesticks Mezuzzot, Jewelry and More!



For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585 Medina Roy (305) 852-3872

Mezuzzot Handpainted by Rosie Biskar

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



"He'd be Turning Over in His Grave"

Even though Maimonides (Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, also known as the *Rambam*) discouraged pilgrimages to rabbis' tombs and even headstones set above graves, an elaborate high-tech renovation is being planned for the medieval scholar's burial site. His tomb is located in Tiberias. on the west side of the Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee). The renovation plans include a glass enclosure for the tomb and will contain a three-dimensional eternal flame with a powerful laser beam, making it visible from dozens of miles away. "The idea of sages' tombs as a bridge between man and G-d is foreign to the Rambam's legacy," said Rabbi Donniel Hartman, president of Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute. He went on to say that if the intent is to turn Maimonides' tomb into a pilgrimage site (similar to what has happened in Meron, where Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai - who many believe wrote the Zohar, the major Jewish mystical text - is buried, and where hundreds of thousands of people visit every year) the Rambam "would turn over in his grave." For Maimonides, "this was even worse than idol worship," added Hartman. Born in Spain in 1135, Maimonides (he died in Egypt in 1204), physician, philosopher and rabbinic authority, authored the Mishneh Torah, considered to be the greatest lewish halachic text of all time. In it, he states that "for holy men, no headstones should be built on their graves because their words are their memorv...and people should not visit graves."(www.haaretz.com, 5-8-12)

A Hidden Treasure Now Made Public

One of the most important documents in American history is set to go on display at the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) on Independence Mall in Philadelphia on June 29th. George Washington's historic 1790 letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, in which the first president vowed that America would give "to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance" will form the centerpiece of the exhibit. The letter, in remarkably good condition, is widely regarded as Washington's most eloquent statement on religious liberty. The letter spent decades on display in the Klutznick Museum in Washington, but financial problems in 2002 forced the letter, along with other documents in the collection, to be placed in an arts storage facility in suburban Maryland. It has remained out of sight until just recently. *(The Forward online, 5-9-12)*

What a Mensch!

Jake Gyllenhaal, 2005 Academy Award nominee for Best Supporting Actor in the film, "Brokeback Mountain," considers himself more Jewish than anything else. The 31-yearold actor (born lacob Benjamin Gyllenhaal to a Jewish mother and a father of Swedish and English descent), is known to be a philanthropist, giving to a variety of causes. Recently, he was spotted putting money in parking meters that were about to expire in a Beverly Hills shopping district. Parking enforcers were preparing to issue tickets when Gyllenhaal reached into his pocket, grabbed a bunch of coins and began feeding the meters. This "little mitzvah" apparently is a result of lessons Gyllenhaal learned from his unconventional Bar Mitzvah, which took place at a homeless shelter. His parents wanted to instill in him a sense of gratitude for what they felt was his privileged life. Perhaps he also remembered the teachings of Maimonides, who stated that the most honorable way to give is to do so anonymously. It's very likely that Gyllenhaal would have kept this act Chai-Lights June/July/August 2012 15

quiet, but - being the recognizable star that he is - he was spotted by the press. (*The For*ward online, 4-16-12)

The "Peres Gene"

Scientists at Katzrin Galilee Genetics Analysis Laboratories (GGA) have asked Israeli President Shimon Peres for permission to study the properties of his DNA in order to learn the secret of his longevity. Peres, just a few months shy of his 88th birthday, readily agreed. GGA wants to study the president's genome to learn exactly how he is able to work at a pace that would tire out someone half his age. Even his political opponents marvel at the president's mental and physical stamina. The company's findings may one day be used to create a prototype for genetic engineering that would increase longevity. promote good health and guarantee the sound functioning of the brain long into old age. (The Jerusalem Post, 4-17-12)

"Green" in Greensboro

The American Hebrew Academy, located in Greensboro, North Carolina, was recently recognized as a Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The school, one of only seventy-eight public and private schools nationwide that were honored with the award, was cited for its environmentalism and science curriculum. The Academy's geothermal energy system pumps water from deep below the ground to heat and cool its buildings, claiming the system cuts energy bills by up to 30 percent. The American Hebrew Academy is the only Jewish college prep boarding school in the country. It was founded in 1996 and now has 150 students. (www.jta.org, 4-25-12)

Honoring the "Munich 11"

Two Jewish United States Representatives, Nita Lowey and Eliot Engel, both Democrats representing New York, have been urging the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to reconsider its refusal for the past 39 years to honor the memory of the "Munich 11" - the Israeli athletes and coaches who were murdered by the Palestinian terrorist group "Black September" at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. The representatives are backing an online petition launched on April 13th of this year calling for a minute of silence at the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games that will be held this summer in London. The petition was initiated by the lewish Community Center of Rockland County, New York and Ankie Spitzer, widow of Israeli fencing coach Andrei Spitzer, one of the eleven murdered. As of this writing, the petition has collected close to 30,000 signatures from around the world. The two representatives, along with Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, pointed out that more than two billion people watched the opening ceremonies at the Beiiing Olympic Games and that holding a moment of silence at the London Games would be "a unique opportunity to send a message that can literally reach every corner of the globe." Emmanuelle Moreau, the IOC's head of media relations, told the Jerusalem Post that there would be no moment of silence. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 5-9-12)

In Memoriam

• Raymond Aubrac, one of the last great French Resistance leaders against the Nazis during World War II. has died at the age of 97. Aubrac, whose parents died at Auschwitz. and his wife Lucie are known throughout France as the most famous couple of many who fought against the German occupation, which began in 1940 and did not end until the Americans swept across France after D-Dav. Born Raymond Samuel. Aubrac was the child of assimilated Jewish parents. He changed the family name to Aubrac because "Samuel" proved to be too dangerous in Vichy (occupied) France. He and Lucie joined the Resistance in 1940. They published *Libera*tion, one of the most widely read underground newspapers. In June, 1943, the Gestapo arrested him and other leaders of the Resistance in east-central France. Lucie, pregnant at the time, led a daring commando raid to free her husband. They ambushed a truck carrying 14 resistance fighters during a prison transfer and Aubrac escaped. The

event became one of the most celebrated Resistance stories in all of occupied Europe. The Aubracs spent the end of the war in London. After the liberation of France in 1944, the couple returned immediately. Aubrac was named the State supervisor for the city of Marseille, in charge of reconstruction efforts. Lucie died in 2007.

(www.telegraph.co.uk, 4-12-12)

 Benzion Netanyahu, father of the current Israeli prime minister, died at the end of April. He was 102. He was a journalist, encyclopedia editor, professor and noted lewish historian. An unapologetic hawk, the elder Netanyahu argued that Jews inevitably faced discrimination that was racial and not religious, and that efforts to compromise with Arabs were futile. He was born Ben-Zion Mileikowsky in Warsaw, at that time controlled by Tsarist Russia. His father Nathan was a rabbi who toured Europe and America making speeches supporting Zionism. After Nathan moved his family to British Mandate Palestine in 1920, he changed the family name to Netanyahu (Hebrew for "G-d-given"). Ben-Zion studied medieval history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He became involved with the right-wing Revisionist Zionists, led by Vladimir Jabotinsky. The Revisionists split from their mainstream counterparts, whom they believed were too conciliatory toward the British, who had been given control of all of Palestine by the League of Nations after World War I. In 1940, Benzion Netanyahu went to the United States to work for labotinsky, who was seeking American support for his muscular and militant brand of Zionism. He was executive director of the New Zionist Organization in the United States - the goal of this group was to prevent dividing Palestine between Jews and Arabs to create the new Israel. The group wanted a single, bigger state that would have included present-day Jordan (which represented about 80 percent of historic Palestine, and had been carved into a separate state by the British in 1922). In the 1950s and 60s the family lived both in Israel and the U.S., where Benzion taught at several universities, including Cornell. Benzion Netanyahu edited two classic

works, the "Encyclopedia Judaica" and "The World History of the Jewish People." In his 1995 book, "The Origins of the Inquisition in Fifteenth Century Spain," Netanyahu offered a radical new way of viewing the notorious Inquisition. He felt that this persecution of Jews had been fueled by jealousy over their success in the economy and at the royal court. He traced what he called "Jew hatred" to ancient Egypt, long before Christianity. (By the way, it's interesting to note that "Jabotinsky" is the most popular street name in Israel). (*The Forward Online, and www.nytimes.com, 4-30-12*)

 Vidal Sassoon, celebrity hairstylist who became known for his modern and lowmaintenance hairstyles, creating a natural look in the 1960s, died recently at the age of 84. His geometric "wash-and-wear" styles framed the face and were easy to maintain. liberating women from the "untouchable" and high-maintenance bouffant hairstyles (like the "beehive") of the 1950s. As a result, he built a multi-million dollar business using his name, bringing him international fame and fortune. Sassoon was born in London, the son of a poor Turkish-lewish carpet salesman. His father abandoned the family when Sassoon was three years old, causing his mother, who was facing extreme poverty, to place him and his vounger brother in a lewish orphanage. where he spent the next eight years. Vidal guit school at fourteen to become an apprentice hairdresser. In 1948, at the age of 20, Sassoon spent a year working on a kibbutz, ioined the Haganah and fought in Israel's War of Independence. He later credited that year with giving him the direction and discipline he needed to jump into a full-time career in hair-cutting. In 1982, he established the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism (SICSA) at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 2009, Sassoon was honored by Oueen Elizabeth when he was named a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. He set up the Vidal Sassoon Foundation to help the needy in educational pursuits, both in Israel and abroad. Sassoon married four times and had four children. (www.haaretz.com, 5-10-12) ◊

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>General Fund</i>
Emkey, Gerri
Geller, Milton | In Honor of | Sunshine Fund
Sax, Stuart & Lauren | In Memory of
Ellen Coltman |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Sachs, Joseph and Susa | new flowers for bimah
Steve Hartz - speedy recovery
n marriage of
reldon Kushner and Lynn Gielda | Y <i>artzeits</i>
Dorf, Barry and Natalie
Grossman, Stuart
Incociati, Estelle | In Memory of
Emanuel Schafer
Morris Moshe Grossman
Louis & Dorothy Biderman |
| Silverman, Morton & G | Gene Zoe and Joshua
Moshe's wedding | Kantor, Erwin
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica
Lippman, Lillian | Jack Kantor
Morris Kornbloom
Milton Lippman |
| General Fund
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Joel & Linda | In Memory of
Ellen Coltman
Ellen Coltman | Smith, Steven and Barbara
Temkin, Dr. Robert | Louis Smith
Phillip Temkin |
| Scholarship Fund
Shulman, Herbert & Sy
Steinbock, Stephen and | , | | |
| Sunshine Fund
Sax, Stuart & Lauren | In Honor of
Steve Hartz - speedy &
complete recovery | | |

How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the treasures that lie between these covers."

Tree of Life Leaves: We have two beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$50 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

Garden Bricks: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. No one ever made tastier blintzes."

Photo Gallery



On April 14th, I took children and parents from my class at Avocado Elementary to participate in the 5K walk/run for asthma. We all did a 3.1 mile walk/run at the Miami Zoo in the rain!

I want to thank a few KJCC members for their donations, which allowed some of the children and adults to participate. Thank you to Linda & Joel Pollack and Muriel & George Swartz. This was a day I will never forget and neither will my students.

Love, Gerri Emkey

All the other photos on this page were taken on April 21st during a Havdalah service at the home of Steve and Carol Steinbock. It's a delightful (and short) ceremony, which Gloria always does

beautifully. She even brought a new candle. All she needs is for two people to verify that there are three stars in the sky,



the time-honored, pre-scientific way the ancient rabbis accepted as proof that the day, and Shabbat, had ended.















On April 22nd, in Princeton, NJ, six Holocaust Torahs, all originally rescued from Susice in the Bohemian region of today's Czech Republic after World War II, re-





Hana Gruna, 92, shown lighting the candles at top, the only Jewish survivor from Susice still alive, was the honored guest. Please see Steve Smith's story on these Torahs, including Scroll No. 418, KJCC's own Holocaust Torah, beginning on page 37. Photos courtesy of Michael Mancuso of The Times of Trenton, NJ.





At the end of April, Jim and Joan Boruszak, on a cruise of the eastern Atlantic and western Mediterranean, stopped to visit legendary Casablanca on Morocco's Atlantic coast. The photos here are of the exterior and interior of the main (and very old) synagogue in Casablanca. (One wonders whether the Epstein brothers, who wrote the movie, considered using it as the place where Rick might hide the Letters of Transit.)

Jim says he bribed the sextant to let him look into the Ark and photograph their Torahs. He was told that the silver-clad one on the right is several thousand years old. If you look carefully, you can see that the Hebrew

letters above the exterior door say "Beit Ha-Knesset" and "Beit El."



The architecture is classically Moorish, with a touch of Greek columns. The doors



just below are part of an elaborate and ornate entrance to the Ark. The center bimah, below, is characteristic of a Sephardic synagogue.

n Friday, April 27th, Steve and I went to Homestead to attend Friday night services at Temple Hatikvah, (formerly called the Homestead Jewish Center).

We went at the invitation of Sandy Liebowitz, the temple's president. Sandy also is our contact at L & M Engraving in Miami, the company that creates all of KJCC's plagues. Sandy had attended a Shabbat Dinner a few months ago when we invited the Chai-Lights advertisers. Perhaps some of you remember meeting him.

They have a cantor and a rabbi as well as an organ

player, although they have services only every other week. The service was most eniovable. Steve and I were invited to the Bema to open the Ark for the



Temple Hatikvah has stained glass as an integral part of their Ark. unlike KICC.

Alenu. We enjoyed reading from the Gates of Prayer. (That's the Reform siddur; it's also the siddur Rabbi Agler uses for his Saturday morning services at KICC.) Brought back memories.

The Ark doors and the Torah covers are very beautiful. The photos we took do not do them justice.

Surprisingly, we learned they only have 40 member units/families. We were very warmly welcomed, not only by Sandy but by the rabbi, cantor and a number of the members. Their building, we were told, is paid

One of the Temple Hatikvah Torah covers has a familiar south Florida motif.

for, though they'd had to rebuild it after it was destroyed during Hurricane Andrew in August of 1992. That was when it was re-named Hatik*vah*, which as many of you know means "the hope." Only the Torahs survived the hurricane without any harm. (Amazing!)

-Carol Steinbock

t this year's Women's Seder April 1st, BZ **7** Slutzker was honored as 2012 Woman of the Year in Memoriam. (Actually, she was co-honoree. Muriel Swartz, shown with BZ in the left photo, was also honored.)

Blanche "BZ" Slutzker was born Blanche



Zion (thus the BZ) in Johnstown. PA, B7 and husband. Dr. Harold Slutzker, made their home in Everett. PA, and wintered here in

the Keys for many years. She was active in the KJCC in every way imaginable and was our first official Historian, keeping scrapbooks and pictures of all our events over many 22 Chai-Lights lune/luly/August 2012

years.

BZ passed away in 2006. The KJCC Sisterhood honored her memory at that time with a

donation to the Board of Directors in her name. Nettie Seder was Sisterhood President then and I will quote her words: "We give this in memory of BZ Slutzker. who was a most



loved, active and dedicated member of the KJCC. It is her words that I have been using every week. 'Your check is your reservation for the Seder.' Although they moved several years ago, she was always in touch and in our thoughts. We all miss her greatly."

-Linda Pollack

In the photo at right, KJCC members gather on April 22nd at the Nelson Government Center to preview a PBS food show, Flavors of the Florida Keys.





All the other photos on this page were taken April 28th during another of Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning Sessions. The Torah that Rabbi Agler is reading from in the above left photo, and that Dave Mont is carrying at left and below, is the KJCC Holocaust Torah. It's the largest of KJCC's three Torahs.







The top four photos on this page are from Rabbi Agler's "Lunch & Learn" class at KJCC on

Sunday, April 29th. The whole idea of the class is to become better and



more informed service leaders, and for Gloria's sake to try to expand the roster of volunteers. But providing lunch and quite a nice lunch at that doesn't hurt attendance at all.



The two photos at bottom are from the end-of-April kayaking excursion from Dave and Georgia's home in Key Largo. Careful observers will notice Joseph Beth, in the Keys for a weekend break from classes in Tampa.



The top four photos were taken

at the end-of-season Sisterhood luncheon held at Bitton Bistro Café in Islamorada on May 6th. Michel and Sylvie were wonderful

hosts. (One wonders just how many Sisterhood meetings Pauline has been to.) Our thanks to Mary Lee for the photos.



The two center photos are from the May 11 service. Rosie and Muriel light the candles at

> left, using the new melody Rabbi Agler pointed out we should use. It was also the annual oneg sponsored by Medina and Bernie in honor of their shared Far Rockaway birthdays. Yet



there was another oneg sponsor that night, a late-comer, Mindy Agler. Turns out that May 11th, that very day, was also Rich Agler's 60th birthday.

The bottom photo was taken in the local bloodmobile on May 13th in KJCC's parking lot. The tee shirt being held up, given to all who donated, sports a silk screen of a painting by KJCC's own, multi-talented Gloria Avner.

Plan Now to Be Part of the Special KJCC Trip to Israel June 11-23, 2013, a Trip To Be Led by the Best Tour Guide Possible — Our Own Rabbi Richard Agler.



Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem







The Eastern Gate

- **Dead Sea Scrolls**
- The Jewish Quarter

A wonderful opportunity is available to all members of KJCC. Join together and with Rabbi Richard Agler (who has led such trips dozens of times) for a ten-day adventure in Israel a year from now, on June 11-23, 2013. Current estimates for the trip are a range of \$3,000 to \$3,300 per person, depending on the accommodations package chosen. Because KJCC members

might be coming from all parts of the country, air fare is NOT included in any price quotes. The group needs to be a minimum of twenty. The full trip itinerary and details are posted on the KJCC web site, keysjewishcenter.com; click on the "Misc." section. If you are interested, contact Dave Mont, 305-393-9883. (Are non-KJCC members or family welcome to join us? Absolutely.)

Tour features:

- -10 nights hotel accommodations;
- -18 meals: 10 Israeli buffet breakfasts,
 - 2 lunches and 6 dinners;
- -9 days touring in a comfy motor coach;
- -all program and entrance fees;
- -tipping and all portage included.

Tour highlights:

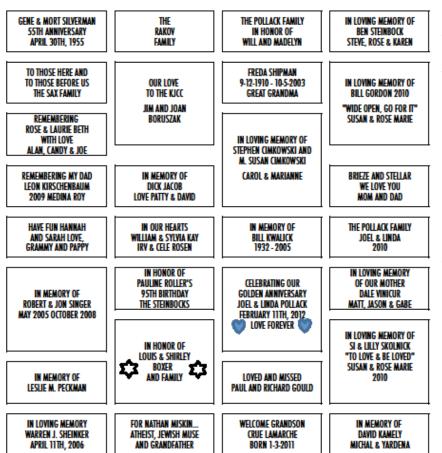
-Old City of Jaffa and a stroll through the artists' colony and the ancient port; -A visit to Safed, the center of Jewish mysticism since the 16th century; -The stunning Bahai Gardens & Shrine; -A visit to Yad Vashem.

Creating our Beautiful KJCC Meditation Garden

The pages of Chai-Lights regularly acknowledge gifts to KJCC. We've often talked about and shown photos of the Garden. What we haven't yet done is tell the full story of the Garden or acknowledge by name all those whose contributions have made it possible. We remedy both omissions here. On this page and the next you'll see a facsimile of every brick ordered or placed in the Garden through Mid-May. At the article's end are photos of all four donated benches.

by Carol Steinbock

It all started a little over two years ago. Medina Roy had called Sam Vinicur, wanting to do something in memory of his sister, who had recently died. They decided on a plant or tree or shrub with purple flowers, since purple was her color. Sam called Alan Beth, then KJCC's president, to get approval to plant something on KJCC's grounds. Alan readily agreed. Sam then wondered if it would be possible to set aside an area on the KJCC



grounds so that others could do the same. Alan enthusiastically agreed to that, too. So the idea for our garden was born. Very soon after, Medina's dad Leon died, and she knew she also wanted a living memorial in his name.

My husband Steve loves gardening and has worked for years designing and building our backyard garden. So the day after his conversation with Alan, Sam called Steve to see if he wanted to design a garden on the KJCC grounds. The answer was ves. As often happens at KICC. a committee was formed. At one time or another, the people involved were Steve Steinbock, Sam Vinicur. Medina Rov. Candy Stanlake, Georgia Landau. Alan Beth.

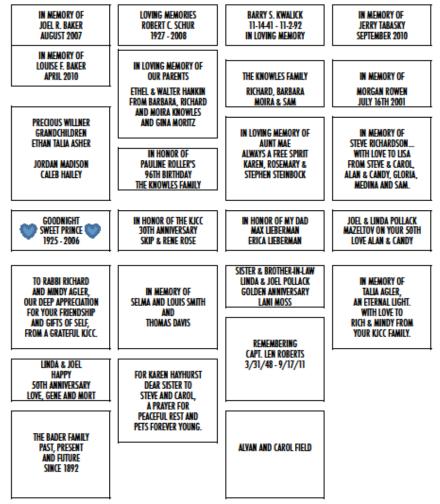
Stu Sax and me. Please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone.

Originally, the idea was to call it a memorial garden, but after sage advice from Linda Pollack it was decided that we would call it a Meditation Garden, a place where KJCC members and other supporters of the temple could honor friends and family and celebrate life events as well as memorialize those who have passed.

Steve, Sam and I went to a nursery in The Redlands to look at plants for the garden. Steve and Candy built the gated entrance. Steve carved the "welcome" sign. Silver buttonwood, several palms and various small shrubs and miscellaneous plants were purchased. Mike Pravata of Florida Keys Native Nursery leveled the ground and made holes for the plants. (That was after the group tried to do it ourselves with no success; the area is a little dirt and a LOT of solid rock.)

A bricklayer laid a four-foot by ten-foot section at the entranceway. We found a company that creates permanent, imprinted bricks and benches for organizations like KJCC. Whenever bricks would be sold, plain bricks would be removed and imprinted, donated bricks put in their place.

To our surprise, three benches and many bricks were purchased with donations by



members in just a couple of months after KJCC announced the project to our members. Steve found a native *lignum vitae* tree for Sam, which blooms with beautiful purple flowers each spring. It was planted in the garden with a plaque stating:

This Lignum Vitae tree planted June 2011 In memory of Dale Vinicur. Purple forever.

Steve designed and delineated plant beds and the walkway. Mulch was placed and continues to be freshened as needed.

As donations came in, the brick pathway was expanded. Additional donated bricks were placed in the garden path.

In the spring of 2011, Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake purchased all the materials and personally built a beautiful, wooden, multi-purpose pergola. (Though we usually now call it our gazebo.) This would become our *Sukkah*, a *Chuppah* for weddings, a Sunday school class venue, and a peaceful place to sit and talk or just think and enjoy the garden. Its perfect placement makes it a visual standout in the Garden.

The pergola was formally dedicated on April 29, 2011. Alan and Candy and Gloria Avner, our Ritual Chair, presided. Candy's father, J.D. Stanlake, was there, as well as many KJCC members. A mezuzah and bronze plaque now mark the entrance on the right side. The plaque states:

> Gazebo Donated and Built By Alan Beth and Candace Stanlake In Honor Of Our Parents Rose & Laurie Beth Dorothy & J.D Stanlake Dedicated on April 29, 2011

Over the entrance to the pergola is the word *Shalom* carved in Hebrew into a wooden plaque, also donated by Alan and Candy. The pathway that Steve designed was extended into the pergola. More bricks have been donated and installed in place of plain bricks.

After Passover 2011, the Women's Seder committee donated the funds to purchase a fountain for the garden. To make a long story short, we now have a concrete, three-tier fountain (but are still working to achieve a consistent and graceful water flow.) A brick sits at the base: *This Fountain Was Donated By The KJCC Women's Seder 2011.*

Meanwhile, additional palm trees and other shrubs and plants were purchased or donated and planted. Recently a group of volunteers from a local church donated an afternoon of their time and did general cleanup, spread mulch and delineated plant beds under the direction and guidance of Steve and Stuart. We have a wonderful lawn maintenance artist, Teó Rodríguez, recommended to KJCC by Stu and Lauren Sax, who now lovingly tends and nurtures the garden in addition to all of KJCC's grounds.

To date, we have four beautiful benches,

35 single bricks and 18 double bricks, all bearing inscriptions as directed by the donors. (*Please see the Roll of Honor for the names of each individual donor.*)

Our Meditation Garden is truly a peaceful, lovely place where a person may walk, sit on a bench or in the pergola, and enjoy the peaceful surroundings, whether you want to read, pray or meditate. Come outside, sit amongst the beauty and quiet and achieve a closeness with God.

We look forward, of course, to many more bricks, plants and trees being donated to make our Meditation Garden ever more beautiful and unique. We have lots of room to expand.

Sponsoring a Garden element is a wonderful way to celebrate an occasion, or remember a loved one in a setting outside the sanctuary. We still, of course, offer Tree of Life leaves and Yahrzeit plaques inside, where more traditional prayer takes place. ◆

The Meditation Garden Roll of Honor:

As of mid-May, the following KJCC members (and some non-members) have contributed benches, bricks, trees, shrubs or other greenery, or just made a donation to our Garden. Though a number of our members have sponsored multiple bricks, some bricks have had multiple donors, and some members have made a number of contributions of varying kinds, each individual or couple's name is listed only once:

Benches:

Margulies, Stanley and Jenny Nobil, Jim and Lynn Schwaid, Harvey and Susan Wolfe, Larry and Dorothy

Bricks:

Avner, Gloria Bader, Ivan and Jean Beni, Michael Beth, Alan and Candy Stanlake Biskar, Rosie Bloom, Marc Boruszak, Jim and Joan Boxer, Shirley Brand, Samuel and Yvonne Chai-Lights June/July/August 2012 **29** Chodikoff, David and Marjorie Denenberg, Nancy and Steven Osder Fein. Michael and Deanna Field. Carol Friel, Patricia Gessman, Warren and Margaret Ginsberg, Bernard P. Gordon, Susan Gould, Maryon Graham, Bea Hartz, Steve and Jan Hayden, Beth Hirschlein. Sharon lerud. David and Lorraine Kamely, Michal Kamely, Yardena Kay, Harvey and Joan Knowles, Richard and Barbara Kwalick. Teresa Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Line, Jonathan and Arlene McMahon, Mike and Maggie Millbridge Sunshine Mont. Dave and Georgia Landau Moshe. Joshua and Zoe Moss. Elaine Peckman, Joyce Pollack, Joel and Linda

Rakov, Neal and Cathy Reese, Stephen Rose, Skip and Rene Rov. Medina Sachs, Joseph and Susan Saperstone, Michael and Penni Sax, Stuart and Lauren Schur, Lee Sheinker, Miltra Silverman, Mort and Gene Singer, Mary Lee Smith. Steven and Barbara Stein. Ira and Shirley Steinbock, Stephen and Carol Swartz, George and Muriel Tabasky, Suzanne VanArtsdalen, David and Patricia Van de Vaarst. Karen Vinicur. Samuel E. Willner, Morris and Sherrie

Other trees, plants, or general giving:

Barefoot, Rosemary Hayhurst, Karen Peckman, Joyce Roy, Medina Sax, Stuart and Lauren Steinbock, Stephen and Carol Werthamer, Robert and Heide

The Four Donated Benches Situated in KJCC's Meditation Garden



-This Month in Jewish History-June, July, August

1257 - Kraków, Poland receives city rights under the Slavic Piast Dynasty. Having begun to move from Germany into Poland during the Crusades, and being well-known traders all through central Europe, Jews are probably among the earliest settlers of Kraków. Enough Jews are there some one hundred years later to support a synagogue. Kraków will become a major center of European Jewish life and culture. Some twenty-five miles to the west is the town of Oswiecim, the German name for which is Auschwitz.

1365 - Pope Urban V issues "Sicuti judaeis non debet," a Papal Bull forbidding Christians from molesting Jews or forcing them to be baptized.

1381 – As a result of the Black Plague, which ultimately reduces Europe's population by a third (and at the same time reduces the population of Asia by almost as much), Rabbis and communal leaders from Speyer, Worms and Mayence (today's Mainz) meet at Mayence to review laws pertaining to marriage and the rights of widows amidst such unnaturally high rates of death. One of the rules enacted is *Tekanoth Shum*, which allows a childless widow to receive a specific portion of a late husband's property even if she refuses to marry a surviving brother-in-law.

1492 - Christopher Columbus, aboard flagship Santa Maria, sets sail for the New World. An entry in his diary notes the expulsion of Jews from Spain just before their departure. Also aboard ship is Luis de Torres, a Marrano and recent convert to Catholicism (to avoid the expulsion edict). Torres is there because he also speaks Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic and Portuguese. He is to be Columbus' interpreter in their expected destination of Asia, since Columbus expects to find local Jewish traders there. Born Jewish, Torres is almost certainly the first person of Jewish birth to set foot in the Western Hemisphere, though records – and certainly legends in both Spain and South America - tend to indicate that other members of Columbus' crew are also Jewish.

1621 - The Dutch West India Company, with a Jewish merchant named Joseph d'Acosta as one of its shareholders, receives a charter for New Netherlands, which includes what will become the city of New Amsterdam. Having Jewish shareholders will matter when Peter Stuyvesant, the company's representative in New Amsterdam, tries to expel the city's Jews.

1662 – Asser Levy buys a lot from Barent Gerritsen on Hoogh Straat (Stone Street) in New Amsterdam (now New York). By this simple and unremarkable act Levy becomes the first Jewish landowner in what is now the United States. A successful businessman, Levy also petitions to be allowed to serve in the local militia, a privilege previously denied to Jews, or be excused from the special militia tax placed on Jews. He puts pressure on Peter Stuyvesant by directly contacting his bosses in Holland, and wins.

1687 - Isaac Newton publishes "Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica," the groundbreaking three-volume work that includes Newton's Laws of Motion, revolutionizing the field of physics. Newton also apparently is fascinated by and writes about Jewish law, and researches the Book of Daniel for clues about the date for the end of the world. In one manuscript from the early 1700s, Newton uses the Book of Daniel to calculate the date for the Apocalypse, reaching the conclusion that the world will end no earlier than 2060. "It may end later," he writes, "but I see no reason for its ending sooner." Newton also writes treatises on daily practice in the Beit HaMikdash, the Temple in Jerusalem. He believes that the Temple's plans mirror the arrangement of the cosmos, and in one document discusses its exact dimensions.

1802 – The U.S. Military Academy opens its doors at West Point, New York, along the Hudson River. The first graduating class consists of two cadets, one of whom is a Jew named Simon Levy. In the 1980s, the West Point Jewish Chapel, a beautiful \$10 million facility, is opened. In 2002, in honor of 200 years of West Point Jewish history, the Jewish Chapel begins building a commemorative wall to recognize all of its Jewish graduates.

1806 – Louis Napoléon Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, begins his reign as King of Holland. Louis seeks to make his Jewish subjects full-fledged citizens. He changes the market-day in Utrecht and Rotterdam from Saturday to Monday. Jews and Christians are to swear the same oath when testifying in Dutch courts of justice. In an attempt to improve Jewish skills in the art of war, he forms two battalions of 803 men and 60 officers, all Jews. Prior to his reign, Jews are barred from military service.

1844 – Dankmar Adler, American architect and engineer, is born in Germany, the son of a rabbi. The Adler family moves to Chicago, where Adler learns his trade as a draftsman. He enlists in the Union Army during the Civil War, fighting in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. After the war, Adler designs or helps build a number of important American buildings, including The Stock Exchange in Chicago and Carnegie Hall in New York. He also builds temples and synagogues in Chicago. In his offices a young, aspiring architect named Frank Lloyd Wright gets his training.

1877 - In "The Return of the Jews," one Captain Charles Warren, best known for creating maps of Jerusalem, promotes Moroccan Jews as being the best candidates to restore Judea "to its former glory," because they are the only significant Jewish population there with agricultural skills, with proven ability to use irrigation for crop-raising. He pointedly disdains the existing Jews of Jerusalem, describing them as "incompetent to revive the glories of the past" because of long years of "indolence and degeneracy." Warren's efforts at Jewish re-colonization predate Herzl by thirty years.

1881 - Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont graduates from the U.S. Naval Academy. His father is August Belmont, the Jewish financier who comes to the United States in 1837 as a representative of the Rothschilds and becomes one of the most prominent, and assimilationist, of the early German-Jewish Wall Street bankers. (His birth name, Schönberg, is German for "beautiful mountain." The name he adopts in the United States. Belmont, is French for "beautiful mountain.") With wealth he marries into social prominence, takes up the sport of kings (Belmont Park is built by his son) and delves deeply into American politics, all activities carefully avoided by the rest of "Our Crowd." New York's quiet and isolated community of wealthy German-Jewish bankers.

1895 - Theodor Herzl meets with Max Nordau, who will become an important Zionist leader. He writes in his diary: "Yesterday with Nordau, over a glass of beer. Also discussed the lewish question, of course. Never before had I been in such perfect tune with Nordau. Each took the words right out of the other's mouth. I never had such a strong feeling that we belonged together...We agreed on every point, so that I already thought that the same ideas had led him to the same plan. But he comes to a different conclusion: 'The Jews', he says, 'will be compelled by anti-Semitism to destroy among all peoples the idea of a fatherland.' Or, I secretly thought to myself, to create a fatherland of their own."

1904 – Jacob Pincus Perelmuth is born. He gains adult fame as a cantor and long-time tenor at New York's Metropolitan Opera under the stage name Jan Peerce.

1916 - After a long confirmation process unshamed by its open anti-Semitism, Louis Brandeis becomes the first Jewish Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

1917 - At the beginning of American entry

into World War I, registration of all men between twenty-one and thirty begins under the Selective Draft Act. Universal military service, one American rabbi insists, is an institution deriving from the time of Moses. Within two months of the passage of the Selective Draft Act, Jews make up six percent of the American armed forces, though they constitute only two percent of the population.

1923 - Hannah Golofski is born in Brooklyn. New York. She is now better known as fashion designer Anne Klein. A mere vear out of design school in Brooklyn, Hannah is working at Varden Petites and redesigns the firm's entire line, introducing a new style of readyto-wear and sophisticated clothing for slender young women in a category that will become known as Junior Miss. As principal designer of Junior Sophisticates, a new company established by husband Ben Klein, Anne transforms clothing design for petite women like herself. She is the first designer to follow Coco Chanel and adapt men's styles (suits, iackets, shirts) for women's use. In the 1950s, she introduces clothing to be sold as "separates." offering women a range of jackets, blouses, skirts, and slacks that in combination can become many different outfits.

1934 – Leo Szilard, a Hungarian-born Jew, already the holder of a number of patents together with Albert Einstein, patents the chain-reaction design for the atomic bomb while in London. He will later, along with Enrico Fermi, patent the design for the first nuclear reactor. After seeking refuge in the United States, he originates the super-secret Manhattan Project, fearful that German scientists are developing their own bomb. After the defeat of Germany, he strongly urges Harry Truman not to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

1941 - During World War II, Palestinian Jews fighting for the British begin operations in Lebanon and Syria, controlled by occupied France's Vichy Government. It is during this combat that Moshe Dayan loses an eye and begins wearing his iconic eye-patch. 1941 – Joseph Stalin orders the establishment of a network of partisan units to harass German troops storming through Soviet territory toward Moscow after the Nazis invade from occupied Poland. Jews play an active role in these units. Some units are made up exclusively of Jewish partisans.

1942 – The Battle of Midway begins in the Pacific, an audacious gamble pitting a depleted U.S. Navy against a far-superior Japanese force and which leads to the first American victory over Japan during World War II. The stakes are merely the vulnerability of the entire U.S. Pacific coast. A major component of the American victory is the cracking of the Japanese military code by a team led by Colonel William Friedman, the son of Russian immigrant Jews. It is an astounding example of pressure-laden codebreaking, especially since the first true computer is not functional until after World War II.

1944 - Zionist pioneer and poet-turnedparatrooper Hannah Szenes is arrested in Hungary after completing a behind-the-lines mission for the British in Yugoslavia to help anti-Nazi partisans. Born in Hungary in 1921, Szenes moves to Palestine in 1938, joins a kibbutz, and by 1941 is also a member of the Haganah. Just before her execution Szenes writes the following poem: "One-two-three... eight feet long. Two strides across, the rest is dark... Life hangs over me like a question mark. One-two-three... maybe another week, Or next month may still find me here, But death, I feel, is very near. I could have been twenty-three next July: I gambled on what mattered most; The dice were cast. I lost."

1960 - Archeologist Yigael Yadin - Head of Operations for the IDF during the 1948 War of Independence, Army Chief of Staff for three years after that and who then resigns and earns his PhD in Archeology - presents, in a lecture at Hebrew University, four newly deciphered letters of Bar Kochba that describe organizational challenges faced by the leader of the third Judean revolt against the Roman Empire (132-135 CE). The letters reveal Ein Gedi and Tekoa as the supply route for Bar Kochba's soldiers. \diamond

EAT, PRAY, STUDY

Rabbi Agler's Classes and "Tikkun Leil Shavuot"

by Gloria Avner

G f you've noticed an upswing in creativity and a deepening of traditional prayer focus at Friday night services of late, it is because we are inspired. One of our newest programs, Rabbi Agler's "Lunch and Learn" series on "Leading a Friday Night Service," is paying dividends, not just to the learners, but also for the whole congregation. We are correcting old mistakes and changing melodies when we realize they are inappropriate. (Be sure to check the "miscellaneous" page on KJCC's website for proper Shabbat melodies for candle lighting and "*Bar'chu.*")

We've been learning all kinds of small things, like the "whys" and "hows" of bowing, bending the knee, and taking those little back -and-forth steps at the end of the *Amidah*. On a broader level, though, Rabbi Agler is helping us re-think what we do, balancing tradition with modernity. We are becoming more *aware* of what we do and why we do it. With that increased awareness comes more enjoyment. Studying Torah means re-examining it in the light of our own lives. Making choices about what we say and choose to read takes for others) is that the Hebrew word for milk, *chalav*, has the numerical value of 40, symbolizing the number of days Moses was on Mt. Sinai learning and receiving the Torah. *Chalav* is spelled *chet* (numerical value of 8), *lamed* (30), and *vet* (2). I particularly like the Torah's explanation that the Jewish people were promised a "land flowing with milk and honey." Dairy meals recall this lyrical description.

On the final eve of counting Omer, commemorating the next-to-last day of our newly liberated proto-Jewish forebears' trek with Moses through the Sinai desert, we take part in one of our newest KJCC traditions, the fourth annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot program after our dinner/oneq. (The idea was introduced in the 16th century by the mystical wise men of the Israeli city of S'fat, often written as Safed). We know the word Tikkun from the context of Tikkun Olam, "repair of the world," a phrase that carries with it a directive: we are responsible for doing whatever it takes to make these repairs. Tikkun Leil Shavuot (Repairing the Night of Shavuot) is a little different. Bernie chants the Ten Commandments, we discuss the Book of Ruth,

us from rote performance to intentional, meaningful experience.

On May 25th after the early Shabbat and Yizkor services, we continued our learning, selfdirected. Instead of lunch, our learning meal was dinner: we performed the requisite *mitzvah* of eating all things dairy (from Muriel Swartz's blintz soufflé to cheesecake and beyond, thanks to Joyce Peckman and her gracious cooks and volunteers). One of the many reasons we eat dairy (see sidebar

Why We Go Dairy for Shavuot

I. Once the Jews accepted the Torah, they became obligated in the laws of kosher. But since at that moment they were not yet familiar with the laws regarding animal slaughter, they ate dairy.

Receiving the Torah was a form of rebirth. We celebrate this newness by consuming baby food. Namely, milk.
 Shavuot coincided with the time when the lambs and calves born in the spring would be suckling. Therefore an abundance

of dairy products were available. 4. Legend has it that the Jewish people

were at Sinai for so long that all their milk soured and turned into cheese. and perhaps see a wonderful movie. We celebrate Shavuot by staying awake and studying, unlike our ancestors at Sinai, who overslept and nearly missed the giving of the Torah. We may overeat but we do not fall asleep. We don't quite stay up all night, either, but many of us planned to be at shul the following morning to continue our studies with our generous teacher as we read and discuss Torah during Shabbat morning services. A huge *Todah* Rabah to Rabbi Agler. 🔶

The Extraordinary Journey of Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger

by Medina Roy

was on my way to visit my mom when I caught the tail end of an interview on NPR with Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger. Did I really hear what I thought I just heard? Son of a Nazi who converted to Judaism? Immigrated to Israel and served in the Israeli army? Has written a memoir? What a story! Since I was driv-

ing at the time, I quickly made a mental note to look this up once I returned home. Online I found the transcript of the interview at NPR, became intrigued by the story and ordered the book, "A German Life: Against All Odds Change is Possible."



As part of KJCC's Yom HaShoah commemoration on April 20th, Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger shared his extraordinary story. Yardena, Susan and Gloria led the congregation in the singing of Hatikvah. At right, our Holocaust Torah exposed, Stuart and Dr. Wollschlaeger lead Kaddish.

Fast-forward to *Pesach*, 2011. I had arranged to bring my mother for a "test run" at the Miami Jewish Home & Hospital for the Aged (now known as Miami Jewish Health Systems) hoping she would like the place and agree to move there. I spent the first few days of *Pesach* with her checking the place out. During the course of a conversation with one of the residents, I heard about interesting speakers that occasionally come to the facility for presentations, one of whom was a

man born in Germany to a Nazi soldier and then ended up converting to Judaism. My radar went up! "Would this happen to be Bernd Wollschlaeger," I asked? "Yes," was the reply. "He's a practicing physician in Miami and tells his story quite often."

I replayed this scenario to Gloria, thinking this might be an incredible opportunity; perhaps we could get this man to come to the KJCC and tell his story. And it happened. On April 20th, Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger



stunned the congregation and visitors at KJCC as he spoke of his personal journey seeking the truth about his family and country of birth. Even though I'd already read his memoir, I was as mesmerized by his compelling story as everyone. Dr. Wollschlaeger began his story with these words: "When my children started ask-

ing questions about my parents. I decided to break the wall of silence and tell them the truth ... " The story explores his relationship with his father Arthur, a highly decorated World War II German tank commander who was presented with the Iron Cross by Adolf Hitler himself. But when the war ended with Germany's defeat, Arthur, who proudly supported

the Nazi ethos of *übermenschen* and *üntermenschen*, also felt defeated and betrayed.

Bernd was born in 1958. At an early age, he discovered that his family was concealing their past in order to protect him from the disastrous effects of the war. The

early attempts within Germany to deal with the Holocaust caused unresolved conflicts between father and son. Arthur denied any and all atrocities. In a difficult and painful search, Bernd slowly learned that the stories were true.

Bernd's curiosity

about finding the truth about his father's past and what role Arthur had played during the Holocaust eventually led him to explore Judaism and Israel. These experiences resulted in an extraordinary spiritual journey that evolved over the course of seven years, culminating in his conversion to Judaism, emigration to Israel and eventual enlistment in the Israeli army. Shortly before he left for Israel, a Jewish friend insisted that he go to see his parents, both of whom had been aghast at his move toward Judaism. But at this point

Bernd's relationship with his father was irreparable; his mother spoke with him, angrily, but his father refused to see him, an estrangement that remained until his father's death a few years later. Nothing was ever resolved.

Bernd says in his memoir, "In the quest to find answers to questions about my parents and about my nation's past, I set out to find the truth, and in doing so, I found a new life..." ◊





Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger and his family live in Miami. He is a specialist in addiction medicine. He maintains dual citizenship, American and Israeli.





Summertime, and the Livin' Ain't Easy.

Mourning and Ritual: Rounding out the Jewish Ceremonial Cycle

by Gloria Avner

A s lightning flashes and thunder roars outside my little cement-block Key Largo house, I think back to another roaring, this time last year. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal was blowing our Shofar. The ram horn's thunder echoed through the sound-magnifying KJCC social hall and reverberated through the tissues cushioning our bones. None of us will ever forget it. We vibrated, for a long suspended moment, at the same frequency as the Jews gathered round Mt. Sinai. That attunement, I believe, was, and continues to be, a big part of what makes us into a people, and sets the course of our ceremonial year.

We listened, obeyed, and became acclimated to the different energies of each season through remembrance and celebration. From *Shemini Atzeret* to *Pesach*, we pray for rain during the *Amidah*; we need gentle watering for the growing season. (Remember the ramifications of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams of famine and plenty). Passover always coincides with Spring and burgeoning energy. We access the same power as the plants, to grow, change, and uplift both ourselves and the world. At *Shavuot* we celebrate the harvest of that growth.

But then what? We can't stop the wheel from turning. Here comes June, July, and August – *Tammuz, Av*, and *Elul*. In ancient Israel we enter the hot, dry time. We march towards mourning, our first steps towards *Yom Kippur*.

Even our community's communications begin a slight withering process and enter a fallow period in summer. We will see each other in the beginning of June, at least in the photos of Chai-Lights, but for those of us who spend summer in other cities, there will be a mini-diaspora. For me, at least, there will be sadness at missing friends and Shabbat celebration. Yes, we will meet again on those pages in late August when Sisterhood and Ritual Committee speeds up preparations for the next round of events. But what is happening ceremonially during July? No Chai-Lights,

and with the exception of the KICC's Annual Shabbabeque and Pauline's birthday party on July 4th, it is not pretty. In fact, it is pretty bleak. After fressing and feasting from the end of Yom Kippur onwards, we now move from fast to fast.

On Tisha B'Av, we read from the Book of Lamentations, and are instructed to keep joy to a minimum.

On the 17th of Tammuz, July 7th and 8th, we commemorate "the Five Calamities" by fasting. Three weeks later, on *Tisha B'Av*, July 28th and 29th, we beat ourselves further into depression with an even more serious fast, remembering not just the destruction of our sacred Temples, but nearly every other cataclysmic event of our people's near annihilation. It is appropriate to lament as well as fast so we turn the lights low and read from the book of "Lamentations." We are instructed to keep joy to a minimum.

Ever since I went as a young teenager to summer camp (*Machaneh Massad* in Ontario),

I've known that in the middle of summer, throughout history, the world has wanted to pound the hell out of us.

The political powers of way too many eras, geographies, and despots destroyed our sacred sites, killed our leaders, teachers, and wise men, exiled us, slaughtered our women and children, and did their best to wipe us from the face of the earth. I am not going to list the dates, the countries, or the enemies. I have read something radical which has opened a new window of insight, and I like the context.

What if the mourning originated in desertdweller days and that what we are *really* sad about is the brutal heat of summer shriveling the earth?

Without doubt, we are an earth-based religion. We lived in tents for hundreds of years, managed our flocks, cared for our herds, watched the skies for signs of weather, nurtured our grapes, and sent scouts to special mountains looking for stars and the tiny crescent that would herald the beginning of a new month. Watching, waiting, and praying, we knew what we needed and did what we could to effect desired results.

As new Jews, we were exhorted to live in harmony with God's law. But for centuries before Moses walked up Sinai, the proto-Jews who were our ancestors lived surrounded by worshippers of a consortium of gods and goddesses who were called on to mollify the effects of nature. Summer was not as we know it today, a time to take the kids to the shore and have a break from work. It was not even a gardening time, as it is for so many of us in temperate and northerly latitudes. Summer was a time of dryness, scarcity, and sadness.

The keen awareness of our thin hold on survival made sadness appropriate. Jews being Jews, sensitive to prevailing reality, we took the tenor of the times, intensified it, and made it fit within our own tribal tradition. If we're going to be sad, let's not just be sad

After all, we are building up to the greatest fast of all, which comes at the end of the summer.

for the earth in its natural cyclic decline before regeneration. Let's have a truly cathartic moment and mourn all our losses. We go deeply within, as only halting the busy flow of digestive juices can allow us to do. We don't do this often, but we do it well.

After all, we are building up to the greatest fast of all, which comes at the end of summer. We became estranged from God when we put our faith in a Golden Calf. We lost the tablets because of that lack of faith. There is a flow from the *Fast of Tammuz* through to the big final fast of *Yom Kippur*. We are on a journey towards reconciliation.

Once Tisha B'av is over, we begin reading the Seven Haftorot of comfort. Devastated at

our estrangement, we comfort and remind ourselves that it is in our power to change and repair that relationship. As the month of *Elul* begins, we take the journey further. Through the self-reflective process of *T'shuvah*, we turn our thoughts and behavior to reconnecting with God, growing into the moral people we can be, people who try not to "chet," or "miss the mark." (*Chet* is often translated, mistakenly, as "sin.")

We start blowing the Shofar again in the month of *Elul*. "Listen up!" it reminds us. "Be better, kinder people. It's never too late to do the right thing." The cycle goes on, from fertility to drought, joy to sadness, and back again.

I'm a teacher. I know we learn best by repetition. Each year the stories we tell our children are the same ones our grandparents, nanas, *bubbes* and *zeydies* have told to us; hopefully, we do not hear or re-tell them by rote. Our ears and our brains continue to evolve. We may be lucky enough to have a really good teacher inspire us (thank you, Rabbi Agler), or we may have painful brushes with illness and death. All experience keeps us growing, gathering ever more information with which to approach the puzzle that is life.

Let's enjoy our summer and be thoughtful as well. See you when the season turns. \diamond

Czech Memorial Torah Scroll Number 418

We always thought our beloved KJCC Holocaust Torah was one of three. Recently we learned that there are more. How accurate is the story we've told here over and over? Steve Smith, who visited the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre in London on KJCC's behalf in 1993, combines the old facts (and lore) with the latest information, and now we have the full — and still wonderful — story.

by Steven J. Smith, M.D.

A t the Keys Jewish Community Center Board of Trustees meeting prior to the 1993 summer break, the subject was brought up that the Jewish community in a Czechoslovakian town that we memorialized each week, "Kosice," was reactivating. The natural response to such wonderful news

was that it would be a great *mitzvah*, if this were true, to return our Czech memorial scroll to its rightful owners, the Jewish community of "Kosice." In order to proceed with this exciting thought, two guestions had to be answered. The first was whether Kosice's lewish community was indeed being reactivated. The second was how the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre of the Westminster Synagogue would feel about this, since our beloved Torah was on



An old photo of the Torah scrolls rescued from Susice, awaiting restoration at the Westminster Synagogue in London in the mid-1960s.

honored. Mrs. Schaffer was a wealth of in formation concerning our scroll and the circumstances of Jewish Communities in the former Czechoslovakia. Our congregation's scroll was Number 418, which came from the small western Bohemian town of Susice. The scroll was written towards the

end of the 19th century and was one of 1,564 *Sifrei Torah* that the Westminster Synagogue received from the Czech State Jewish Museum in 1964.

Mrs. Schaffer said that the Jewish Community of Susice had *not* reactivated, and even if it had the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre would not approve Scroll Number 418's return; the new Czech Republic in 1993 was not stable enough to guarantee the Torah's safety. Should our congregation no longer want the scroll, we would

"permanent loan" from them. They would have to give the final approval of this plan. Coincidentally my family and I were scheduled to be in London on vacation in a few weeks. I volunteered to personally visit the Westminster Synagogue and ask our questions.

Once in London, I was quickly able to make contact with Ruth Schaffer, who as Joint Chairman and Trustee of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Committee had directed the restoration work of the scrolls and then decided which requests for scrolls would be only be authorized to return it to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Center. (Returning it was not at all our plan.) I did learn that the Jewish population of Kosice, the city we once thought had been the source of our Torah, indeed had reactivated. Kosice was, and is, a good-sized city in eastern Slovakia some 400 miles or so east of Susice.

The following day I was able to visit the Westminster Synagogue and the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre, which is located on the synagogue's third floor. The synagogue is located across from Hyde Park and is just a short walk from Buckingham Palace and Harrods, the world-famous department store.

In 1957 The New London Jewish Congregation was established, and worshipped in rented rooms much like KJCC did when it was established. At that time they had no idea that within a few short years they would undertake the massive task and responsibility of protecting and restoring hundreds of rescued Czech Torah scrolls. It was the aim of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre to reinstate the Torahs back into Jewish life, as a

memorial to the decimated Jewish Czech communities that had once cherished these scrolls. Their work took nearly thirty years.

The Jewish Museum in Prague, the capital of Bohemia, was established in 1906. By the late 1930s there was a desperate effort to make the Museum a symbol of Jewish survival in a region about to descend into total chaos. In 1941 the Na-



The old Jewish cemetery in Susice, in Bohemia of today's Czech Republic.

zis, who now controlled Czechoslovakia, planned to confiscate all Jewish libraries. artifacts and religious articles. The SS was placed in charge of the newly titled Central lewish Museum. The new charter of the museum announced that "the numerous, hitherto scattered Jewish possessions of both historical and artistic value...must be collected and stored." Virtually every type of religious and personal item was confiscated, from musical instruments to all types of synagogue-related items. Thus, an enormous collection of Czechoslovakian Torahs was amassed. Overall this collection - evidence of a once-large and vibrant Czech Jewish population – ended up filling eight synagogues and fifty warehouses. After they won the war, the Nazis intended a permanent exhibition showing relics of an extinct culture and religion.

The Nazis did not win. In 1946 the Jewish museum was returned to the control of Prague's Jewish Community Council. By 1949 it was clear that the remaining Czech Jews did not have the manpower or financial resources to allow this museum to survive. The museum and its contents were given to the Czech government. In 1950 the Czech government established The State Jewish Museum, which to their credit they have maintained as a memorial to the vanished communities. One aspect of the collection had always embarrassed them: the collection of the *Sifrei Torah*.

> Numbering well over 1,000, these Holy Scrolls could not be displayed or organized as museum exhibits. It was also clear that they would deteriorate if left rolled up and unused. Enter the Westminster Synagogue. With the help of a private art dealer trusted by the Czech government, it was arranged for all the scrolls to be transferred to London.

The scrolls arrived at Westminster Synagogue in

February 1964. They were stored on specially built wooden racks and numbered consecutively, from one to 1,564. Most of these scrolls had been scarred by the Holocaust. Many had bloodstains, water damage or fire damage. Some were wrapped in personal clothing or *tallit*. Over the next fifteen months, five student scribes meticulously examined every scroll. Each was classified as to details of its condition, place of origin, date of writing and repairs that would be required.

In 1965, Mr. David Brand, a nomadic scribe who had previously lived in Israel, Paris, New York, and London, knocked on the synagogue's door and asked whether the Westminster Synagogue might have any scrolls that needed repair. According to legend, Ruth Schaffer's reply, in Yiddish, was, "We have 1,564; come in!" Mr. Brand (no one ever used his first name) stayed to work on these rescued scrolls for twenty-seven years.

Over the years, the Czech scrolls, their wooden rollers and their binders were repaired and restored with devoted care. For a *Sefer Torah* to be used in services in a religious context, it must be considered kosher. A kosher scroll does not contain any errors. Its ink should be black and clear, the writing must be meticulous and elegant, and all rules related to the dimensions and style and calligraphy must be observed.

As of my visit in 1993, the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre had received over 2,000 requests for scrolls. In order for the requests to be honored, they had to be made officially by the organization concerned, not by an individual. The scrolls are not sold. They are distributed on permanent loan.

According to the August 1983 issue of Chai-Lights, a conversation held by Bob and Jan Faeges with Rabbi Barry Takechnikoff in Miami prior to their May 1983 wedding is what led to KJCC taking possession of its Holocaust Torah. Bob and Jan asked how KJCC could obtain a Torah, and Rabbi Takechnikoff explained to them the process of obtaining a Czech Memorial Scroll. A report was made back to KJCC's Board. Unknown to anyone on the Board, Gus Zeldich had written a letter to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Committee on June 10, 1982 re-

Creating a Kosher Torah Scroll

The parchment used for the scroll is made from the skin of a sheep. The animals used must be set aside and raised for this purpose only. Each piece of parchment is joined by gut that is made from cow sinews. The making of the gut strings, or *gidden*, is the only work on the Torah that can be done by women. They however, may not sew the parchment together to form the scrolls. Each piece of parchment between the sewn joints must contain not less the two and not more the six columns. The space between the columns must be two fingers width and the margins on both sides must be even. To align the ends of the lines, the letters may be extended but not otherwise enlarged. The column width is that taken up by three times the longest word in Hebrew text, l'mishpachotechem (to your family). Each column must be 42 lines. This represents the 42 stops that the Israelites took to reach Mt. Sinai. Ten letters are written larger than the rest, starting with bet. Six letters are written smaller than the rest, and six letters must appear at the beginning of a column. At the very end of a scroll the very last line must be a full line.

No marks can be made on the parchment other then written text. In order to insure that lines are straight and spaced properly a small wheel with evenly placed spokes is run over the page. Lines are further defined by marking the parchment with a faint line created from a sharp knife connecting each point created with the spoke.

The ink used by the scribe is made by boiling tree galls; it is then mixed with gum arabic as a preservative. The pen is a sharp quill from a goose feather. Pens only last a limited amount of time. Good tools, such as special awls, sewing needles and sharp knives are a necessity not only to create a new scroll but correct errors or damage. There must be no stains or marks. Corrections must be undetectable. The name of G-d must be written in one attempt with no interruptions. If any mistake is made in this, the whole section must be cut out and rewritten. Special glue must be used in repairs.

If an established scroll has been damaged, the rules of repair are not as strict as in writing a new scroll. A damaged area must be scraped away, then dusted with powdered chalk and rewritten. Repairs must cover whole letters or words. Individual letters are not interrupted for repair.

-Steve Smith

guesting a Memorial Scroll. Ruth Schaffer answered, saying she needed an official request from our congregation. Mr. Zeldich was also informed that there were no longer any kosher scrolls available. Unfortunately, Gus Zeldich passed away early in 1983 and this information never reached the KICC Board. In late June of 1983 a letter from Joel Cohen was hand-delivered to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre by Milton and Lillian Lipman. During this visit Mrs. Shaffer showed them the letter from Mr. Zeldich. As a result of this visit and the second request for a scroll, the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre agreed to place a scroll at the Keys Jewish Community Center. A \$500 contribution was sent to the Scrolls Centre. One week later a letter was sent back indicating that scroll No. 418, from the town of Susice, which had been written in the late nineteenth century, was to arrive at Miami International Airport. On September 8, 1983, scroll No. 418 was delivered to the KJCC. Upon arrival it was dedicated to the memory of Gus Zeldich for his "integral part in obtaining this Torah." the first Torah of the Keys Jewish Community Center. From the day of its arrival at KICC. Scroll Number 418. our beloved Holocaust Torah from Susice, has been proudly and reverently displayed during any service the Mourner's Kaddish is recited. The story of its survival of Nazi occupation and its being on permanent loan from the Westminster Synagogue is told to KJCC members and visitors at every service. At the end of the service, the Ark is partly opened to reveal this precious Torah, and then a final Kaddish is recited in the memory of the slaughtered Jews from Susice as well as the six million other lews who perished in the Holocaust.

In the summer of 1999 a debate started in KJCC's Board whether to "kosher" our Susice Torah. Our then-president, Susan Horn, wrote a letter to Ruth Shaffer to ask if this would be permitted. On July 14, 1999, the same day our letter was received, Mrs. Shaffer wrote back and enthusiastically supported the koshering of our Torah, calling it a "great *mitz-vah.*" In January, 2000, Joel Pollack and Shelby Strean delivered Scroll 418 to Rabbi

Mordechai Tzvi Karro in Miami, a *sofer* (scribe), who undertook the task to kosher our scroll. On Sunday, February 20, 2000, that process was completed at the KJCC. The last letters, words and verses were completed at this service and, according to the March 2000 Chai-Lights, "the newly koshered scrolls were carried outdoors and danced around the front of the KJCC, carried under the chupa by joyful bearers and followed by a singing, clapping, dancing and excited group."

In March of 2004 KJCC had a visit from Hana Gruna, who was born and raised in Susice. She was one of only eight of its approximately 100 pre-war Jewish residents to survive the Holocaust and is likely the last living Jewish survivor from that village. She talked about her life in Susice, the Theresienstadt work camp, and Auschwitz. This inspirational visit infused further life into Scroll 418.

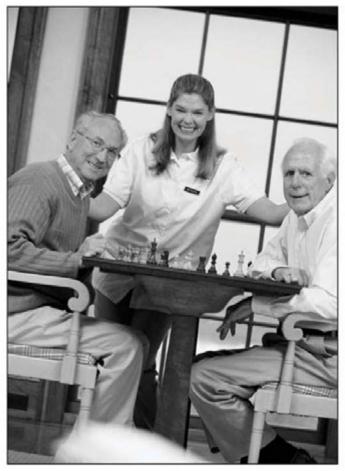
Recently we learned that Scroll 418 is one of ten scrolls rescued and distributed by the Czech Memorial Scroll Center from Susice. They're in Michigan, New Jersey, Illinois, California, Colorado, and two other than ours are in Florida. According to Rabbi Ariel J. Friedlander, the Memorial Scrolls Trust Administrator, "It is most unlikely that all ten scrolls were in use in Susice. Many towns and villages were collection points for smaller communities. It is quite likely that they were taken to Susice in order to be sent to Prague in 1942."

Six of the Torah scrolls from Susice were reunited at the synagogue in Princeton, NJ on April 20, 2012 as part of this year's *Yom Hashoah* commemoration. Hana Gruna, now 92 years old and living in Hackettstown, NJ, was there as the guest of honor. "These Torahs are like a miracle," she told *NJ Jewish News*. The six scrolls "were found in our little town in very bad condition" after the war.

A professional video was made of the April 20th ceremony at the Princeton Jewish Center. It was sent to KJCC and has been posted on our web site. Click on "misc.," then on "Czech Torahs Video." And, no, KJCC's Scroll No. 418 was not there for the commemoration. They thought we were in Key West, not Key Largo, and we knew nothing of the reunion until shortly before the event took place. \diamond

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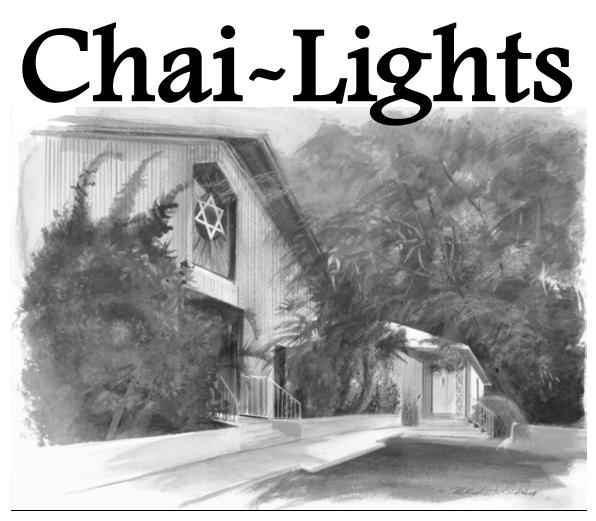
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September 2012

14 Elul 5772 -14 Tishrei 5773

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Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com September 2012

14 Elul -14 Tishrei

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Na | ames denote leader
Italicized names a | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4
Sisterhood
Meeting
7:00 p.m. | 5
Men's Club
Game
Night
7:00 p.m. | 6 | 7
Gloria Avner &
David Gitin
Steve &
Barbara Smith | 8
S'lichot
Pizza &
Movie
6:00 p.m.
Service
8:00 p.m. |
| 9
KJCC
Board
Meeting | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14
Gloria Avner &
Marc Bloom | 15 |
| 16
Erev Rosh
Hashanah
Community
Dinner
5:00 p.m.
Service
7:00 p.m. | 17
Rosh
Hashanah
Day One | 18
Rosh
Hashanah
Day Two | 19 | 20 | 21
Steve Steinbock
<i>Linda & Joel</i>
<i>Pollack</i> | 22
Shabbat
Shuvah |
| 23
30
Erev
Sukkot | 24 | 25
Erev Yom
Kippur
Kol Nidre | 26
Yom Kippur
Yizkor
Service | 27 | 28
Georgia Landau
& Dave Mont
6:30 Service | 29 |

2012 - 2013 Officers and Board

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Newsletter

Lisa Richardson Rutherford

CHAI-LIGHTS is the

monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message

Stuart Sax

September has arrived and that means that the easy, laidback pace of the summer is gone. Now we dive head first into more meetings, more events, more services, and more challenges.

As you thumb through the pages of this issue, you will see many smiling faces of those that were here during the summer months enjoying everything from Sunday School graduation to a birthday party in Miami for Michal Kamely and our combination Shabba-B-O and celebration of Pauline's 97th birthday. And in between were card games and paddling adventures on the ocean and bay, Sisterhood events, and Saturday morning Torah services with Rabbi Agler. We had some wonderful and meaningful times.

There were also meetings. The Membership and Finance Committees met to discuss the fee structures. The Endowment, House, and Planning Committees met and discussed our short term and long term needs, goals, and desires. With an extra million dollars in donations there is nothing we can't do! Seriously, our plans for the year ahead will depend on the generosity of each of you in our current dues and fundraising efforts. If you have not yet returned your renewal applications, please do so before the holidays.

Our coming High Holy Days will again be led by



Rabbi Danny Young and Cantor Mark Halpern. This is due in part to your contributions also. And nothing would show these devoted spiritual leaders and this congregation our true colors more than for each of you to be in the synagogue during this time of reflection, redemption, and renewal. Some of you seem to show up only in September for the holidays. I challenge you to be here when your family member's vahrzeits are read and/or to join us for alienu on the bima when your name is read for a birthday or anniversarv. We have several new service leaders giving of their time. Why not give some of yours and make your temple membership even more meaningful?

The Sisterhood has been meeting to discuss dates for Shabbat dinners and other fund raising opportunities. We are all looking at ways to maximize our income in the most cost effective ways possible. Our Membership Committee under the capable guidance of Dave Mont has led us to our largest membership in KJCC history and for that I recognize Dave as another KJCC Unsung Hero. Even with larger numbers, we know that dues do not cover all of our expenses. Please give what you can in addition to your dues. Participate and it will come back ten-fold in satisfaction.

Chai-Lights September 2012 3

Nosh

The Early Bird.....

With many of our congregants either remaining in the Keys for the holidays or coming down early to be with us, please plan to arrive at least ten minutes before each scheduled service. Refer to our service times on page _____ or check online. Remember, the earlier you arrive, the closer to the building you can park! -Stuart

YARTZEIT PLAQUE

In Memory Of Beloved Parents Walter Hankin 11/28/1916 - 01/10/1986 Ethel Hankin 05/25/1920 - 11/14/2006 Barbara Knowles & Family

Meditation Garden Brick

IN MEMORY OF LESLIE ALLEN SACHS

Sanctuary Seat Plate

David & Patti Gross In Memory Alvin S. Gross

Don't Forget The Online Calendar

Along with all the helpful information and online version of Chai-Lights you'll find on the KJCC website, there is also a frequently-updated, user-friendly calendar where you can keep track of all the events scheduled for the current month at the KJCC.

Servers Needed

Actually, what Sisterhood needs are flat glass serving platters and serving trays. They are needed for use this High Holiday Season. If you have any you would be able to donate, please contact Erica Liebermann-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

September Anniversaries

Years

| 4th | Jim & Lynn Nobil | 26 |
|------|-------------------------|----|
| 8th | Ronald & Deborah Kaplan | 16 |
| | Neal & Cathy Rakov | |
| | Steven & Barbara Smith | |
| 30th | Ira & Anita Krieger | 34 |

Meditation Garden Brick

IN MEMORY OF SELMA MOORE SACHS

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Max Lieberman

Erica Lieberman-Garrett

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to **The Cooper Family** on the death of **Murray Cooper**

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

The KJCC Sisterhood is planning a wonderful dinner before Erev Rosh Hashanah services on Sunday, September 16th. This **reservations only** sit down dinner begins at 5pm in the social hall with services following at 7pm. Members \$20 (member children under 12, no charge). All non-members \$25 each. R.S.V.P. to Erica Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com by September 10th. See the ad on page 16 for more details.

Contacting Chai-Lights

If you would like to contact Chai-Lights the easiest way is through our e-mail, which is chailights@keysjewishcenter.com. But you can also get a message to us by writing Stuart at president@keysjewishcenter.com. Stuart can forward your comments, Nosh items and/or story ideas to us.

Meditation Garden Brick

NISSAN & ISRAEL MAYK THESE COCONUTS DIDN'T FALL FAR FROM THEIR TREES. B'AHAVA-GRAHAM-SHUKER-HAI FAMILIES 40TH ANNIVERSARY 08/27/2012

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Bill Gordon

With our Love ...

Susan and RoseMarie Gordon

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 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.

September Birthdays

| l st | Mildred Finkelstein |
|-------|---------------------|
| l st | |
| 2nd | , |
| 4th | |
| 4th | |
| 6th | , |
| 7th | |
| 7th | , 0 |
| 7th | |
| 8th | leffrey Kominsky |
| 8th | |
| 8th | |
| 8th | |
| 9th | |
| 10th | Gerri Emkey |
| 10th | ,
Thomas Dillon |
| l 3th | Andy Tobin |
| I 3th | Lisha Lane |
| l4th | Lili Werthamer |
| l 5th | Lorraine Rose |
| l 6th | Larry S. Schur |
| 18th | Avery Haviv |
| 18th | |
| 19th | Barbara Bernstein |
| 9th | Brenna Nobil |
| 19th | Steven Schur |
| l9th | |
| 22nd | Fred Hudson |
| 23rd | Lauren Schur |
| 23rd | Maryon Gould |
| 24th | |
| 25th | |
| 25th | |
| 26th | , |
| 26th | |
| 28th | 2 |
| 29th | Bernard Solas |
| | |

Meditation Garden Brick

IN MEMORY OF FRANK STANLEY SACHS

Got something to say?

Well we want to hear it! Chai-Lights is interested in your opinions, ideas and suggestions. This is your publication, what do you want to see? Send your comments—criticism or especially compliments—story ideas, photos, Nosh items or other info to Chai-Lights—KJCC P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier FL 33070, or to chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Aaron M. Schmidt

Schmidt Family

Oneg Sponsors

September 7th - Barbara and Steve Smith in celebration of their anniversary.

September 21st - Linda and Joel Pollack honoring Joel - 5 Years.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Simon and Lillian Skolnick

With Love ... Susan and RoseMarie Gordon

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming September KJCC events include the next Sisterhood meeting on Tuesday, September 4th at 7p.m., Men's Club Game Nite on Wednesday, September 5th at 7p.m., S'Lichot on Saturday, September 8th at 6p.m., and the next meeting of the Board on Sunday, September 9th.

In Memoriam Geptember 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Sam Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

In Memory Of

Lillian Goldstein

By Jim & Joan Boruszak

Goldie Berman

By Sylvia Berman

In Memory Of

Ronald Repka

By Nancy L. Cohn

Molly Feldblum

By Marc Bloom

In Memory Of

Evelyn O. Coltman

By Barnet O. Coltman

In Memory Of

Albert Improta

By Carol Field

~~~~~~~~~~

In Memory Of

Ida Hitzig

In Memory Of

Sarah Sandberg

By Claire Cooper

In Memory Of

By Wes & Rita Conklin ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~

In Memory Of

Hannah Improta

By Carol Field

In Memory Of

**Nettie Gorson** 

By Janice Gorson

In Memory Of

Isadore Hurowitz

By Melvin Jacobson

Louis Gitin

By David Gitin 

In Memory Of

Paul Gould

By Maryon Gould 

In Memory Of

Sadie Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl 

In Memory Of

#### Anne Hendin Margulies

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies 

In Memory Of Toby Mitchell

By Joel & Linda Pollack  In Memory Of

#### H. Melvin Berkon

By Jamie & Laura Goodman 

In Memory Of

#### H. Robert Walters

By Maryon Gould 

In Memory Of

#### Natalie Kominsky

By Randy & Eileen Kominsky 

In Memory Of

#### Samuel D. Savage

By Marjorie Present Chai-Lights September 2012 7

In Memoriam Beptember 2012

| In Memory Of                              | In Memory Of                      | In Memory Of                       |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Louis A. Savage                           | Lorraine Martell                  | David Schur                        |
| By Marjorie Present<br><><><><><>>        | By Skip & Rene Rose<br><><><><>   | By Lee Schur                       |
| In Memory Of                              | In Memory Of                      | In Memory Of                       |
| Fred Roemer                               | Gertrude B. Schwaid               | Mollie Silverman                   |
| By Harvey & Susan Schwaid<br><><><><><><> | By Harvey & Susan Schwaid         | By Morton & Gene Silverman         |
| In Memory Of                              | In Memory Of                      | In Memory Of                       |
| Mauro Ojeda                               | Samuel D. Savage                  | Lillian Goldstein                  |
| By Mark & Sofy Wasser<br><><><><><>       | By Marjorie Present<br><><><><><> | By Jim & Joan Boruszak<br><><><><> |

### How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

*Book Plates*: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the treasures that lie between these covers."

*Tree of Life Leaves*: We have two beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$50 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

*Garden Bricks*: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. No one ever made tastier blintzes."



Tallit, Kipot, Kiddush Cups, Candlesticks Mezuzzot, Jewelry and More!



For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585 Medina Roy (305) 852-3872

# Sisterhood Lauren Sax



appy New Year everyone! With the NEW year comes many NEW things. NEW Chai-Lights staff, NEW KJCC members, NEW temple programs and NEW Sisterhood events. Sisterhood's first meeting of the NEW season is Tuesday, September 4th at 7 p.m. in the classroom. Please note the NEW day, time and place due to the Labor Day holiday. We will resume our regular scheduled meetings on the first Sunday of each month starting in October.

Our first NEW event of the year is our Erev Rosh Hashana Dinner. It was a huge hit when we originally did it 2 years ago. Erica Lieberman-Garrett is rounding up some of our more advanced chefs in the synagogue to prepare a sumptuous buffet so that we may start the holidays in grand fashion. We should have full tummies to make praying easier. Please see The ad on page 16 and make your reservations A.S.A.P.

Make sure that the next time that you are at the KJCC, you pay attention to the gift shop. Susan Gordon has been busy making NEW purchases. NEW Mezzuzot for your homes or offices, NEW Kippot, NEW gift items and much much more! If you still don't see what you need, please contact Susan and she will try to accommodate you.

We have an almost NEW kitchen as well! Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Georgia Landau spent many hours scrubbing shelves, cabinets and the refrigerator so that we would be ready for the holidays and our NEW year. Thanks so much ladies for your dedication and all your hard work. If we have to be in the kitchen, at least let it be clean!

Lastly, Sisterhood has a dilemma. Just like the temple, what Sisterhood does takes manpower. We have had many wonderfully dedicated women come before us and because of them, Sisterhood has thrived. We have a lot to live up to. As in many other synagogues and organizations, we are fighting to maintain what we have built. This year vou will see a smaller Break-The-Fast and not as many Shabbat Dinners. We will be doing things on a smaller scale. The fact is there are not enough people who are stepping up to the plate. So, I am asking for your help so that Sisterhood may continue to grow and prosper. To those of you that have come forward and volunteered time for Sisterhood, I thank you. To those that haven't, please consider helping out in some way that is conducive to your schedule. You can help by cooking or baking, making phone calls or even serving a short stint on a committee. In the next few months I will be forming a nominating committee to choose a slate of officers for the 2013-2014 year. I truly hope we will see some NEW fresh faces. The future of Sisterhood depends on you.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy NEW Year! ◊

# Do you know all the amazing things Sisterhood does for KJCC?

Here's a brief list:

- The Annual KJCC Fundraiser
- Shabbat and holiday dinners.
- After-services onegs.

• The Gift Shop in KJCC's lobby, with all manner of Judaica.

- The Annual Fashion Show.
- The Annual Second Seder.
- Theater outings.

There's much more. But to keep going Sisterhood needs your help. Please volunteer. We'll match your talents with our myriad of tasks.

# **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.

In Honor of

In Memory of

Bill Gordon

Max Lieberman

Aaron Schmidt

Rene Rose - Good Health

Simon & Lillian Skolnick

*Chai-Lights* Sheinker, Miltra Smith, Steve and Barbara Willner, Arthur Lee and Johanna

Book Plates Gould, Maryon

Book Plates Gordon, Susan and RoseMarie

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Schmidt, Judith

In Honor of General Fund Begam, Delores pray for us Begam, Delores pray for us, please Beinfest, Bennett and Deborah Boruszak, Jim and Joan Cohn, Nancy Cooper, Alan and Susan Davidson, Foster and Carol Laskin Dorf, Barry and Natalie Gilson, Michael and Suzanne Ginsberg, Bernard Gould, Maryon Graham, Bea Graham, Douglas lacobson, Melvin Miller, Steve and Tonia Sledd Peckman, Joyce Pollack, Joel and Linda Rapoport, Murray and Barbara Osder Roberts, Paul and Susan Sachs, Joseph and Susan Jim and Joan Boruszak's anniversary

Sax, Stuart and Lauren Shabathai, Joseph and Katherine Sisterhood Stein, Ira and Shirley Willner, Sherrie Yankow, Sandy and Nancy

General Fund Pollack, Joel and Linda Pollack, Joel and Linda In Memory of Murray Cooper Beulah Grossman, mother of Leslie Janowitz

piano

Holocaust Education Fund Smith, Steve & Barbara Swartz, George and Muriel

Holocaust Education Fund Barefoot, Rosemary In Memory of Karen Hayhurst

brick - Sam Vinicur

brick - Sam Vinicur

get well wishes for Barbara

tree - Leon Kirschenbaum

brick - Selma Moore Sachs

brick - Frank Stanley Sachs

brick - Leslie Allen Sachs

Mayk

Knowles

lan Finer

Meditation GardenGraham, Beabrick - 40th anniversary Nissan & Israel

Beth, Alan and Candy Stanlake Sax, Stuart and Lauren

Steinbock, Steve and Carol Vinicur, Sam Roy, Medina Sachs, Joseph and Susan Sachs, Joseph and Susan Sachs, Joseph and Susan Sax, Stuart and Lauren Shabathai, Joseph and Katherine Smith, Steve and Barbara

Oneg Fund Alter, Barry Burnett, Shirley Gross, David and Patti Kamely, Yardena Mic Kluger, Kurt and Nancy Knowles, Richard and Barbara Landau, Georgia Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

tree - Sally Shabathai brick - Irving H. & Daisy D. Smith In Honor of Birthday Michal Kamely's birthday Anniversary; Barbara's birthday

Landau, Georgia Dave's birthday Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Nephew's bar mitzvah Line, Jon and Arlene Anniversary; Crue LaMarche birthday Sax, Stuart & Lauren Anniversary Shabbathai, Joseph and Kathy Just because...

Sisterhood Schmidt, Judith

Rabbi and Cantor Fund Calev, Barbara Cohn, Nancy Coltman, Barney Dorf, Barry and Natalie Ginsberg, Bernard Gould, Maryon

Chai-Lights September 2012 ||

# **Contributions to KJCC continued**

In Memory of

In Memory of

In Honor of

In Memory of

Paul Charlap

Saul Elson

Saul Elson

Erna Forst

Saul Elson

Sidney Kaplan,

Tallent, Lillian

Wishing Rene Rose

a speedy recovery

Alvin S. Gross

Rabbi and Cantor Fund Cont. Gross, David and Patti Hernstadt, Roger & Jessica Kluger, Kurt and Nancy Knowles, Richard and Barbara Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Line. John and Arlene Pollack, Joel and Linda Rose, Skip and Rene Sachs, Joseph and Susan Sax. Stuart and Lauren Smith. Steve and Barbara Tobin, Andy

Sanctuary Seat Plate Gross, David and Patti

Scholarship Fund Kluger, Kurt and Nancy Women's Seder/Sisterhood Scholarship Fund Singer, Mary Lee Robert W. Singer, Jon R. Singer

Sunshine Fund Sax. Stuart & Lauren

Yahrzeit Contributions Azzato, Maryann Boxer, Shirley Louis Boxer, Gussie Fierberg Elson, Barry Elson, Neil Forst, Al Gould, Maryon Max Gould, Samuel Schneider Gould, Maryon Richard Gould, Jeanette Gould Graham. Bea Gross, Mollie Emanuel Gross Grossman, Stuart Margaux Rene Grossman Isenberg, Henry and Patricia Margaret Isenberg Kaplan, Ronald & Debra Catherine Kaplan Kaufman, Michael & Lorena Kwalick, Teresa Esther Kwalick. Irwin Kwalick. E. Enrique Astrey-Caneda Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Marmar, David and Pamela Mont, Dave & Georgia Landau Riley, Michelle Roy, Medina

Billie Kornbloom, Max Lieberman, Shirley Lieberman Sam Marmar, Dorothy Marmar Dale Gerber Paula Travers Leon Kirschenbaum Rubin, Dr Myron and Myrna Mae Rubin Rear Steinberg, Richard and Sheila Sam Wainer, Rose

Wainer, Wally Steinberg, Molly Cohen

Steinberg, Richard and Sheila

Samuel Wainer.

Robert Robinson

Rose Fine, Frieda

Steven Kwalick

Feinberg

Erwin Wainer, Meyer Cohen

Ralph Tallent, Ida Estrin

Tallent, Lillian Taramona, Hermine Wolfe, Larry and Dorothy

Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques Kwalick, Teresa

Yizkor Book Agler, Richard and Mindy Taramona, Hermine Avner, Gloria Willner, Arthur Lee and Johanna Willner, Sherrie Bernard, Joel and Joan Stark Beth, Alan and Candy Stanlake Boruszak, Jim & Joan Calev, Barbara Cohn, Nancy Coltman, Barney Conklin, Rita and West Cooper, Alan and Susan Davidson, Foster and Carol Laskin Dorf. Barry and Natalie Emkey, Gerri Feinberg, Arthur Garrettson, Marsha Ginsberg, Bernard Goldfinger, David and Toby Gordon, Susan Gould, Maryon Graham, Bea Gross. David and Patti Grossman, Ken and Jerri Hernstadt, Roger & Jessica Incociati, Estelle lacobson, Melvin Kaplan, Frank Kluger, Kurt and Nancy Knowles, Richard and Barbara Kwalick, Teresa Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Line, Ionathan and Arlene Pollack, Joel & Linda Riley, Michelle Rose, Skip and Rene Roy, Medina Rubin, Myron and Myrna Sachs, Joseph and Susan Sax, Stuart and Lauren Schur, Lee Sheinker, Miltra O Singer, Mary Lee Smith, Steven and Barbara Swartz, George and Muriel

# YEDA VETORASHA

Yardena Kamely



# KJCC Trip to Israel Series Part 1: ROSH PINAH

We are all very excited about the KJCC Trip to Israel-2013. To learn a little about Israel, (the land, the places both ancient and modern, the people and the vibrant life in this old/young country), I will write a series of articles about all you'll have the opportunity to see on this journey.

Where to begin? In Israel wherever you take a step (or three) you are standing on a historical place. Let's look at the history of modern Israel, of the *hityashvut*, (Jewish settlement) in *Eretz Israel*, the Land of Israel.

During the 400 years of Ottoman rule, the Land of Israel was ruled from Istanbul. By the end of the 18th century the country had suffered from neglect, taxation had devastated the *yishuv* (settlement), the great forests of the Galilee and the Carmel mountains were cut, and the country was sparsely populated by impoverished tenant farmers. The 19th century saw the first signs of progress when Britain, France, Russia, Austria, and the U.S. opened consulates in Jerusalem. Postal and telegraphic connections were installed and the first road connecting Jaffa and Jerusalem was built.

The situation of the country's Jews slowly improved and their numbers increased. By the middle of the 19th century Jews had built the first neighborhood outside the city walls of Jerusalem. Land for farming was purchased throughout the country and Hebrew was revived as a spoken language. The agricultural school *Mikve Israel*, east of Jaffa, was founded in 1870 by the Alliance Israelite Universelle, to train Jewish pioneers from urban environments in Europe in agricultural work. In 1878 the first *moshava* (rural settlement), *Petah Tikvah*, was established. The pogroms in Russia and Romania in 1882 led to the First *Aliya* (wave of immigration) and the foundation of the agricultural villages: *Rishon Lezion, Ekron, Zichron Ya'akov and Rosh Pinah.* 

Ask people what the first Jewish settlement in modern Israel was and most will sav Petah Tikvah. However, three months before Petah Tikvah was founded in 1878, eighteen religious Jews from Safed (*Tzfat*) decided to attempt farming and walked 90 minutes to the slopes of Mt. Canaan to build a new settlement, taking advantage of the areas three natural springs. They called it Gai Oni. "They didn't want to beg for money from European Jews," says tour guide and local resident Akiva Oren. "They wanted to work the land as farmers and make their own living." Though their attempt failed after three vears, it formed the basis for what is now the village of Rosh Pina ("cornerstone") in the Upper Galilee. This village offers spectacular views of the Sea of Galilee, the Hula Valley, Mt. Hermon and the Golan Heights. Many of its historic stone buildings and gardens have been reconstructed and preserved, while new structures, parks and art galleries have been added in recent years.

In 1882, (First Aliyah),a Romanian Jew named Moshe David Shuv arrived on a boat at Jaffa Port. He bought a horse and rode all the way up north looking for the right spot to settle. He was there to scout a location for the at least 40 families from his village who had funded his journey. "When he reached *Rosh Pinah* (Gai Oni), he said 'I found it!' and he sent a telegram describing it as similar to their own Romanian village. It was high up in the mountains, chilly, with a lot of water. The families all packed up and came by boat to Beirut. They then walked to *Rosh Pinah* and Chai-Liphts September 2012 13 established homes there," tells Oren. The renamed town of *Rosh Pinah* was officially recognized by the state of Israel in 1953.

Shuv was the great-great-uncle of Orit Segal, another Israeli tour guide. Orit says her grandmother Leah was five years old when she arrived from Romania with her parents, Mordechai and Rivka Katz. Rivka was Shuv's sister. "My grandmother remembered living in hillside caves at the beginning," tells Orit. "The first thing they built was a *mikvah* (ritual bath) and then small homes. They tried to be farmers, but didn't know much about it." The European newcomers had naively brought along wooden boats, assuming they could earn some money by fishing in the springs.

Quickly realizing this would not work, they instead put the boats together to form the roof of the wooden synagogue built in large part by Mordechai Katz. "You can still see the contour of the boats if you look up at the ceiling," says Orit.

Farming turned out to be no more successful than fishing. "It was really hard to survive," says Oren. "Then, Baron

Rothschild sent them help. Rothschild helped them build their huge, elegant synagogue and gave a stipend to each family to help them buy a cow and a mule." As he did in other new settlements. Rothschild sent paid emissaries to oversee how his money would be spent. "These clerks didn't know much about agriculture either," says Orit. First, the families tried planting mulberries to grow silkworms, and then they planted flowers to make perfume. Both ideas were flops, says Orit. "They suffered a lot from diseases and from hostile neighbors, too. My greatgrandfather, who was very tall with red hair and a red beard, rode around guarding the settlement on a big white horse."

Leah married the widowed religious leader of the community when she was young, and Segal's father was the eighth of their 10 chil-14 Chai-Lights September 2012



dren. "They stayed in *Rosh Pinah* until the start of World War I, and then my immediate family moved to Jerusalem," she says. In 1929, Dr. Gideon Mer established a malaria research laboratory in *Rosh Pinah*, which gained worldwide recognition as his work helped stop the malaria epidemic among new agricultural settlers in the region, and also overseas, once Mer was made a medical officer in the army of King George VI. The preserved house contains an exhibit of ancient items from various periods, such as old plows, laboratory equipment, and textbooks.

For many years, this "Mother of the Galilee settlements" remained a sort of forgotten backyard, as Orit puts it. "*Rosh Pinah* was

never really successful until the 1980's or 1990's, when it became a haven for artists looking for inexpensive old homes. It was reborn as people bought up houses to make zimmerim (bedand-breakfasts) and ceramic and art galleries. There are a lot of places to stay here today, and the weather is beautiful with a high elevation.

The house of Dr. Gideon Mer in Rosh Pinah.

so it's pleasant in the summer with a great view." When she guides tourists in *Rosh Pinah*, Orit shows them the house where her father was born, as well as the synagogue and the *mikvah*. "A lot of the original houses are there, just 'yuppified' and glorified," she says. The house where the Rothschild employees worked has been turned into offices and a museum. The nearby Baron's Gardens, modeled on the grand gardens at Versailles, are also open to the public.

Oren likes to use Rosh Pinah as a starting point for tours of other spots in the Galilee, including Safed, Tiberias (Tveria), and the Hula Lake, a major attraction for migrating birds and the people who enjoy watching them. I will tell you about these places in my next article of "Israel Series." ◊

### World Jewish Report Medina Roy



#### Israel's Latest Weapon

Kibbutz Dan, located north of the Sea of Galilee. is a small Israeli farm and Israel's only sturgeon farm. Roe from sturgeon produce caviar and the delicacy used to be an important market in Russia and Iran. However, with a ban on fishing sturgeon in the Caspian Sea, all legal exported caviar now comes from farms. Karat Caviar, the Israeli farm, has several ponds that hold 70,000 Ostera sturgeon. At approximately twelve years old, the fish are pulled from the ponds to see if their eggs are ready. If ready (at that point, the fish are about 50 pounds and can vield close to five pounds of eggs), they are sent off for harvesting; if not, they are placed back in the ponds to continue maturing. In 1992, farm manager Yigal Ben-Tzvi went to Russia and brought fertilized Ostera sturgeon eggs to Israel. His intention was to raise the fish and sell them to the growing Russian population in Israel. A decade later, the price of caviar jumped and the decision was made to let the sturgeon get older so they could produce eggs. This year *Karat Caviar* hopes to produce four tons of caviar. "The Israeli caviar is the best there is today on the market," says Eric Ribert, owner of New York's Le Bernardin restaurant. "The Chinese have good caviar but the quality...is not consistent. Germany and Italy have pretty good caviar...but what comes out of Israel is the nearest thing to the top." Ben-Tzvi credits the farm's success with the cold. clean water in which the sturgeon swim. The farm is fed by the local Dan River which is a source of the Jordan River. Ironically, the caviar is not sold in Israel. Sturgeon don't have scales that can be removed by hand so they're not consid

ered kosher. The farm feels it cannot risk losing its kosher license because they also sell trout. Caviar can retail for as much as \$2,500 a pound. (www.abcnews.com, 6-8-12)

#### Shalom, Amigos!

Geneticists at Israel's Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv have discovered a genetic mutation linking a Native American population living in Colorado to Jews who were expelled from Spain during the Inquisition. The scientists discovered the genetic marker BRCA1 in a group of Mexican Indians who emigrated from Mexico to the United States over the past 200 years and settled in Colorado. Researchers say the mutation found in the Colorado Indians is identical to that of Ashkenazim and dates back to more than 600 years ago. The scientists believe this discovery offers genetic proof that some of the Jews expelled from Spain reached South America and intermarried with the indigenous population. Their descendants later migrated to Mexico and then to the United States. According to the Sheba team however, Colorado's Mexican Indians do not have any traditions that link them to Jews. By the way, BRCA1 is the same marker that has been shown to lead to a higher incidence of breast and ovarian cancer in Jews of Ashkenazi origin. (www.thejewishweek.com, 6-4-12)

#### The "Magenta Yenta"

Mindy Meyer, a 22-year-old Orthodox Jew, is running for New York State Senate in the election to be held on November 6th. She's running on the Republican and Conservative party lines. She's become known as the "magenta yenta" because of her hot-pink, "Legally Blond"-inspired website. Meyer, a lifelong Flatbush (Brooklyn) resident, is single and still lives with her parents and five siblings. She claims she has wanted to enter politics since meeting former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani when she was just a child. The odds are against her as she has no experience and is running in a heavily Democratic district.

(www.nydailynews.com, 7-23-12)

#### An Olympic Oxymoron: A Hebrew Tattoo

At the London Olympics held last month, the French freestyle relay team defeated the Americans and won the gold medal in the 4x100 meter contest. What makes this story interesting? Fabien Gilot, a member of the winning team (and a non-lew) raised his arm in victory and in doing so, revealed a Hebrew tattoo on the inside of his left arm. The tattoo read, "Ani klum biladayhem," which translates to mean "I am nothing without them." Gilot explained that the tattoo is a tribute to Max Goldschmidt. Goldschmidt. an Auschwitz survivor, moved to France where he met Gilot's grandmother. Despite not being Gilot's biological grandfather, Goldschmidt (who died earlier this year) played an important role in Gilot's life, who called him "a grandfather in every way." (There have been numerous discussions on the lewish prohibition of tattooina. The subject can warrant an entire article for Chai-Lights. Briefly stated, according to the Torah, tattoos are forbidden as stated in *Leviticus* 19:28, *"You shall not... incise any* marks on yourselves: I am the Lord." Maimonides believed that tattooing was an act of idolatry. Over time, the rabbis aareed that since we are created "b'tzelem Elohim" (in the image of G-d), our bodies are to be viewed as a precious gift on loan from G-d and we are expected to treat it respectfully. The prohibition is only for personal, voluntary tattooing. Jews who were tattooed with numbers on their arms by the Nazis are considered blameless. And in modern times. tattoos which are used in cancer treatment or other medical procedures to permanently mark the body for necessary treatment are also not

included in the prohibition. (www.huffingtonpost.com, 8-2-12and www.myjewishlearning.com)

# A Celebration, Seven and a Half Years in the Making

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, some 90,000 Orthodox Jews (mostly men) packed the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey to celebrate the completion of a rigorous seven-anda-half-year cycle of Talmudic study. The celebration of the page-a-day Talmud cycle is known as Sivum HaShas ("sivum" means completion and the Talmud is known collectively as "Shas".) During the cycle, participants around the world study a folio - two sides of one page - of the 2,711-page Babylonian Talmud each day – everyone on the same page creating a spiritual connection that joins them as Jews. As the rabbis began the prayers at the stadium, the women - there were about 20,000 - pulled a massive curtain thus shielding the women's area from view in accordance with the strict modesty standards of traditional Orthodoxy. After the half hour of prayer, the curtain was opened for the women to watch and listen to the speeches about Torah study. Orthodox women normally do not study the Talmud. The women were there to celebrate the men's achievements and to encourage their study. Traditional Orthodox rabbis generally do not approve of Talmud study by women, though they do not ban it. This tradition is rooted in the belief that G-d created different gender roles. While it is the man's job to study the Talmud - the 1,500-year-old record of rabbis discussing laws that govern Jewish life - it is the woman's role to bring those laws to life in practice in the home. The daily study, known as the "Daf Yomi" (daily page) began in 1923 by Meir Shapiro, a Polish rabbi and the first siyum was celebrated in Lublin, Poland in 1930. This year's siyum celebrated the completion of the 12<sup>th</sup> cycle since that time. About 70,000 to 80,000 Jews worldwide now participate in the daily learning sessions. some via their iPads while riding the New York City subways. The new Daf Yomi cycle began on August 3<sup>rd</sup> with page 2 (all Talmudic tractates begin on page 2) of Tractate Brachot. (www.nytimes.com, 8-1-12)

#### Muhammad "Zaidy" Ali

Muhammad Ali, former world heavyweight boxing champ, recently had a *simcha* in his family; Ali's grandson Jacob celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Philadelphia's Congregation Rodeph Shalom. The 13-year-old is the son of Ali's daughter Khaliah Ali-Wertheimer and her lewish husband Spencer Wertheimer. "I was born and raised a Muslim," Ali's daughter said. "but I'm not into organized religion. I'm more spiritual than religious." She said her son chose this on his own because he felt a kinship with Judaism and Jewish culture. "My father was supportive in every way," she said. Born Cassius Clay, Ali was brought up Baptist but converted to Islam in the 1960s, at first affiliating himself with the Nation of Islam, but later converted to Sufism. (The Forward, 6-1-12)

#### In Memoriam

-Yitzchak Shamir. who served as Israel's seventh prime minister (1983-1984 and again from 1986-1992), has died at the age of 96. Shamir was among the founders of the Mossad and served there for 10 years. Born Isaac Yazernitsky in what is now Belarus (then part of the Russian Empire), he cut his studies short - studying law at the University of Warsaw - to immigrate to what was then the British Mandate of Palestine. In 1935, he changed his name to Shamir. In 1944 he married Shulamit whom he met in a detention camp. (She died last year at the age of 88). Shamir was among the leaders of the Irgun, the national military underground organization in mandatory Palestine and became part of the militant Stern Gang. After its leader Avraham Stern was killed, Shamir became one of the group's leaders. He succeeded Menachem Begin as prime minister in 1983 and was defeated by Yitzchak Rabin's Labor Party in the 1992 election. In 1990, Shamir undertook one of the most daring rescue operations of modern times. He ordered an emergency airlift, code name "Operation Solomon," of more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews

caught in the crossfire of a bloody civil war, bringing them from Ethiopia to Israel over 36 hours of nonstop flights. Both Shamir's political allies and adversaries alike agree that his battle to protect the Jewish people and their right to self-determination in their own state served as a guiding principle of his leadership. It is most likely that he will be remembered as one of Jewish history's most committed and uncompromising ideologues, a hard-liner who battled for Jewish rights to the Land of Israel including Judea and Samaria. (World Jewish Congress, 7-6-12)

-Nora Ephron, Oscar-nominated screenwriter, and a prolific writer (she was an author, film director, essayist and journalist) who wrote the screenplays for "When Harry met Sally," "Sleepless in Seattle," as well as the drama "Silkwood." among other Hollywood hits, died over the summer. She was 71. Ephron, a native New Yorker, was born to a Jewish family of writers. She was nominated for three Academy Awards. Her last movie was the 2008 film "Julie and Julia," starring Mervl Streep. Ephron was married three times and divorced twice. Her second husband was Washington Post reporter Carl Bernstein. She was an intern in the Kennedy White House. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 6-27-12)

#### Did You Know.....

-This past May, Bar Refaeli, the 26-year-old Israeli supermodel was named "*Maxim*'s Hottest Woman in the World." *Maxim* is an international men's magazine based in the United Kingdom. (*www.dailymail.co.uk*, 5-29-12)

-The biggest manufacturer of sex toys in the United States, "Doc Johnson," is owned and run by the father-son team of Ron and Chad Braverman. They've enlisted the help of Jewish porn star James Deen to make the business even bigger (no pun intended). Deen has made a deal with the Bravermans to "replicate a certain part of his anatomy" for \$20,000. "Doc Johnson" was founded by the Bravermans in 1976 and has been called "the Procter & Gamble of sex toys." (The Forward, 7-23-12) ◊

# We cordially invite you to Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

on Sunday, September 16th at 5:00 pm before evening service. We will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of soup, brisket, chicken, kasha and tzimmis, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more.

Voluntary donation is \$20 per Member. Our children 12 and under are our guests. Non-members of all ages are \$25.

Reservations are necessary. Contact Dr. Erica Garrett by September 10th at hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-853-1003 if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood. Mail to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.



-The L'Shanah Tovah page-

KJCC members and friends from here and across the country send their new year greetings to each other for the best possible 5773.

| Wishing A<br>Shana Tovah<br>To Our<br>KJCC Family<br>Mindy And Rich<br>Agler             | L'Shanah Tovah<br>Tikatevu<br>To The Members<br>Of The KJCC<br>Miriam R. Gillespie     | To My Dear<br>KJCC Friends<br>A Happy And<br>Healthy 5773<br>Love,<br>Maryon Gould | Thank You For<br>Your Prayers<br>& Well Wishes<br>During This<br>Tough Year<br>Barney            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HAPPY NEW<br>YEAR<br>THE DORFS                                                           | To Serve Is A<br>Mitzvah<br>It Has Been Our<br>Honor<br>L'SHANAH TOVAH<br>Stu & Lauren | Wishing Our KJCC<br>Mishpocha<br>A Happy And<br>Healthy Year<br>Joel & Linda       | TO OUR DEAR KJCC<br>FAMILY<br>A HEALTHY AND<br>HAPPY 5773<br>LOVE,<br>JIM AND JOAN<br>BOURSZAK   |
| The Knowles<br>Family<br>Wish All Our<br>KJCC Mishpocha A<br>Happy & Healthy<br>New Year | Dr. Erica<br>Lieberman-Garrett<br>Wishes All Our<br>KJCC Mishpocha<br>L'Shanah Tovah   | Wishing My<br>KJCC Family<br>A Happy And<br>Healthy 5773<br>Joyce Peckman          | To My Friends<br>At The KJCC<br>Wishing Everyone<br>A Happy New Year<br>Linda Pincus &<br>Family |
| Wishing<br>Health And<br>Happiness<br>To All<br>Steve & Carol<br>Steinbock               | To Our Dear KJCC<br>Friends-<br>A Happy And<br>Healthy 5773.<br>The Roses              | L'Shanah Tovah<br>To My Extended<br>KJCC Family<br>Lee Schur                       | L'Shanah Tovah<br>Best Wishes<br>For 5773<br>Milton And Joan<br>Wohl                             |

# High Holy Days 5773

Once again this year we are lucky enough to have KJCC's High Holy Day services led by Rabbi Danny Young and Cantor Mark Halpern. They have both written pieces for our section this month to help get you ready for the Days of Awe. Gloria, Head of Ritual, starts us off.

# On Gathering for Prayer by the Dark of the Moon

There are still two more weeks in the Hebrew month of *Elul*, the traditional time for Jews to prepare for the yearly Ten Days of Awe. It is a perfect time for reflection, meant for us to take stock of our lives and make a behavioral inventory before we gather in a full house with our *Mishpocha* to pray for forgiveness, inspiration, and a good year to come.

This season we are fortunate once again to have words of thoughtfulness and encouragement from the leaders who will guide us through these special days. Our New Year, as always, will begin in the dark. The moon will be new. All is hidden as we gather to pray and look inward, especially the results that have yet to be written and sealed in the Book of Life.

We offer gratitude to Rabbi Danny Young and Cantor Mark Halpern, as they shed light on the coming season.

> L'Shanah Tovah, Gloria Avner

### Inspiration and Prayer From Cantor Mark

As fall approaches, Jews throughout the world prepare for our unique ten-day period

|           | High     | Holiday    | Sc |
|-----------|----------|------------|----|
| Saturday  | Sept. 8  | 6:00 p.m.  |    |
| Saturday  | Sept. 8  | 8:00 p.m.  |    |
| Sunday    | Sept. 16 | 5:00 p.m.  |    |
| Sunday    | Sept. 16 | 7:00 p.m.  |    |
| Monday    | Sept. 17 | 10:00 a.m. |    |
| Monday    | Sept. 17 | 4:00 p.m.  |    |
| Tuesday   | Sept. 18 | 10:00 a.m. |    |
| Tuesday   | Sept. 25 | 7:00 p.m.  |    |
| Wednesday | Sept. 26 | 10:00 a.m. |    |
| Wednesday | Sept. 26 | 11:45 a.m. |    |
| Wednesday | Sept. 26 | 11:45 a.m. |    |
| Wednesday | Sept. 26 | 2:00 p.m.  |    |
| Wednesday | Sept. 26 | 4:00 p.m.  |    |
| Wednesday | Sept. 26 |            |    |
| Wednesday | Sept. 26 |            |    |

of prayer, self-examination, fasting, and repentance. The Ya*mim Noraim,* the Days of Awe, the High Holy Days, begin with Rosh HaShanah and end at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. But for a whole month before *Tishrei*, we are encouraged to take time to get ourselves ready. Throughout the month of *Elul*, morning worship includes special penitential prayers, and each service concludes with the blowing of the *Shofar*, a reminder of the approaching call to atonement.

In some communities, this is a time to visit the graves of loved ones. After all, we are preparing for a time when all our fates will be written and sealed, including the ultimate judgment: who shall live and who shall die.

One of the centerpieces of my work, and that of every Cantor, is not just to lead the Congregation in prayer, but, hopefully, to inspire the congregants to want to pray, to create a mood through the music, the liturgy, and the intensity of one's own prayer in order to create an environment in which all our prayers go deeper.

Prayer is not a Religious Ritual or Spiritual Technique but a heart-to-heart, person-toperson communication. Rather than trying to change or influence HaShem, my belief is that the ultimate purpose of prayer is to change us, and make us better human beings.

We are instructed to create a "Heshbon Hanefesh," an inventory of our soul, to count those things that matter for our hearts, souls, consciences, and our very life.

Fundamental questions are asked now: Who shall live and who shall die as we usher in the New Year. Who shall be hungry, who shall be poor; who shall be rich? We don't know the answers to these questions, but the prayer that we chant together ends on a wonderful, hopeful note. We have the power to mitigate results of our past behavior and the coming judgments. We are told, and we say it loudly, that with repentance, prayer, good deeds and righteousness, we can avert any decree that is not positive..

Sari, I, and my family are positive and hopeful that this coming year will be a peaceful one, a year of harmony, full of life and good health; we wish that for all during these coming High Holidays, and we look forward to praying with you.

# Words from Rabbi Danny-On Comfort and Uncertainty

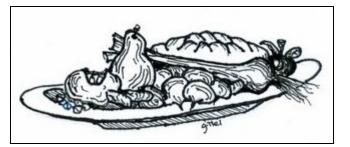
I am writing this soon after *Tisha B'Av*, the day that commemorates the fall of the Temple in Jerusalem among all the other tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people. We spend the day in fasting and mourning. After that intense sadness, we look for hope, consolation and comfort. The Shabbat following *Tisha B'Av* has a special name that reflects a deep vearning for order after confronting the disorder that came with the loss of our spiritual home all those years ago. The Shabbat is called Shabbat Nachamu, the Sabbath of Compassion. The word *Nachamu* comes from the first words of the haftarah on that Shabbat, where Isaiah caioles "Nachamu, nachamu ami" - be comforted, be comforted my people.

Those ancient words resonate because we still seek comfort in the face of uncertainty. Who doesn't have a comfort food that soothes us when life throws us a curveball? While comfort is important in the wake of sadness and loss, comfort and familiarity can also help us deal with uncertainty.

There is a lot of uncertainty at this time of year. The High Holy Day liturgy suggests that our past behavior is judged, and that the judgment determines our destiny for the coming year.

Many people find themselves uneasy because services are unlike those of any other time of year. There are unfamiliar prayers and a relative formality to the experience of these Days of Awe. Melodies for prayers are changed. Simply put, things are different.

KJCC is an interesting place because it is a nondenominational community. Members of the KJCC come from Reform, Conservative and Orthodox backgrounds, while other members have never been associated with any movement. This means that individuals in our community have had quite diverse High Holy Day experiences. The melodies we remember, the *Machzor* (High Holy Day



prayerbook) we use, the prayers and readings that bring us comfort, may differ.

I enjoy the challenge and opportunity this gives me as a service leader to try to create a service that includes moments of comfort for our whole community. Surely there are parts



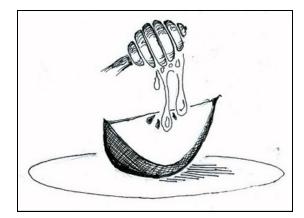
of the Days of Awe experience at KJCC that are unfamiliar to each of us. Hopefully, there are also meaningful moments of connection.

If there are things that you remember which help you to connect to the Days of Awe, please share them. I'd love to hear from you! You may send me an e-mail at

daniel.philip.young@gmail.com or call me at 786-216-5263.

I look forward to sharing the High Holy Days with you! ◊

Original artwork by Gloria Avner



Wishing you all a Sweet New Year.

Saturday, September 8, 2012 6:00 pm Pizza and Movie in Social Hall 8 pm S'lichot Service

SLICHOT SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWING THE MOVIE. SERVICES WILL BE LED BY STUART SAX AND RABBI RICHARD AGLER

# Movie: Crimes and Misdemeanors

with a special commentary by Rabbi Agler

This film follows the life of respected ophthalmologist Judah (Martin Landau) who faces an ugly dilemma when his mistress (Anjelica Huston) threatens to expose their affair to Judah's wife. Meanwhile, married filmmaker Cliff (Woody Allen) falls for a TV producer while shooting a documentary about an arrogant comedian (Alan Alda). The film also features George Mason, Claire Bloom, Sam Waterston, and Jerry Orbach.

This study on truth and responsibility is both funny and harrowing with underlying meanings that will be revealed by Rabbi Agler. You don't want to miss this interpretation of a classic film.

RSVP TO PRESIDENT@KEYSJEWISHCENTER.COM



THE EVENING IS SPONSORED BY STUART & LAUREN SAX. COME AND ENJOY!

# **Photo Gallery**

#### KJCC Sunday School Celebrates

With parents, teachers, Board Members, Education Director, and our President standing by, all "klaibing nachas" (filling up with gratitude and pride), our KJCC Religious School students made their end of year presentation. It was a joyous occasion. There were readings about Shavuot, lots of

songs from different holidays, and a colorful display of student artwork as each child helped summarize the ceremonial cycle of the Jewish year.

As the class concluded, Stuart, Yardena, Gloria, and Susan presented each student with a Certificate of Achievement. You can see their glowing faces in the photos--Harry, Noah, Zach, Moira, Lili, Mikhaela and Natalie. We then said a special good-bye and "Todah Rabah" to Joshua Bernstein, our November Bar Mitzvah boy who became an excellent tutor as well as service leader. He will leave our school this year, and we wish him a great High School career.

Then out came the ice cream cake, and the school year ended on a very sweet note. Now, In just a few days, our school year will begin again, a very special year, with five of our students taking on their Bar and Bat Mitzvah training. Expect to see more of these shining, enthusiastic faces on the bimah this year.





On June 6th a small group of Michal Kamely's friends travelled to Yardena's home



in Kendall to celebrate Michal's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. In the KJCC tradition, it was a pot-luck event, with lots of chips & dips, stuffed mushrooms, cheeses and cakes and cookies. The conversation switched from English to Hebrew and back again as old friends who had not seen each other for months caught up on the news. Yardena sent a message from Michal that she really enjoyed it.

She was happy to see everyone. This has brought memories of other gatherings with her dear friends. She treasures these memories and is very grateful to all for keeping up their friendship.







(left) The Olympic medals were not the only ones handed out this summer. Chai-Lights wishes to congratulate Gerri Emkey and her Dragon Boat team for their recent win.

"I competed in the Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival competition in Burlington Vermont. Our team, Save our Sisters, won second place in the breast cancer division. Our team is an all breast cancer women's team. We compete in different events throughout the

year. We also raise money for breast cancer research. We are a support group in the water."

-Gerri Emkey

KJCC connections extend far beyond the Keys. Gloria Avner ran into a familiar face while in Maine this summer. "That's Linny Nobil I'm hugging. She's Joel Cohen's second youngest daughter and now a full time resident of Bar Harbor. What did we do at this Internet cafe? Sip mocha and trade KJCC memories of course."

-Gloria





The oneg on August 10th was sponsored by Barbara and Richard Knowles in celebration of their 13th anniversary. It was a

> lucky 13 for those who attended, they got to share in the cake!

**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.

# **Dr. Rebecca Boehling:**

Professor, Author, Director of the ITS...and KJCC Member

**D**r. Rebecca Boehling, a member of our congregation, and a woman I am proud to call friend, was recently appointed Director of the International Tracing Service (ITS), a Holocaust archive and documentation center and tracing service for victims and survivors of Nazi persecution.

Some of you may have attended a presentation Dr. Boehling gave a few years ago at the KJCC about a book she was co-authoring, "Life And Loss in the Shadow of the Holocaust: A Jewish Family's Untold Story." The book was published by Cambridge University Press and I am in the process of reading it. There is also a copy of the book in the KJCC library, which you can borrow.

Like myself, Rebecca is not Jewish. She is married to our KJCC member, Mark Lipkus, who my husband and I have known since we purchased our home here in 1990. At that time, we only visited the Keys a few times a year.

Every visit, we saw Mark and in 1994 he began to talk about this wonderful, brilliant woman he had met when she was on vacation in Key Largo. He was clearly in love but was concerned about logistics. Mark is an avid sailor and owner of WellFound Yachts, a boat brokerage headquartered in Key Largo.

Rebecca is a professor of history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. We encouraged him, pushing aside his hesitations, saying, in essence "If you love her, marry her; all the rest will work itself out." They did, and I have never seen two people more happily married, no matter what difficulties they have faced.

Rebecca has agreed to come to the KJCC before she leaves for Germany in December, and speak to our congregation about the ITS and what she wants to accomplish there. The following is an article from the Baltimore lewish Times. about the ITS and Rebecca's appointment as Director. It is reprinted here with permission of the author and the lewish Times, which holds



Dr. Rebecca Boehling

the copyright. (NB – Additionally, Robert Silk, a reporter with the Free Press, and also a congregant, wrote a nice article on July18th about Rebecca and Mark and the ITS. You should be able to find it online at www.keysnews.com.)

-Carol Steinbock

#### "Prestigious Appointment: UMBC Professor named Director of the International Tracing Service"

By Simone Ellin

In the 1970s, when she was an American

The ITS was established by the Western Allies at the end of World War II with the mission of helping survivors to trace the fate of missing family members persecuted by the Nazis.

graduate student in Germany studying the aftermath of World War II and German-American relations, Dr. Rebecca Boehling probably never imagined she would one day return to the country as director of the International Tracing Service's Holocaust Archive. Boehling, a Mount Washington resident who is director of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's Dresher Center for Humanities and a professor of history at the university, was recently appointed ITS's director in a unanimous vote by an 11-member international commission.

A co-author of "Life And Loss In The Shadow Of The Holocaust: A Jewish Family's Untold Story," Boehling will take a leave of absence from UMBC and assume her new position at the ITS in the small town of Bad Arolsen on Jan. 1, 2013. She will live and work in Germany for a minimum of 21/2 years.

The ITS was established by the Western Allies at the end of World War II with the mission of helping survivors to trace the fate of missing family members persecuted by the Nazis. From 1955 to the present, the service has been administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross alongside an international commission of the U.S., Israel and various European countries. In late 2006, the ITS opened its archives, giving researchers access to more than 50 million documents.

The following year, the ITS began an expansion process that extended its mission to include historical research and education so that besides tracing, which it still does and will continue to do, it would also be a center devoted to telling the stories of real people who were exploited, abused and murdered during the Nazi occupation of Europe.

"The ITS still gets 1,000 tracing requests per month," said Boehling. "Of those requests, 4 percent are from direct survivors, around 10 percent are from researchers and the rest come from more distant relatives of victims." She stressed that the archive's growth as a research center will not undermine its traditional role. "It is still crucial that people have a means of finding out about their family members," Boehling said.

As of 2013, the ITS will no longer operate under the auspices of the Red Cross. Instead, it will be run directly by the International Commission of the U.S., Israel and nine European nations, with advisory support from the German Federal Archives, but funded completely by the German government. Boehling

"There is now more than one generation of adults for whom WWII is history, not part of their lived experience, but for whom the legacy of the war and the Holocaust is very much part of their historical consciousness of being German." "Since my appointment has been made public, I've received a lot of emails from Americans telling me about their research and requesting tracing services."

believes that as an American paid by the German government, but answerable to an international commission, she is in a unique position.

"I'm beginning to think that having an American in this role may give me a certain advantage," she said. "I have some distance and perhaps I can use that distance to maintain objectivity, and a certain sense of neutrality in the midst of current European tensions. Since my appointment has been made public. I've received a lot of emails from Americans telling me about their research and requesting tracing services. I'm wondering if having an American at the ITS may lead to more requests from Americans. Of course, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in D.C. now has digitized copies of many of the ITS holdings, so researchers can go there to access many of these materials rather than to have to go to Germany." Boehling, who was born in Leesburg, Va., and grew up in Wilmington, N.C., has spent a significant amount of time in Germany. She feels the country, its people and culture have evolved significantly since she first began visiting Germany 30some years ago.

"There have been a lot of changes especially since the [Berlin] wall came down," she says. "There is now more than one generation of adults for whom WWII is history, not part of their lived experience, but for whom the legacy of the war and the Holocaust is very much part of their historical consciousness of being German. I think it's now a somewhat more relaxed yet politically conscious society." In the 1970s, Boehling said films, books and television docu-dramas like "The Holocaust" about Nazi Germany were just beginning to come to the forefront of popular culture.

"I think recently the German government, for the most part, has done an amazing job of trying to face up to their past and to take responsibility, especially in the last 20 years," she said Boehling said leaders at both the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem have expressed great interest in the ITS becoming like themmuseums and educational centers. She shares this interest and is especially dedicated to making the incomparable resource available to more survivors, their families and researchers.

"In April, I was in Holland and I talked with people about ITS. I was surprised that so few people knew about it. It just wasn't wellpublicized."

"There were people on staff who helped with tracing requests, but no professional archivists or researchers," she said.

That, says Boehling, is beginning to change. The ITS recently hired several professionals in related fields. "The ITS is burgeoning," she said, "but I'm going to make sure it burgeons more." ◊

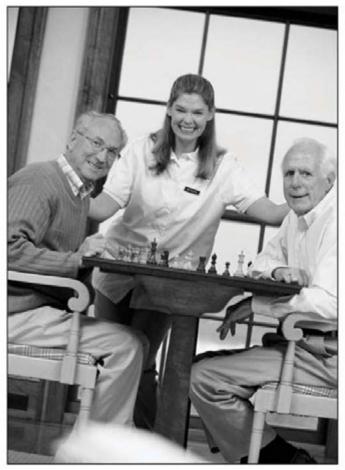
For information about the ITS, visit its-arolsen.org. JT.

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Chai-Lights would like to thank Carol Steinbock for bringing this article to our attention and for securing the permission for it to be reprinted here.

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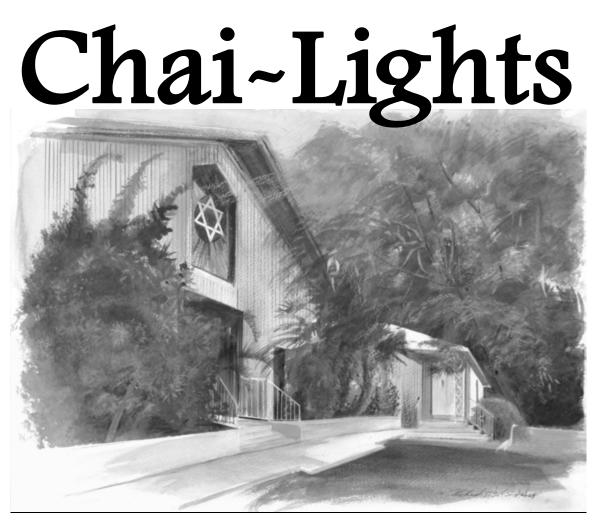
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November 2012

16 Cheshvan - 16 Kislev 5773

A Celebration of Jim Boruszak - page 22 High Holidays Scrapbook - page 28 Yom Kippur in the U.P. - page 33

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

# November 2012 16 Cheshvan - 16 Kislev

| Sun                                     | Mon                                    | Tue                                     | Wed | Thu | Fri                                                               | Sat                        |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nar<br>1                                | nes denote leader<br>talicized names a | s of Friday servic<br>re Oneg sponsors. | es. | 1   | 2<br>Erica Lieberman-<br>Garrett                                  | 3<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Havdalah |
| 4<br>Sisterhood<br>Meeting<br>9:30 a.m. | 5                                      | 6                                       | 7   | 8   | 9<br>George Swartz<br>& Yardena<br>Kamely                         | 10                         |
| 11<br>Board<br>Meeting<br>9:00 a.m.     | 12                                     | 13                                      | 14  | 15  | <b>16</b><br>David Gitin &<br>Gloria Avner                        | 17                         |
| 18                                      | 19                                     | 20                                      | 21  | 22  | 23<br>Joyce Peckman<br>David Gitin<br>(For Gloria's<br>Birthday!) | 24<br>Chai-<br>Yaking      |
| 25                                      | 26                                     | 27                                      | 28  | 29  | <b>30</b><br>Stuart Sax<br>6:30 Service                           | 30                         |

### 2012 - 2013 Officers and Board

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Executive Vice President Bernie Ginsberg

Vice Presidents Gloria Avner – Marc Bloom – Susan Gordon

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Recording Secretary Beth Hayden

Financial Secretary Rene Rose

Corresponding Secretary Joyce Peckman

**Directors** Joan Boruszak – David Gitin – Steve Hartz Dave Mont – Medina Roy Gene Silverman – Sam Vinicur

> Sisterhood Lauren Sax

Men's Club Jeff Schocket

Adult Education Yardena Kamely

Historian Mary Lee Singer

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#### Newsletter

Lisa Richardson Rutherford

#### CHAI-LIGHTS is the

monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message

Stuart Sax

My thoughts this month are somewhat of an extension of last month's message. The topic of the High Holidays is still on our minds and very much a part of our Ritual Committee and Board discussions. It's only November but we are already planning for our holidays next fall.

Gloria did an incredible job of organizing and executing our services again this year and she has visions for next year. And those visions have led to some important questions that each and every one of you must now consider. Your input is vital to these discussions and decisions and should not be left solely to the Board.

There has been very positive support for having our New Year and Days of Awe under the leadership of a rabbi and cantor for the last three years. What has been lacking is the financial support so that our operating funds are not compromised to cover this major cost. Therefore, I would like to propose three simple questions for your response to assist our Ritual Committee and Board of Directors in their discussions and ultimate decisions.

1) Are you in favor of continuing to have our High Holiday services led by a rabbi and a cantor?



2) If you answered yes, are you willing to support this financially?

3) If you answered no, are you willing to assist in leading these services?

Please respond by email to president@keysjewishcenter.com no later than November 10<sup>th</sup> so that your opinions can be tallied and discussed at the next Board meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

A few members of the congregation have commented to me. "Why are you always asking for money?" As a businessman and as the President of this congregation, I want to insure that the financial future of the KICC is in good hands for the next and all subsequent presidents. This means making sure that our facility remains in good operating order, that funds will continue to be available to cover the expected as well as the unexpected costs. This also means trying to accomplish all of our goals and, at the same time, keep our dues at the same levels without unnecessary increases. Is this possible? It is if we support our synagogue's events including special dinners by our Sisterhood and Men's Club, by sponsoring onegs in honor of our family mitzvahs, by making donations in memory of our loved ones, and by making an occasional unrestricted donation iust because we can. We value your ongoing support.

# Nosh

#### **New Members**

The KJCC would like to welcome new members Jodi Yeager of Islamorada, Marshall and Myra Kaplan of Islamorada, Marvin and Ivy Blumenfeld of Key Largo, Jeff and Lisa Miller of Islamorada and Steven and Luziminda Levine of Key Largo. Hope to see you all soon, and often.

#### From Yardena - Hebrew/Uplan Classes

We are ready to resume our Hebrew classes for this new season.

Ulpan classes Thursdays:

Hebrew (II) Ulpan, intermediate and Hebrew Ulpan (III) advanced.

Hebrew classes Fridays:

Hebrew for Beginners - Ulpan Hebrew (conversational Hebrew) - Siddur reading.

Everybody who has the motivation to study Hebrew and to read Jewish liturgy and other texts in Hebrew is welcome to join our classes. No previous studies are required; we can find the right level for everyone, beginners or intermediate.

Classes will start the first week of November. Thursday classes start at 6:30 p.m. Friday classes start at 9:30 a.m.

Costs for the classes are \$50 for KJCC members.

Contact Yardena at 305-393-1768 for further information or to sign up.

#### YARTZEIT PLAQUE

In Loving Memory

#### JAMES BORUSZAK

Husband, Father, Grandfather & Great Grandfather 12/9/1930 - 9/23/2012

# TREE OF LIFE

Happy 75th Birthday Mort Silverman September 7, 2012 Your Loving Wife Gene Children Robin, Mark, Andrea Grandchildren Elissa, Michelle, Matthew, Kevin

Happy 87th Birthday to **Maryon Gould** 9/23/2012 From Linda Pollack, Rene Rose & Mary Lee Singer

#### Jim Boruszak

A Man For All Seasons 9/23/12 Joel and Linda Pollack

**Honoring David Gulkis** 

Brother of Elaine Schulberg September 22, 2012 From The Mah Jongg Group

Honoring Jim Boruszak September 23, 2012 From The Mah Jongg Group

#### YARTZEIT PLAQUE

In Memory of Steven B. Kwalick June I, 1962 - May 9, 2012 Loved Life

#### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of Aaron M. Schmidt Judith Schmidt

#### **November Birthdays**

| 2nd    | Brian Boruszak    |
|--------|-------------------|
| 2nd    |                   |
| 2nd    |                   |
| 2nd    | Jeremy M. Schur   |
| 2nd    | Madalyn F. Tobias |
| 2nd    |                   |
| 3rd    |                   |
| 3rd    |                   |
| 4th    |                   |
| 4th    |                   |
| 5th    |                   |
| 7th    |                   |
| 7th    |                   |
| 8th    |                   |
| 8th    |                   |
| l l th |                   |
| 13th   |                   |
| 13th   | Marjorie Present  |
| 13th   |                   |
| I 3th  |                   |
| I4th   |                   |
| I4th   |                   |
| l 6th  |                   |
| l 6th  |                   |
| l7th   |                   |
| 18th   |                   |
| 19th   |                   |
| 19th   |                   |
| 22nd   |                   |
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| 24th   |                   |
| 25th   |                   |
| 26th   |                   |
| 26th   |                   |
| 28th   |                   |
| 29th   |                   |
| 30th   | Steven Horowitz   |

#### **November Anniversaries**

|      | Y                         | ears |
|------|---------------------------|------|
| lst  | Jeffrey & Patty Schocket  | 9    |
| 26th | Roger & Danna Levy        | 45   |
| 27th | Stanley & Jenny Margulies |      |
| 28th | Sam & Leslie Janowitz     | 15   |
| 30th | Randy & Eileen Kominsky   | 32   |

#### JEWISH ENRICHMENT R US

What a lucky synagogue we are. Look at the generous rabbis who are sharing their knowledge with us. We have much to look forward to between now and the end of the year: Rabbi Agler -- Two Shabbat Morning Services And Torah Learning November 17th and December 8th.

Make sure to take advantage of the opportunity to learn, discuss, and worship with Rabbi Agler on these coming Shabbat mornings: November 17th, and December 8th. All begin Saturday morning at 10:00am. The discussions are warm, informal, educational and stimulating. We are grateful for his generosity. You'll be glad you came.

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal - Havdalah Service and Learning, November 2nd, 6:30 p.m.

Remember the blowing of the *Shofar* in our Social Hall two springs ago? If you were there, you will never forget it. That piercing vibration transported us back to Sinai millennia ago. Rabbi Ed and his Hillel students will be in residence here again on the weekend of November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. We will meet again under the stars in our meditation garden for a *Havdalah* service and then move into the schoolroom for the first part of a 3 session learning series. Watch for more details in Stuart's weekly e-mails. Rabbi Stephen Wylen - Brunch and Learn - Sunday December 30th 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Rabbi Wylen, an accomplished scholar, skilled teacher, respected author, and friend of Rabbi Aglers', has volunteered to give a talk and lead a discussion group on "The Jews in the time of Christ." It promises to be fascinating. Don't miss it. (The food will be excellent too).

#### YARTZEIT PLAQUE

In Memory of **Eve Lorie Greenstein** Loving Mother, Wife, Daughter & Sister 4/21/62 - 2/13/11 9 Adar 1 5771 The Coltman Family

#### Kristallnacht Service

The Holocaust Committee will lead services on Friday, November 9th. We will commemorate Kristallnacht, The Night of the Broken Glass. On the nights of November 9th and 10th 1938, in a Nazi pogrom, more than 250 synagogues were burned and prayer rooms destroyed. (See the article in this issue of Chai-Lights, page 18). This wave of violence erupted before World War II and marked the beginning of what would become the Holocaust.

#### **BOOK PLATE**

In Honor of **Rene Rose** Her Good Health *Marion Gould* 

#### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of Aaron M. Schmidt Schmidt Family

#### **BOOK PLATE**

#### Simon and Lillian Skolnick

With Love Susan and RoseMarie Gordon

# 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 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.

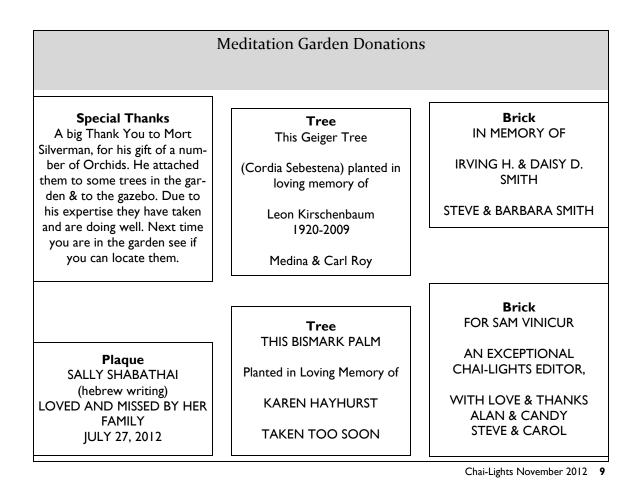
In Memoriam Kovember 2012

| On Colomonium C Govornbol 2012             |                                            |                                          |  |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--|
| In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Eugene Agler                               | Samuel Bader                               | Dr. Miksa Grunhut                        |  |
| By Richard & Mindy Agler                   | By Ivan & Jean Bader<br><><><><><><><>     | By Stephan & Eva Ban                     |  |
|                                            |                                            |                                          |  |
| In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Susan Ban                                  | Loretta Messer                             | Harold Goldstein                         |  |
| By Stephan & Eva Ban<br><><><><><><><><><> | By Marc Bloom<br><><><><><><>              | By Joan Boruszak<br><><><><><><>>        |  |
| In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Robert Scott Coltman                       | Jack Dorf                                  | Dr. Alvan Field                          |  |
| By Barnet O. Coltman                       | By Barry & Natalie Dorf<br><><><><><><><>> | By Carol Field                           |  |
|                                            |                                            | ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~  |  |
| In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Lillian Skolnick                           | Donald Graham                              | Susan Ban                                |  |
| By Susan Gordon<br><><><><><><><><><>      | By Mrs. Marty Graham<br><><><><><><><>     | By Franklin & Judy Greenman              |  |
|                                            |                                            |                                          |  |
| In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Linda Holbrook                             | Herb Holbrook                              | Helene Tulsky                            |  |
| By Allan Holbrook                          | By Allan Holbrook                          | By Henry & Patricia Isenberg             |  |
| ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~    | ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~    | ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~  |  |
| In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                             |  |
| David Jacobs                               | Bertha Jacobson                            | David Kamely                             |  |
| By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs                 | By Melvin Jacobson                         | By Michal Kamely                         |  |
| <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>   | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>   | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> |  |
| In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                               | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Herta Schapira                             | Jacob S. Raub                              | Fanny Kluger                             |  |
| By Harvey & Joan Kay<br><><><><><><><>     | By Harvey & Judith Klein                   | By Kurt & Nancy Kluger<br><><><><><><>   |  |
|                                            |                                            |                                          |  |

Sn Memoriam Kovember 2012 In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Ethel Hankin Deborah K. Cannon **Barry S. Kwalick** By Richard & Barbara Knowles By Michael Krissel By Teresa Kwalick In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of James Carryl Sol Levy **Murray Pincus** By Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein By Teresa Kwalick By Linda Pincus In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Tillie Pollack** Abraham Travers Harry Brownstein By Joel & Linda Pollack By Michele Riley By Pauline Roller In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Selma Moore Sachs Seymour Schocket Shirley Singer By Joseph & Susan Sachs By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket By Lee Schur In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Tillie Pollack Florence Cohen Albert Silverman By Joel & Linda Pollack By Jules & Nettie Seder By Morton & Gene Silverman In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Phillip Silverman Ida Cohen Sachs **Rose T. Steinberg** By Morton & Gene Silverman By Morton & Gene Silverman By Richard & Sheila Steinberg In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Bertha Swartz** Samuel Tallent Kenny Temkin

In Memoriam Kovember 2012

| In Memory Of                                   | In Memory Of                       | In Memory Of                                |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Dick Jacob                                     | Solomon Wasser                     | Esther Gold Willner                         |
| By David & Pat VanArtsdalen<br><><><><><><><>> | By Mark & Sofy Wasser<br><><><><>> | By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner             |
| In Memory Of                                   | In Memory Of                       | In Memory Of                                |
| Diana Wolfe                                    | Morris Mazur                       | Katy Kram                                   |
| By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe                       | By Sanford & Nancy Yankow          | By Sanford & Nancy Yankow<br><><><><><><><> |



# Sisterhood's Count Your Blessings Fundraiser

As we begin the New Year, and in the spirit of thanksgiving, the KJCC Sisterhood wants to recognize and appreciate all the blessings in our lives, both big and small. Please support our "Count Your Blessings" fundraiser by focusing on gratitude and help our Sisterhood projects.

Please check the blessings listed and make a donation for each. You are welcome to compose your own personal blessings by adding them below.

Today my family is healthy and well. My life is abundant and prosperous. My friends support and love me. I have a loving and supportive partner. My grandchildren bring me joy and love. Today I have reached out to others in need. I love my job and the rewards it brings. Today I received great news. I am blessed to live in the Florida Keys. Today I took care of my body and exercised. I am not alone. My own blessings



| Total number of blessing | s  |
|--------------------------|----|
| @ \$2.00 per blessing    | \$ |
| Additional Contribution  | \$ |
| Total Contribution       | \$ |

Please complete and return by November 30th to: KJCC Sisterhood PO Box 116 Tavernier, FL 33070

> Finally, a Fundraiser you do not have to attend!

## Sisterhood Lauren Sax



fter almost two years in office, it's about that time in a president's term that she becomes brain dead when it comes to writing another Chai-Lights column. After all, how much can one person say after almost twenty columns and sound knowledgeable at the same time? What can one say after almost two years that others will want to read about? To date that's nearly twenty columns and over nine thousand words! But then, what would I have to say that would be so important-so meaningful? What do I have to say that is worth typing and including in another Chai-Lights? Not only is my Sisterhood counting on me, but my temple, my husband and worst of all, my family in Florida & Illinois that look forward to reading our now famous monthly bulletin. That's a lot to live up to. Now I'm up to 150 words. Only 450 more to go.

I could say that Sisterhood is at that all important time of having to choose a slate of officers for the 2013 year. Our Nominating Committee consists of Susan Gordon, Linda Pollack, Carol Steinbock and me as ex-officio. The committee is charged with selecting a president, vice president and recording secretary and bringing that slate to the December Sisterhood meeting for a vote. Installation will be in January. I could also say that it is incumbent upon every female congregant to give a bit of their time to insure the success of our synagogue. The few of us that do a large portion of the work cannot continue to go it alone.

Chanukah is only a few weeks away so consider our wonderful gift shop that has been restocked with lots of goodies for gift giving. I won't go into how much more satisfying it is purchasing from us versus the mainland or online, but you already know that. Susan Gordon is continually on the lookout for new and interesting yet affordable merchandise and it shows. We are now carrying Yads which is an excellent gift for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. We also have restocked our mezzuzahs, yarmulkes and even new challah plates. As always, if you don't see what you need, contact Susan and she will try to accommodate you.

Speaking of the gift shop, we have the ideal job for that person who can only afford a couple hours a month. Susan could use help with pricing merchandise that comes in as well as rearranging the display cases. The gift shop is an excellent source of revenue for Sisterhood so we definitely need to put some of our energies into helping Susan.

We also have our upcoming Chanukah Dinner. One of Linda's famous fliers appears later in this booklet with all the pertinent details. It is sure to be a winner of an evening with most of our snowbirds back and our children performing their usual Chanukah schtick. Erica coordinates a bang-up dinner and no one wants to miss that. This will be a dairy dinner and all KJCC members are free. Non-members and their children are \$18. This is also a RESERVATION ONLY dinner so contact Erica if we can expect you. Since this is a pot luck, we cannot accommodate those without a reservation.

Well, look at that. I'm up to 600 words. Maybe I do have something to say after all. To make it even more worthwhile, it would be wonderful if we had a profitable month in the gift shop, more volunteers than we can handle, plus an overflow at our Chanukah Dinner. That would be the very best!  $\diamond$ 

# **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 Roy, Medina Schulberg, Alan & Elaine

General Fund Begam, Delores Anonymous Cole, Ronald Hartz, Steve & Jan Steinbock, Steve & Carol

General Fund Ash. Mary Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary Borzak, Don Bosley, Scott & Kathleen Busker, Paul & Esta Jo Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin Dorf, Barry & Natalie Gilson, Michael & Suzanne Glickman, Joel Harris, Richard & Diana Hohlfeldt, Harvey & Kaye Kamely, Michal Laskow, Michael & Debra Levi, Nancy Lipsman, William Margulies, Stanley & Jenny Paragus, Rosalind Peckman, Joyce Pine Tree Commercial Realty Pollack, Linda & Joel Schur, Lee Siegel, Donald Steinbock, Steve & Carol Swartz, George & Muriel Wasser, Mark & Sofy Wohl, Milton & Joan Yankow, Sanford & Nancy

Holocaust Education Center Roy, Medina In Honor of Happy Holidays Richard & Mindy Agler Love Offering

> In Memory of lim Boruszak Jim Boruszak lim Boruszak lim Boruszak lim Boruszak Jim Boruszak lim Boruszak David Gulkis lim Boruszak lim Boruszak lim Boruszak lim Boruszak lim Boruszak lim Boruszak Jim Boruszak

Meditation Garden Roy, Medina

Rabbi & Cantor Fund Abrudsky, Natalio & Delia Bernstein, Paul & Barbara

Scholarship Fund Roy, Medina

Sisterhood Oneg Fund Gitin, David Joyce Peckman In Honor of Gloria Avner's birthday Grateful for safe return

Maryon Gould's 87th birthday

Maryon Gould's 87th birthday

Maryon Gould's 87th birthday

Sunshine Fund In Honor of Sax, Stuart & Lauren Joan Stark for a speedy recovery

Tree of Life Pollack, Linda Rose, Rene Singer, Mary Lee

Tree of Life Mah Jongg Group Mah Jongg Group Pollack, Joel & Linda

Yahrzeits Graham, Bea Graham, Bea Graham, Bea Kwalick, Teresa In Memory of David Gulkis Jim Boruszak Jim Boruszak

In Honor of

Fanny Elson Joseph Elson Lillian Goldberg Irene Becker

Yahrzeit Plaques In Memory of Knowles, Richard & Barbara Walter and Ethel Hankin

Yizkor Book Berman, Sylvia Friedman, Steve & Jane Marmar, David & Pamela Oshinsky, Gerald Schulberg, Alan & Elaine Yankow, Sanford & Nancy

## YEDA VE'TORASHA Yardena Kamely



# Israel Series Part II: TZFAT (SAFED)

*zfat* (Safed) is a small town in Northern Israel, 900 meters (3200 feet) high in the mountains of the Upper Galilee. You have magnificent views from Tzfat, east to the Golan, north to the Hermon and Lebanon, west to Mt. Meron and the Amud Valley, and south to Tiberias and the *Kinneret* (Sea of Galilee).

Safed is considered one of Judaism's holiest cities, along with Jerusalem, Hebron, and Tiberias.

According to the great mystics of the past, Safed will play an important role in the final redemption. The Meam Loez, in the name of and grandson of Noah, established their yeshiva where Jacob studied for many years. According to other sources, the town was founded in 70AD.

The town flourished in the 16th century; it was a magnet for Jews fleeing the Spanish Inquisition and the home of some of Judaism's greatest medieval scholars. Safed then became the spiritual center of the Jewish world, where *"Kabbalah* reached the peak of its influence" according to scholars. Kabbalists, such as Rabbi Yitzhak Luria (Ha-Ari HaKadosh) and Rabbi Shlomo Alkabetz

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, savs that the Messiah will come from Safed on his way to Jerusalem. The Ari HaKadosh (famous Kabbalist) said that until the Third Temple is built. the Shechinah (God's Manifest Presence) rests above Safed. According to legend, Safed is where Shem and Ever. son



(author of *Lecha Dodi*) and Rabbi Yosef Karo (author of the *Shulchan Aruch*) just to name a few, made Tzfat famous.

It was in Tzfat that the first printing press in the Middle East was set up, publishing in 1578 the first Hebrew book to be printed in Israel. The printers were Eliezer Ben Yitzchak Ashkenazi, an immigrant from Prag, and a Rabbi from *Tzfat*, Rabbi Avraham Ben Yitzchak Ashkenazi. (Curiously, having the same father's and family name, they were not related.) At

that time the town was also a thriving trade center. The garment industry was important and famous.

Safed is considered by the Jewish people as a town of mysticism and of Kabbalah. During the 2,000 vears of exile a minority community of Jews continued to live, work and study in Israel. Safed was one of these continuously populated towns and this led to a rich and vibrant lewish life in Israel under Muslim rule. Much of lewish life in the areas of Safed revolved around the synagogue and for this reason there are so many synagogues, both Sephardi and Ashkenazi, ancient and modern. within the town.

One of the most well-known and much visited synagogues in Safed is the Ashkenazi HaAri Synagogue. Here you can learn about the origins of *Tikkun Olam* (the Kabbalistic idea of repairing the world) and about the *Kabbalah* itself. You can hear about the Ari and his contribution to *Kabbalah* and be amazed by the worshippers' story of survival during the War of Independence.

If you want to see one of the oldest surviving synagogues in Safed, and the place where the Ari loved to spend his time, then visit Sephardic HaAri Synagogue.

At the Abuhav Synagogue you can view a Torah scroll from the Middle Ages and see a synagogue that has not one, but three holy arks.

The Avrutch Synagogue has a story about the miraculous survival of the faithful during the 1837 earthquake that leveled Safed to the ground.

In the Yosef Caro Synagogue you can see

the famous Shulchan Aruch (The Set Table), which dates back to the middle ages and is still used as the primary source for understanding Jewish religious laws.

The Bana'a Synagogue is the oldest synagogue in Safed and was first constructed in the 15th century; the Alsheich Synagogue is untouched from when it was erected in the 16th century; it completely survived intact through all of Safed's earthquakes. For some musical inspiration visit the Beirav Synagogue and learn all about Carlebach prayer.

Safed suffered hard times due to earthquakes, plagues and Arab attacks. The ancient and famous synagogues of Safed were destroyed in earthquakes in 1759 and 1837 and then rebuilt. In 1929, just days after the massacre of Jews in Hebron, Arab

mobs stormed the Jewish neighborhoods in Safed and killed 20 Jews and wounded dozens. In modern times, the liberation of Safed was one of the most dramatic episodes, one of the most inspiring stories of Israel's War of Independence in 1948.

#### The Davidka

Tzfat was seen as a military goal by both the Jews and the Arabs because of its location - on a high mountaintop with a stunning view of the entire north, and it was a location that neither side could afford to lose. In addition, for the Jewish forces, the conquest of Tzfat was considered an important psychological boost for Israel. It was an ancient Jewish city, one of the four holy cities of Judaism, and the center of Torah study in the North. But the capture of Tzfat seemed to be an unrealistic goal. The Jewish forces were outnumbered by more than 10 - 1. The Arab forces were heavily armed, while the Jewish troops had to



count every bullet that they shot. The British Mandate army was handing over the strategic high points of the city to the Arabs as they left.

There were approximately 4000 Jewish civilians living in Tzfat in 1948. Most of them were elderly or young children, and many were Orthodox Torah scholars, who had never had a rifle in their hand. The *Haganah* (the Jewish Defense Force) had to defend these people while fighting the Arab forces. When the Haganah sent 35 soldiers in to help the few hundred Jewish soldiers who were defending Tzfat, their first job was to organize the Jewish community's civilian affairs, rationing food, setting up communications, and trying to secure as many civilians in safe quarters as possible. to recount the story. Several of them told him the same story.

Seems that before the Arab riots of 1929, when the Jews and Arabs used to shop together in the common marketplace, the women became friendly, and although they hadn't had contact since the riots, they remembered each other. When the hostilities broke out in the winter of 1948, they got into the habit of coming to the "no-man's land" in the evenings, when there would be a lull in the shooting, and yelling at each other. The Jewish women would yell at the Arab women in Arabic, and the Arab women would yell at the Jewish women in Yiddish.

The evening after the *Davidka* was shot, one of the Arab women asked "vos is dus?" to which one of the Jewish women, sarcastically,

replied "we have the atom bomb".

With that, the

rumor spread.

and what had

be impossible

once seemed to

became a reality - the battle for

Tzfat was won

They say

about Tzfat that

"despite its natu-

ral beauty and

charm. to truly

appreciate Safed

requires an inti-

mate, holy, and

tion. which re-

spiritual connec-

guires work. Like

The battles did go on for months, until the spring of 1948, several days before Israel was declared a State. In late April. an artillery piece, nicknamed "The Davidka" was delivered to the Jews. They shot it off several times. but the mortars did little damage.....the main effect was the tremendous noise. However,



the weather changed, and, unusually for that time of year, it began to rain. The rumor quickly spread through the Arab community that the Jews had acquired the atom bomb, and the entire Arab community left that night. With their exit, morale deteriorated among the Arab troops, and the *Haganah* was able to secure the city.

Several years later, a local tour guide, curious as to how the rumor of the atom bomb had spread, asked some of Tzfat's old-timers a beautiful yet modest woman, her real charm is hidden and only made available to the special few who merit her attention. Yet it is this modesty, humility, and sense of purpose that makes Safed special."

"Safed is the balance where the spiritual meets the physical, where the East meets the West, where *Hashem* guides you along the path but your efforts allow you to merit the reward."  $\diamond$ 

### World Jewish Report <sup>A</sup> Medina Roy



#### The "Resolution Solution"

A group of rabbis from Brooklyn have come up with an e-mail alert service reminding individuals to stay true to their Rosh Ha-Shana resolutions. "[It] can nag you once a day. It can nag you weekly, monthly, but it rests on Shabbat," said Rabbi Motti Seligson. Seligson, along with a team of tech-savvy rabbis, created this "Resolution Solution." Claiming that what typically happens with resolutions is that most people do them for a week or two and then slack off. The e-mail alert helps keep you on track. Daniel Nottes signed up asking for reminders about his resolution to use his gym membership four times a week. "It's like a virtual Jewish mother," Nottes said. "Jewish mothers aren't annoying. (Oh, really? That's debatable.) They are persistent. They keep you in check." (www.israelnationalnews.com, 9-19-12)

#### "Jew Pond"

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names has officially changed the name of a pond in a small New Hampshire town from "Jew Pond" to "Carleton Pond." Two years ago, the town's health officer was investigating an algae bloom on the pond and learned it had been known as "Jew Pond" since the 1920s when two lewish businessmen bought the property which consisted of a hotel and a man-made pond. Before the property was purchased, the pond was called "Spring Pond." Though there are no signs with the name "Jew Pond," that name does appear on maps. The officer called for the name to be changed saying it was disrespectful and offensive. The new name, "Carleton Pond," honors one of the town's founding families. (The Forward, 9-9-12)

#### Challenge Worth Taking

For the third consecutive year, rabbis and cantors across the United States are participating in the "2012 Jewish Community Food Stamp Challenge" in support of people living on food stamps. They have agreed to spend no more than \$31.50 a week on food and beverages, the amount allocated for people on SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, better known to most of us as Food Stamps. This works out to a budget of \$1.50 per meal making SNAP recipients settle for meals that lack healthy nutrition. At the same time, the clergy agree to educate their congregations about hunger in the United States. Rabbi Leonard Gordon, co-chair of the challenge said that hunger and food insecurity are "rarely talked about and frequently misunderstood. This challenge is a way for rabbis and cantors to make the invisible daily struggles... real while demonstrating the lewish community's deep commitment to help those in need." Rules of the challenge require keeping receipts and calculating food costs on everything consumed, even if the items were already in the home. Participants are also asked not to accept free food such as food at receptions or office coffee. The participants are encouraged to donate the money they normally would have spent on food that week to a local food bank or antihunger advocacy organization. (www.jta.org, 9-19-12)

#### A Priceless Treasure

Due to lack of funds, Bosnia's National Museum closed its doors the first week in October. The museum, which survived two world wars and the siege of Sarajevo in the 1990s, dates back to 1888, when Bosnia-Hercegovina was part of the AustroHungarian Empire. This is the museum which has owned and housed the priceless Sarajevo Haggadah since 1894. The lavishly-illustrated tome was handwritten in Spain in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and brought to Sarajevo after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. After the Bosnian war ended in 1995, several organizations along with the Bosnian Jewish Community organized a \$150,000 project to restore the 109-page Haggadah and find a secure. climate-controlled room in which to put it on display. In recent years, the original Haggadah has only been displayed four days out of the year. The rest of the time, a facsimile is used. The museum closed because the Bosnian central government has discontinued state funding for culture. (This Haggadah is the subject of the best-selling historical novel. "People of the Book." by Geraldine Brooks. If you're interested, there's a copy in the KJCC library in the fiction (FIC) section. (The Forward, 10-3-12)

#### "A Slap in the Face"

Following a barrage of complaints. Amazon,com, the giant online retailer, has stopped selling a jigsaw puzzle of the Dachau Nazi concentration camp. The product description said the "toy," which sold for \$24.99, was intended for customers eight years old and above. Gerda Hasselfeldt, leader of the Christian Social Union group in Germany's parliament, wrote to leff Bezos. CEO of Amazon, saying that the puzzle was "a slap in the face" to the camp's survivors. Dachau was the first of the Nazi concentration camps, and was located about ten miles northwest of Munich. Established in 1933, more than 200.000 prisoners passed through the camp. It was liberated in April, 1945. (www.jta.org, 10-2-12)

# Maybe it's Because of Those "Persistent" Jewish Mothers....

According to "Education at a Glance 2012," a recent report published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Israel is the secondmost educated country when looking at the percentage of 25 to 64 year-olds that have attained higher education – that ends up equaling 46 percent of Israelis. The number one spot went to Canada. The report reviews the years 2009-2010 and shows comparative data between the 34 OECD member countries. The report indicated that the percentage of Israeli students that graduated from high school rose to 92 percent in 2010. The Israeli percentage of high school graduates is one of the highest among all OECD countries. (www.ynetnews.com, 9-12-12)

#### Honoring Huberman

The Polish city of Czestochowa is renaming its orchestra to honor Bronislaw Huberman, (1882-1947), a Polish-Jewish violin virtuoso who helped save hundreds of German lews from the Holocaust and who founded the precursor to what is now the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Poland's large Jewish community had a profound impact on Polish culture before it was wiped out in the Holocaust. The newly rebuilt and modernized philharmonic hall is located on the site of a former synagogue that was destroyed by the Nazis during their wartime occupation of Poland. Before World War II. Czestochowa was home to 40,000 Jews, almost all of whom perished. (Associated Press, 10-3-12)

#### The Scent of Sukkot

It's only been about a month but are you already longing for the olfactory pleasures of the Sukkot holiday? Have no fear: Ayala Moriel, a natural perfumer from Vancouver has bottled the scent of the Sukkot holiday in her Etrog Oy de Cologne. She created the perfume by blending the essence of the *etrog* (citron) with lapanese mint, pomelo (closely related to the grapefruit), green myrtle, honey, lemon myrtle and frankincense. The perfume is the latest among the almost 50 all -natural hand crafted fragrances Moriel has created for the business she started in 2001. Avala Moriel Parfums. Moriel claims that the etrog cologne "has more staying power than most citrus fragrances which tend to dissipate guickly." Moriel is known mainly for her botanical fragrances. (www.blogs.forward.com, 10-2-12)

Chai-Lights November 2012 17

#### Got a Spare \$3 Million?

A hand-written letter by Albert Einstein offering his view on religion was offered for sale in October on eBay. The opening bid was set at three million dollars. It is being sold with the original envelope, stamp and postmark. Einstein wrote the letter in German on Princeton University letterhead and sent it in 1954 as a response to a book written by Eric B. Gutkind titled, "Choose Life: The Biblical Call to Revolt." In the letter, Einstein writes, "The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weakness, the Bible a collection of honorable, but still primitive legends which are nevertheless pretty childish...For me the Jewish religion like all other religions is an incarnation of the most childish superstitions. And the lewish people to whom I gladly belong and with whose mentality I have a deep affinity have no different quality for me than all other people. As far as my experience goes, they are also no better than other human groups, although they are protected from the worst cancers by a lack of power. Otherwise I cannot see anything 'chosen' about them." (www.jta.org, 10-3-12)

#### In Memoriam

-Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, former publisher of the New York Times, has died. He was 86. Sulzberger led the company for 34 years and turned it into a multi-billion dollar enterprise. His grandfather, Adolph S. Ochs, bought the newspaper in 1896 and Sulzberger (who was known by his childhood nickname, "Punch," after the popular British puppet show, "Punch and Judy") became publisher in 1963, becoming, at the age of 37, the youngest leader in the newspaper's history. Under Sulzberger's leadership, the newspaper won 31 Pulitzer Prizes. To his credit, he helped the company achieve financial stability, started nationwide distribution and added sections that are now staples in newspapers across the country. He was a steadfast defender of the freedom-of the-press and during his tenure, the Times won two significant battles. The first was in 1971 when the Times published the Pentagon Papers, the highly-classified government

document on the Vietnam War that ended up embarrassing President Nixon and his administration. Nixon demanded that the Times stop publication of the papers on grounds of national security. Citing the First Amendment, the Times refused the order of the White House and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the newspaper. The Supreme Court also sided with the newspaper in *The* Times v. Sullivan, (the case began before Sulzberger was at the helm but was settled in 1964 when he was already publisher). The ruling established standards for malice that must be proved in libel cases. Sulzberger was the youngest of four children born to Arthur Hays Sulzberger and Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger. His paternal grandparents hailed from prominent lewish families and his father was thought to be a practicing lew. Some historians believe that under Sulzberger's tenure, the Times deliberately ignored Jewish suffering at the hands of the Nazis. (www.reuters.com, 9-30-12)

#### Did You Know.....

-On October 4<sup>th</sup>, *Facebook's* CEO Mark Zuckerberg, announced that the social networking site had reached one billion active users each month, even though the company has had a difficult time recently -the stock price has fallen drastically. (*www.timesofisrael.com, 10-*4-12)

-Esquire Magazine has named actress Mila Kunis "the sexiest woman alive," in its November issue. Kunis, 29, co-starred with Best Actress Oscar-winner Natalie Portman in "Black Swan." Born in the Ukraine, her family moved to Los Angeles when she was 7. Mila (born Milena Markovna Kunis) claims that anti -Semitism in the former Soviet Union was one of the major reasons her family left. She and her brother were raised Jewish but she considers herself a non-practicing Jew. (www.reuters.com, 10-8-12) ◊

# KJCC Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 14, 2012 Dairy Dinner 6:00 PM

Followed by return of our favorite Chanukah Play: "The Flying Latke"

Services at 8 pm Contact Erica @ (305) 853-1003 hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your spot and coordinate your dish.

Donations -Members: no charge NonMembers: \$18

# KRISTALLNACHT *THE NIGHT OF THE BROKEN GLASS*

Submitted by Yardena Kamely

#### - Historical Note:

On November 9, 1938 Hitler used the killing of a German diplomat in Paris to start the "spontaneous" planned assault on the Jewish Community. It was meant to see if the world would react to the beginnings of the Holocaust.

Thousands of synagogues and Jewish businesses were destroyed and approximately 20,000-30,000 Jewish men were rounded up and sent to concentration camps on that day merely for being Jewish. Since 1990 Rick Landman, whose father and grandfa-

whose father and grandfather were sent to Dachau on Kristallnacht, has conducted a program at NYU to remember how a civilized country could turn into a mass murdering society. The Kristallnacht programs included the exploration of a historical event, trying to

understand what happened to the Jewish Community and other victims during the Nazi Era. The programs were both memorials and educational in nature.

Rick Landman, a second/third generation Holocaust Survivor tells about his father Henry who was arrested on Kristallnacht and sent to Dachau Concentration Camp at the age of 18. Rick describes Henry's day from the time he went to sleep in his bedroom in Augsburg until he was sleeping on the floor of a barrack in Dachau the next night. Henry was released from Dachau a few months later and came to America where he later joined the US Army and was with the first Americans to liberate Dachau and enter his hometown of Augsburg. In addition, Rick Landman, a gay son and grandson of Holocaust Survivors does not only relate the 24 hour history of how Kristallnacht affected his father's life, but also explains why he decided to reinstate German Citizenship to become a dual citizen. He is now a gay, Jewish, American son of Holocaust Survivors who is also a German citizen.

If we do not study our history and memorial-

*ize our dead; who will? And if we don't then how can we prevent atrocities from repeating?* 

#### Event: Kristallnacht Commemoration Description:

The Holocaust Memorial of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation invites members of the community to its annual commemoration of Kristallnacht: The Night of the Broken Glass. The program recalls the nights of November 9 and 10, 1938, when Nazi thugs killed 91 Jewish people, burned more than

250 synagogues and prayer rooms, and rounded up 30,000 Jewish men to be taken to concentration camps. This wave of violence erupted before World War II and marked the beginning of what would become the Holocaust. The Kristallnacht Commemoration program will feature remarks from community leaders, an eyewitness to the event, youth choirs, a candle-lighting ceremony, poetry reading and more. In case of rain, it will be held at Temple Emanu-El, 1701 Washington Avenue.

| ington Avenue. |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Event Date:    | 11/08/2012              |
| Start Time:    | 6:00 PM                 |
| End Time:      | 7:30 PM                 |
| Address:       | 1933-45 Meridian Avenue |
| City:          | Miami Beach             |
|                |                         |





Tallit, Kipot, Kiddush Cups, Candlesticks Mezuzzot, Jewelry and More!



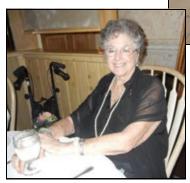
For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585 Medina Roy (305) 852-3872

# **Photo Gallery**



On September 28th Steve Hartz lead us in the full Kiddush for the first time, starting with "vay'chulu." Lovely job.

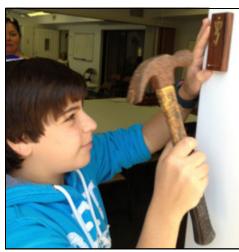
Maryon Gould celebrated a birthday on September 23rd at Old Tavernier.





Linda and Joel Pollock at the Shabbat Shuvah Oneg that they sponsored on September 21st.

During all the holiday festivities and functions Joshua Bernstein took time to install this mezuzah on the door to the classroom.



On Sunday, October 7th the members of the KJCC were honored to have Rebecca Boehling speak on her recent appointment as director of the International Tracing Service's Holocaust Archive in Germany. It was an enriching and educational experience for all those who attended.









# JIM BORUSZAK A MAN REMEMBERED, A LIFE CELEBRATED

In September KJCC had to say goodbye to Jim Boruszak. Jim was a big part of the KJCC, and he had a huge impact on both the spiritual and physical structure of the Center. On the following pages we remember in words and photos a life that touched so many. We heard lots about Jim from his children, best friends, fishing buddies, and hospital associates at his Celebration of Life. The picture was well-rounded. But thanks to Joan and a conversation last week, here is a story you may not have heard: how Jim and Joan came to live in the Keys and find KJCC. In Joan's own words, "It was an accident."

On their way to San Salvador, looking forward to some exciting diving, with no intent

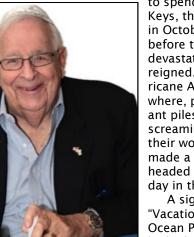
#### REMEMBERING JIM BORUSZAK

#### Gloria Avner

ur House is a very, very, very fine House." Remembering the sweet mythic sounds and words of Crosby Stills and Nash, I think of Jim Boruszak keeping our community house in order. Whether arranging to fix a leaky roof, connect a sewer, or remove a wasp nest from the door to our schoolroom, Jim did it by daily vigilance and knowing whom to call for help. And he did it for more than just us.

His "house," like his personality, was larger than life.

It included all of Mariner's Hospital, but especially the oncology unit and all the people whose lives could be made easier by being spared the drive "off the rock' for chemotherapy. It included family and friends from such far-flung addresses as Arizona, Chicago, Great Britain, Israel and beyond – and when Jim and Joan's visitors came to the Keys, they became part of our *mishpocha* as well.



Jim and his famous smile at the KJCC Family Seder last spring.

to spend any time in the Keys, they arrived in Miami in October, 1992, a day before their flight. Chaos, devastation and confusion reigned. The horror of Hurricane Andrew was everywhere, people in tents, giant piles of rubble, sirens screaming as rescuers did their work. Jim and Joan made a quick decision and headed south to spend a day in the Keys.

A sign caught their eye: "Vacation Rentals for Sale: Ocean Pointe." They looked, they liked, they bought, a unit that hadn't been built yet. I can imagine them the next morning, looking at each other a little sheepishly, driving north to catch their plane to San Sal-

vador, asking each other "Are we crazy?" Then, just a wee bit past the turn to Ocean Pointe, they see another sign. Ours. They look at each other and smile, knowing "everything would be OK." The Keys Jewish Community Center would become their home. And Jim would become our "House." Joan may call it an accident. I call it *"bashert.*"

On one of the most sacred days in the

Jewish Calendar, *Rosh HaShanah*, Jim Boruszak channeled a priestly blessing upon us, from his wheel-chair, oxygen attached, fulfilling his own last wish. All of us were moved as well as blessed. He left us three days before we were sealed in the Book of Life.

An inexplicable luminescence rose from the water after Jim's ashes melded with the sea. Bernie was singing "El Rachamim," a chant Jim loved. I think that glow was Jim having the last word.

We will miss not just Jim's voice but his meticulous caring. It was Jim, with his best fishing and baseball buddy Joel Pollock, who polished the silver and brass of our Torah adornments and Havdalah set. In between blood transfusions, it was Jim who put the Torahs in their special plastic coverings when Hurricane Isaac threatened. Who will fill Jim's role as our "paterfamilias" when Pesach comes and it is time for community *seder*?

I admit there were times Jim would terrorize me and Yardena with his threat to throw out our children's art if we did not put away absolutely everything in the schoolroom. Yardena: "But Jim, it is a classroom!" We still loved him. And we did get better organized

with his help. It is odd. but we feel his presence and his loss most when we are leaving the shul. Words heard just this past Friday night: from Sam: "Make sure the bathroom lights are out." From Bernie: "Yeah, and double check the locks. We don't want Jim to get upset." Though





Jim Boruszak on Rosh Hashanah keeping his promise to be there for the Priestly Blessing

we can't sit and schmooze with him, Jim has not really left us. We still have his voice in our heads, and uncountable memories in our hearts.

#### IN MEMORY OF JIM

#### Alan Beth

It is with a heavy heart that I write these words. Unfortunately I am unable to join you for Jim's celebration of life ceremony, we are currently at the other end of the country for Yom Kippur, but please know that our heart and prayers are with Joan and her family.

We have known Jim for many-many years. When we first moved to the Keys and came to the KJCC, Jim welcomed us as new members. He was President at the time and made us feel right at home. That is when we knew that the KJCC would be a good fit for us. At that time, I got to know Jim very well. My first encounter, was when my son Joseph, at a very young age, did something at the KJCC. During services one night Joseph was playing around with the A/C controls at the rear of the sanctuary. Jim caught him in mid-action

and I thought loseph was going to be severely reprimanded. But instead Jim gave Joseph a big hug and, with smiling eyes, said the following: "Joseph if you are going to do something then please do not get caught" -:): Jim then proceeded to laugh out loud. This began our friendship. At this point I realized that Jim's love for life, for family, for children and for the KJCC was paramount. Jim developed a love for Joseph - they had a common bond with fishing at all times (even when Joseph was supposed to be attending classes), and of course Jim was there for Joseph's graduation from high school. .Jim took great pride in the relationships he made with everyone and took especially great pride

in the welfare for the KJCC. Jim was a great president for the synagogue. Jim was my friend, my mentor and the number one person that I would consult. When I was head of ritual and president of the KJCC, Jim was always there for me, giving advice, guidance and at any time of the day always available for consultation. When Jim took over from Marty as head of the house commit-

tee he did it with enthusiasm and austo. lims' most used line was 'I'll take care of it'. We have an aging building here at the KICC. which of course requires constant maintenance. lim would call me. inform me, then would say the following - repeatedly: "Alan, don't worry - I will take care of it". You remember. we had some van-



dalism a few years ago. lim arranged for police surveillance and for a security system to be installed. lim told the police if there was anv issue that he wanted to be the first per-





son notified, any time of the day. Jim's legacy will live on forever in the KJCC. When we all leave the building and take a moment to stop and look at the photos' hung on the President's Wall, we will notice Jim's picture and will see as clear as daylight the

love and pride coming through for the KJCC and for all of our families.

- Yours - In Loving memory Alan, Candy & Joseph

#### EULOGY BY BRUCE BORUSZAK

As I am sure you can imagine, in the last few days our family has received messages from countless people recounting their memories of my father, and providing us all with comfort. Although each of those messages has warmed our hearts and helped us through the grieving process that we have just begun, two messages stood out to me in particular, and I wanted to share each with you. The first is a posting on the Chicago Tribune web site. The posting was from a catholic priest that my parents had met while scuba diving, and reads as follows:

> Joan, may Jim rest in peace in the presence of that God whose presence we profess is always among us. May God reward him for his goodness. Thank God for the time you had with him. May his memory be in our hearts until we all see him again in the life to come. May he rest in peace.

The second was from a man who used to work at Ford pharmacy, in Deerfield, Illinois, at the photo counter. He wrote to me though Facebook:

> Bruce: I hope that it is acceptable to contact vou in this manner. Please accept mv condolences on the passing of your father, James. I remember him so vividly as a customer at Ford Foto and also from a scuba diving class at Highland Park High School. Please know that your father was always smiling, joking and genuine while at Ford Foto. He was truly one of my favorite customers. as we would talk and he would share his many underwater photographs, along with the stories behind each photo. I hope that your father's memory will warm your heart and help you to keep a smile during these difficult times.

Both of these messages are from people who had not seen my father for in excess of twenty years, but who still have fond memories of him and felt compelled to reach out to help our family with their thoughts and memories. It shows the lasting imprint of my Dad on so many.

Dad was always a hard worker, who led by actions. I remember the stories of my Dad protecting my Mom's sorority house from panty raids that were, apparently, in vogue in the 1950's. He began his insurance career working hard and moved up the ranks at the Rappaport Agency in Chicago. He even allowed me to share in the wealth by stuffing calendars into envelopes each new year. I recall him studying so hard for the CLU examinations, and his great pride and joy in receiving that special designation, the highest in his industry.

After many years working for someone, Dad decided to go it on his own, and built out an office in the basement of our home. That worked for a while, but soon he was able to support an office of his own, and for many years he worked out of his office in Northfield Illinois.

Along with his professional life, Dad had many outside interests into which he gave his all. He got involved with Congregation B'nai Torah when that temple was in its infancy. He worked hard and successfully to expand its membership and rose through the ranks of the congregation to become President. After his term of President, he continued to work hard on behalf of the congregation until he moved from Highland Park.

During those years, Dad also played hard. He was a staunch Illini fan, and when my brother went to the University of Illinois he began a tailgating tradition that lasted through the college years of my brother, myself and my sister, all Illini. What a treat it was when my parents came to Champaign on a football Saturday, with the car filled with food for me and my friends. I can still taste that Brown's chicken.

When my brother went to college, he decided to learn to scuba dive. My Dad, who was also a strong swimmer, became interested and started a hobby that lasted until just recently. Dad moved up the ranks of



These are the photos of the family's last goodbye to Jim. In the second photo you can see the two boats, one captained by Bob Tempkin, filled with sons, daughters, granddaughter and friends from KJCC, the other with Yardena and Mariner's Hospital friends. Bernie and Gloria led a short service after yellow roses and a wreath followed Jim's ashes into the water. A remarkable moment was caught when photographer and friend Donna McLaughlin, in a third boat, captured a luminous glow rising from the water just after Jim made his last "dive."

Dad was also an avid fisherman. Many of

you here today have fished with him, either on his boat, aptly named "Thanks Kids" or on your boat. I know he derived such pleasure while he was fishing. I was not so much of a fisherman, but one year Dad asked me to come on a fishing trip with him to Canada. Dad would go on

annual trips to Canada with his cousin Don and a group of friends, many from college days. That year each was bringing a son to share in the experience, and I went, along with my cousin Peter, who so graciously came down here to help celebrate Dad's life. I

went and almost learned to like to fish. Sleeping in a cabin with 8 guys snoring was another thing altogether. It was, however, an experience with Dad and will carry with me always.

When Mom and Dad moved to the Keys they encountered a second family. They embraced life in the Keys. Dad went boating and fishing, two things he loved so much. He also, of course, got involved with the community and lent his talents to all who

scuba diving to ultimately become an instructor. Diving was a passion for Dad and Mom.



and they traveled the world to dive in so many exotic locations. Diving is, I believe, what ultimately brought Mom and Dad to the Keys.



asked. He became very active in the Keys Jewish Community Center, becoming President and continuing until very recently making sure the building and grounds were maintained in a manner that made everyone

so proud. Mom and Dad also became involved with the Baptist Health System and Mariners Hospital in particular. Dad had a way with fundraising, knowing just how much pressure to apply to get the maximum results. After his diagnosis with Leukemia, he worked hard to raise funds to open a chemo lab at Mariners Hospital so that his Keys community would not have to drive to Miami for chemotherapy. His fundraising was successful, and the lab has opened. But Dad wanted it expanded, and told me just a few days ago that he hopes it can be expanded to help more people.

To understand my father's impact in his community, all

you have to do is look around the room today and see so many people from the community who have taken the time to celebrate Dad's life with us. In addition, there are many from Dad's Chicago community that have made the trip to the Keys to say goodbye, and our family greatly appreciates those efforts.

My father also touched his grandchildren's life in so many ways. My children were so lucky to be in the Chicago area with my parents when they were young. Both my children were able to be with Dad when he left us, and it warmed his heart to have them by his side. Two nights before his passing, Dad sat in his bed with his granddaughter Nicci with a bag of kipas, carefully deciding which kipa Nicci should take for her bother and boyfriend. As time ran short, not all of his grandchildren could see him, but all reached out and spoke to him on the telephone and with Skype. Each of those



Jim's sons Bruce and Alan did the same blessing on Yom Kippur that their father had given on Rosh Hashanah. It was given in honor of their father and mother.

my life.

A final reflection on how Dad impacted those around him. In recent weeks, as Dad became weaker, his next door neighbor at Coral Harbor Club told Mom and Dad that they could use their apartment for family, so we could be close by when we visited. By the way, these wonderful people have been sending Dad cards almost daily, each of which were funny in a way that Dad loved. but also warmed him so. In any event, Leslie, the kids and I have been the beneficiaries of this generosity. When Dad passed, I called the Rice's to let them know. Tom was so gracious in our conversation. I then find out that he and Rose came down to help us celebrate Dad's life, but stayed in a hotel so we could stay in their apartment and be close to Mom. What a tribute to Dad. Thank you all for your support and love over that past couple of years, and into the future. 0

touches warmed him so. And then there was his great granddaughter Payton. To see Dad's face light up when her name was just mentioned warms me even now. What a joy she brought to him.

> I have been told from time to time that I resemble my father. Apparently that is a widely shared feeling, although there were two people who did not see that. Dad and me, thought recently he said maybe he saw a little resemblance. I do know that much of who I am today was molded by Dad. He instilled in me a strong work ethic. He taught me the difference between right and wrong, and the importance on honesty. Sometimes I wish he had not drilled into me the concept of if you want it done right, do it yourself, but it is a mantra that has governed my life. Most of all Dad taught me to always do my best. My memories of him will always be a strong part of

High Holy Days Obcrapbook

# A look back in photos at The Days of Awe



#### An Auspicious (Delicious) Beginning to 5773 Erev Rosh Hashanah Community Dinner





Cantor Mark and son Elior make Homotzi, Day I.

Cantor Mark and Elior taking a break during Day 2 sermon/game.



Pauline and friends linger after Yom Kippur ends deliciously.

(Sam, I finally got your picture in Chai-Lights.)

Barbara Bernstein's creative critter fruit bowl, enjoyed by all at Break the Fast Yom Kippur night.



Bernie Ginsberg shares a joke (or two) from Uncle Miltie's collection with Gloria after Havdalah and the end of days of Awe.



# **Celebrating Sukkot**



Just as we finished celebrating the High Holy Days, it was time for the kids and adults of the KJCC to mark Sukkot.



Dr. Bernie demonstrates the proper technique.



1AH



Westley Silverman is delighted with his birthday cake as much as Sukkot.

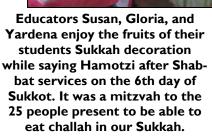
Rabbi Agler and Gloria sing out the blessings while shaking the lulav.



KJCC's joyous Sukkot celebration takes place under the newly decorated meditation garden arbor built last year by Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake in honor of their parents.

(right) Rabbi Agler and Morah Yardena shake the lulav while singing our just learned new blessing song. Georgia Landau looks on in Sukkah comfort, many thanks to the built in benches designed and generously created by Alan and Candy.







Moira aptly named this hand movement dance "The Jewish Macarena." We were singing "Daveed, Melech Yisrael," and Susan, Gloria, and Moira were able to fill in a gap in Rabbi Agler's summer camp education.

# Yom Kippur in the U.P. of Michigan A KJCC Member Experiences The Holiday A New Way, In An Old Shul

Alan Beth

his year we decided to do something we have never done before. We spent the High Holidays in Hancock, Michigan, which is located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. If you look at a map of the U.S.A. and draw a straight line from Key Largo north to the very end of US 41: a distance of approximately 2,100 miles north look for the finger that stands out in the middle of Lake Superior (near Isle Royal National Park). You will see Copper Harbor. About 50 miles south of that sits the sister towns of Hancock / Houghton located on the Portage canal. You are going to ask about the weather! The



The century-old schul of Hancock Michigan.

weather was great, it got down (almost) to freezing at night - actual freezing. I know in Key Largo "freezing" means 70 degrees. But up north in the U.P. it actually gets cold in September at night. During the day it would

From the other side of the river the copper top glistens and shines brightly, welcoming those looking for a schul to worship in. get up to around 55.

The synagogue in Hancock is over 100 years old and is the only one in the area reqistered in the National Historical Register. When it was first constructed it was an orthodox synagogue with over 120 family members and was the center of Jewish life in the region. Today it still fulfills that purpose but due to industry closings and the copper mining industry shutting down (in the 1940's) the membership count has dropped significantly. Today they have a membership count of 12 families. However, they are located near a university town. Houghton is the home of Michigan Tech. They of course welcome the Jewish Michigan Tech students to their beautiful synagogue. With such a low



membership count the president told me they decided to become a Reform synagogue and joined the URJ several years ago. access. Parking was down the street at a local bank. Parking was not even a consideration when they purchased the land as it was designed to be an orthodox synagogue. So it's quite an uphill walk from the bank. Then you still have to climb the many steps to the main entrance foyer ,and then climb another set of steps to enter the sanctuary. And, if you were an orthodox woman, you would have to climb again to get to the upper gallery.

But the building is special. You cannot miss it from the street. It is located on a prime spot on the river. It is a large red brick building with the most exquisite roof. The roof is dome-shaped, made out of copper, with a large Star-of-David

standing proudly. From the other side of the river the copper top glistens and shines brightly, welcoming those looking for a schul

to worship in, as it welcomed us.  $\Diamond$ 

The roof is dome-shaped, made out of copper, with a large Star-of-David standing proudly.

Chai-Lights wishes to thank Alan Beth for this article and his photos.

beautifully maintained with old-style long wood benches, a traditional orthodoxupper gallery (as orthodox synagogues would have) that today is no longer needed. Attendance for Kol Nidre was as expected - very low. The same held true

The synagogue is

for Yom Kippur day with only about 20 peo-

ple attending. They do not have a rabbi, but one was provided courtesy of the URI.

The rabbi led an excellent service from the prayer book, told very good, humorous and meaningful stories. But, I missed the cantorial music for Yom Kippur. So, for me the service was lacking. Candy really liked the service and the rabbi. He looked a lot like the actor / director Mel Brooks, and when the rabbi smiled or told jokes he was naturally engaging and funny.

Today, the synagogue would have to be completely modified for handicap



# *Simchat Torah*: Unroll, Re-roll, Parade and be Happy

#### Gloria Avner

There are not many books one would read over again every year. But we look forward to this one, and we are so joyous about it, we dress it up, hold it in our arms, and parade with it around our sanctuary year seven times (once for each day of

Creation), year after year. We've made it through the High Holy Days, celebrated harvest in our *Sukkah*, and we are eager to begin our story again. at the beginning, *B'reishit*.

See all the people who took a turn at this mitzvah: there is Sam Vinicur, Bernie Ginsberg, Jerry Oshinsky. Those who couldn't carry still joined the parade of happy flag-wavers. Brava for Joan

Boruszak, Richard Knowles, Georgia Landau and Pauline Roller. Gloria



carried the pint sized student Torah and Susan Gordon and David Gitin were our eyes be-

hind the camera. The whole student Torah was unrolled to the beginning and we were privileged to see our holy "book" from beginning to end . It ran from the bimah almost to the social hall. And



Moira Knowles, the Schrader-Grace family trio of Zach, Ruth, and Max, Stuart Sax being his most serious self, Mimi Gillespie, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Rabbi Agler, and







after re-rolling to the beginning for our fresh start, we were privileged to hear Bernie chant the first verse of our Torah, *B'reishit*. We have begun.

If you missed the fun of this year's celebration, make sure to come next year. We have been promised a special treat by Rabbi Agler—a 7 minute rendition of the whole Torah.  $\Diamond$ 





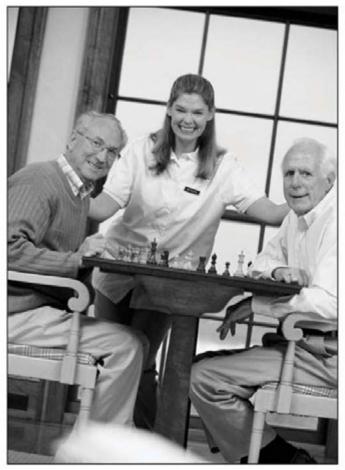


A special thank you to David Gitin and Susan Gordon for their lovely photos.



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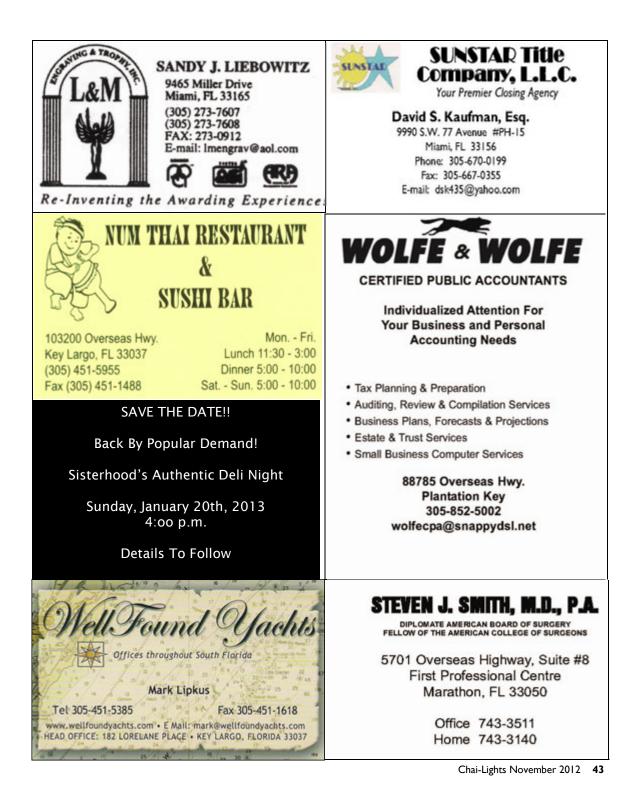
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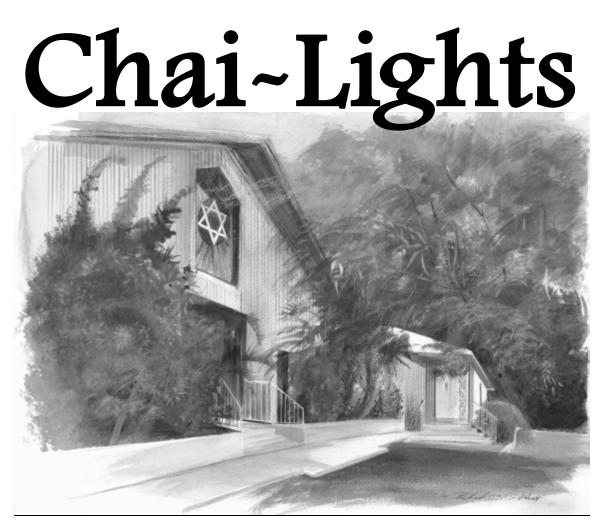
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December 2012

17 Kislev - 18 Tevet 5773

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# December 2012 17 Kislev- 18 Tevet

| Sun                                     | Mon                                      | Tue                                     | Wed | Thu | Fri                                                                                                            | Sat                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Nar<br>J                                | nes denote leader:<br>talicized names ar | s of Friday service<br>e Oneg sponsors. | es. |     |                                                                                                                | 1<br>Havdalah                                           |
| 2<br>Sisterhood<br>Meeting<br>9:30 a.m. | 3                                        | 4                                       | 5   | 6   | 7<br>Medina Roy<br>Jan & Steve<br>Hartz<br>Lauren & Stuart<br>Sax                                              | <b>8</b><br>Rabbi Agler<br>First Night<br>Service       |
| 9<br>Board<br>Meeting<br>9:00 a.m.      | 10                                       | 11                                      | 12  | 13  | 14<br>Sunday School<br><i>Linda &amp; Joel</i><br><i>Pollack</i><br>Chanukah<br>Dinner and Play                | 15                                                      |
| 16<br>Last Night<br>Of Chanukah         | 17                                       | 18                                      | 19  | 20  | <b>21</b><br>Georgia Landau &<br>Dave Mont<br><i>Carol &amp; Steve</i><br><i>Steinbock</i>                     | 22<br>Chai-<br>Yaking                                   |
| 23<br>30<br>Brunch<br>and Learn         | 24<br>31                                 | 25                                      | 26  | 27  | 28<br>Mark<br>Lieberman & Erica<br>Lieberman-Garret<br>Amelia & Steve<br>Kasinof<br>Erica<br>Lieberman-Garrett | 29<br>Marc<br>Lieberman's<br>Bar Mitzvah<br>Rabbi Agler |

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monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message

Stuart Sax



synagogues. Some respond with a nod when they recall a similar occurrence and others respond at the thought of a new idea presented.

Time is often a factor that prevents some of our members from being more involved. The KICC is not asking you for forty hours a week. If you can give a couple of hours a month to attend a Shabbat service led by a member who has devoted the time to prepare a meaningful service, then you have done vour part. If you devote two hours once a month to share a Saturday morning Torah experience with Rabbi Agler, you will be the better for it. If you can volunteer one hour once a month to assist our Sisterhood in preparations for our Shabbat onegs, you will be doing a mitzvah.

As we approach the New Year, please resolve to add your synagogue to your priority list. Please join your mishpocha in making the beautiful tree that we know as our KJCC continue to flourish and grow. And, hey, if you'd rather take out your checkbook and make a financial donation to make all of the above continue to happen, that also works!

of another vear. I don't know about you, but it seems that the time between lanuary and December seems to shrink a bit more each year. Do you remember when the whole world was faced with the challenge of going from 1999 to 2000? That was twelve years ago but seems like only last year. And the tiny little hand of my grandson that I touched on the day he was born, is almost three now and throwing a ball to his "Pop".

ere we are facing the end

These recollections are important because they teach us that while it is comforting to remember the past we must recognize the present as the foundation for the future. The old phrase, "You can never go back" is true. We can revisit old places and remember old times. but they are never really the same as when we viewed them through younger eyes. We hope that our experiences become the tools we use to develop our lives and careers.

Here at the KJCC, it is the collective experiences of a great deal of people that makes this congregation unique. A community of Jews, from other communities, that share their knowledge to make things happen from the bima to the social hall. It is not unusual for our members to reflect on how things were done at their previous

# Nosh

#### Thank You Barbara Knowles...

and Barbara Knowles Photography for the photos generously submitted to Chai-Lights for the November issue, especially those used in the remembrance of Jim Boruszak. Your photo credit was overlooked, but your contribution was not. Thank you.

#### And Thank You David Gitin

You supply so many photos of so many of the KJCC events, and you don't always get recognized. But you are appreciated, as are your photos. Thanks!

#### **Congratulations to KJCC member**

and Chai -Lights advertiser Stuart Grossman on being selected to the Florida's Best Lawyers 2013 Edition. This prestigious honor is extended to a select group of law firms each year. The firm of Grossman Roth, with five Florida locations, is celebrating its twenty-fifth year of service to its clients and the community.

#### **Brunch and Learn**

Sunday, December 30th at 11a.m. in the Social Hall, the Adult Education Committee will conduct a very special "Brunch & Learn" presentation with Rabbi Stephan Wylen, who is a close friend and colleague of Rabbi Agler. The topic of discussion will be "The Jews In The Time Of Christ." A light brunch will be served and everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact Gloria for additional information.

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to

The Schocket Family

on the death of Bradley Schocket

#### Mazel Tov!

The congregation is invited to attend the Bar Mitzvah of Mark Lieberman, nephew of Erica Lieberman-Garrett, on Saturday December 29th, 2012, at 10 a.m. Please join in celebrating this simcha with the



entire Lieberman family from Toronto as Mark is called to the Torah. Kiddish following.

#### Anniversaries

#### Years

| 5th  | Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein   | 23 |
|------|------------------------------|----|
| 8th  | Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs      | 59 |
| llth | Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner | 47 |
| llth | Jamie & Laura Goodman        | 7  |
| l4th | David & Pat VanArtsdalen     | 31 |
| l7th | Roger & Jessica Hernstadt    | 6  |
| l7th | Larry & Stephanie Gilderman  | 46 |
| 27th | Dave Mont & Georgia Landau   | I  |

#### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of

#### **Audrey Bloom**

by Muriel & Goerge Swartz

#### Yartzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of

#### **Claire Lempel**

6/19/1930 – 12/9/2008 Loving Wife, Mother & Grandmother

Linda Lempel Pincus and Family

#### **December Birthdays**

| IstBob Freu             |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| l stPaul H              |         |
| l stRachel L            |         |
| 2ndJoseph Burke Gro     |         |
| 2ndMarshall A           | . Field |
| 3rdJackie L             | .ePree  |
| 3rdRick M               | cNew    |
| 4thJan                  | Hartz   |
| 4thJogi Y               | eager   |
| 4thJudith               | Klein   |
| 5thJoseph               | n Beth  |
| 5thStua                 | rt Sax  |
| 6thGerald H             |         |
| 6thHaley Bo             |         |
| 6thKevin Gersh          |         |
| 6thLeslie Bo            |         |
| 6thNeal A. Jac          |         |
| 7thFranklin             |         |
| 9thGeorge S             |         |
| I0thHarvey R            |         |
| l0thSusan Green         |         |
| I I thSara Rose Frie    | dman    |
| I2thLilian F            | Forbes  |
| I 3thRobin Margulies Ju | langer  |
| 13thSarah Bo            |         |
| I 3thSusan W            |         |
| I 5thStepha             |         |
| l6thDia                 |         |
| l6thSamuel              |         |
|                         |         |
| I7thBruce Fo            |         |
| I7thJeffrey Sch         |         |
| 18thEmelyn Anne Ju      |         |
| 18thJerome Hor          |         |
| 18thLily                |         |
| 19thAaron S             |         |
| 19thDavid               |         |
| 20thAlan Schu           |         |
| 20thJennifer VanArt     |         |
| 20thTeresa K            |         |
| 21 stRoberta M          |         |
| 22ndLaura Molly Frie    |         |
| 22ndLisa                |         |
| 23rdRoger Herr          | nstadt  |
|                         |         |

#### **December Birthdays Continued**

| 26thSteven Smith<br>27thSteve Kasinof<br>28thElaine Schulberg |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                               |
| 28th Elaine Schulberg                                         |
| Zourne ochaber 8                                              |
| 28thEmily Sherman                                             |
| 28thIra Krieger                                               |
| 28thMichael Klimpl                                            |
| 29thJoan Stark                                                |
| 30thEllen Bloom                                               |
| 31stElliot S. Schenker                                        |
| 31stMichele Riley                                             |

#### Celebration of Life for Dr. Murray Cooper

On Sunday, December 23rd there will be a Celebration of Life for Dr. Murray Cooper. The service will be at 3p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by a reception in the Social Hall with Claire Cooper and her family. The entire KJCC congregation is invited to attend.

#### Holiday Open House Party

Please stop by for an open house celebration on Thursday December 6th, 2012 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Garrett Chiropractic and Wellness Center, MM 90 in Tavernier. See you there! - Erica

### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of

#### Jim Boruszak

by Mary Lee Singer 9/23/2012

#### Yartzeit Plaque Reserved For Ellen L. Coltman

#### Oneg Sponsors for December 2012

December 7th - Jan and Steve Hartz in celebration of Jan's birthday. Lauren and Stuart Sax in honor of Stuart's birthday.

December 14th - Linda and Joel Pollack..Happy Chanukah!

December 21st - Carol and Steve Steinbock...Wishing All A Happy Healthy 2013. December 28th - Amelia and Steve Kasinof to celebrate Steve's birthday. Erica Lieberman-Garrett to celebrate Mark Lieberman's bar mitzvah.

#### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of

#### **David Gulkis**

by Mary Lee Singer 9/22/2012

#### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of

#### Jim Boruszak

September 23, 2012 by Maryon Gould

#### TREE OF LIFE

Honoring Bradley Schocket

October 2012

Joel and Linda Pollack

#### **Memorial Garden Brick**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JIM BORUSZAK WHOSE LOVE OF & DEDICATION TO THE KJCC HELPED TO MAKE IT WHAT IT IS TODAY ALAN, CANDY & JOE STEVE & CAROL

#### We Are Going To Israel!

June 11th - 23rd of 2013. We will be lead by the very best tour guide possible, our very own Rabbi Richard Agler.

Dave Mont is happy to report that we have ten deposits with ArzaWorld and ten to go to meet our planned group of twenty participants. Please contact Dave Mont if you are planning to go or have any questions. Call 305- 393-9883 or email to moogoodave@yahoo.com.

#### Hurricane Sandy Relief

As many of our members have their Jewish roots in New York and New Jersey they have been especially moved to make a donation for Hurricane Sandy relief that will benefit Jewish Institutions as well as to all those suffering in this area. We have contacted the Miami UJA and they have a special fund for this purpose with 100% of the funds going to Sandy victims and nothing withheld locally. Sign on to the internet at *www.jewishmiami.org*, then press donation and enter the donation amount. In the "comment" box type "Hurricane Sandy Fund."

#### **Contact Us**

You can send comments, story ideas, photos Nosh items and announcements and any other information for Chai-Lights to: Chai-Lights -KJCC P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier FL 33070 or to chailights@keysjewishcenter.org.

# Learning With the Rabbis--Save These Dates

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, *Havdalah* Service and talk.

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, Rabbi Agler, *Shabbat* morning service and Torah discussion. December 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 – 1:00, Brunch and Learn, Rabbi Stephen Wylen: "Jews and Judaism in the time of Christ"

If you've never been part of a Saturday morning service and discussion with Rabbi Agler or heard the talks and Shofar blowing of Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, plan now to attend the above events. These men make our Torah come alive. Rabbi Wylen is an author and leading expert in his field. A friend of Rabbi Agler, he has volunteered to share his learning with us and we are grateful.

#### The Unveiling for Talia Faith Agler, z"l

Talia's unveiling will take place on Sunday, January 6, 2013 at 11 a.m. Temple Beth El Memorial Gardens4900 Griffin Road, Davie, FL. You and your family are invited. Collation will follow immediately after the service at: Old Davie School Historical Museum 6650 Griffin Rd. Davie, FL.

So that we might plan appropriately, kindly reply to Tovah at tovagler@gmail.com before December 26th and let us know how many we can expect to attend.

We would also be honored if you brought a story about Tali to share--for smiles, laughter or tears.

If you cannot attend and wish to send a story along, we would be grateful to receive that too.

With love, Rich, Mindy, Jesse, Tovah and Sarah

## **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 the 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 Stuart Sax, 305-586-8729.

**MEDITATION GARDEN:** Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

**PICTURE POSTCARDS:** We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

**ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR:** To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT 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 Georgia Landau, 305-393-9885.

**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. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, 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, Meditation Garden, Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

# A Casualty of the Storm

KJCC's Joyce Peckman sends us a first-hand account of the storm and what was lost.

Joyce Peckman

s news of the oncomina hurricane was broadcast, I made the decision to weather the storm with my step-mom, in Valley Stream, Long Island. The home where I grew up had been my family's evacuation destination twice during the 22 vears that we lived in Long Beach. Valley Stream was in the middle of Long Island, north of anv evacuation zones. Long Beach was a lovely, lively city



Residents of Long Beach, a city of about 33,000 on Long Island's southern barrier islands, are dealing with massive damage from Hurricane Sandy and the aftermath.

on a barrier island just east of the New York City limits.

As the winds rose, I was glad I had chosen to be with her. When the cable went out, taking with it her phone, TV and internet, I still had my laptop computer and Blackberry. We looked at pictures, played Scrabble and called friends. Then at 8 p.m., at the height of the storm, sudden darkness. We went to bed early, arose with the dawn and made breakfast on the gas stove. With no TV, and cell towers down, we relied on an ancient transistor radio to follow what was happening around us. Texting was our means of communication, it was their electricity back. We packed up and left for Jersey.

a life-line to

The next

night began

4 p.m. the light began to

not work

early when at

fade. The oil burner would

without elec-

tricity, and as

the tempera-

ture outside

45 degrees, it

dropped to

quickly got

cold in the

The next

New Jersey

had gotten

morning, I

received a text

that my kids in

dark house.

family.

There, on their large screen TV, we saw what had happened to our beloved Long Beach, NY. The block we had lived on, so close to the bay, was destroyed. Fire had taken seven homes nearby. In some places the storm surge reached 15 feet. Friends lost their homes and cars. But no one died. We began to get the details from my former shul. We heard how they came together to clean out the lower level. The oil burners were out. The sanctuary and social hall were OK. Synagogues were working together to communiThen I asked someone: What about our torah? cate with the National Guard and FEMA,. They were providing meals and information. People stayed to clean out and protect the property and to meet

with insurance adjusters and FEMA workers. Volunteers poured in, bringing clothing and helping to clean homes. A doctor and an IT expert came from out of town to volunteer hours of help. A group of mechanics flew in from Israel to assist. Website bulletin boards went up with pleas of "cars desperately needed," or "who has a home or room to rent? "

The local yeshiva was set up to provide information, shelter, food, clothing, emergency funds and a working laundry for those who needed it. All of the congregations joined for Shabbat services, and on Sunday arranged a community dinner followed by a concert. Water is running, and people are slowly getting back their electricity. They are exhausted and frustrated, but working together.

Then I asked someone: What about our torah? About 15 years ago my husband and his brother had rescued a small old torah from the back of an antique store in Brooklyn. It had been brought from Russia, and bore the marks of repair. The scribe they brought it to had said it was well over 100 years old, and showed how some parchments were vounger than others, with a slightly different handwriting. Probably it had been damaged during a pogrom, and repaired in that small Russian town. We had it restored, bought a new mantle, and dedicated it in memory of their father. It was carried, dancing, through the streets to the boardwalk and back to the temple, where the other torahs. cradled in people's arms, greeted it at the door. In recent years it was kept in the small

Beit Midrash on the ground floor, used during week-day prayers and sometimes brought to the home of mourners. On Simchat Torah it went upstairs to the main sanctuary, where my brother- in law proudly carried it around the aisles. What about our torah?

No one expected the storm flooding to be more than a foot or two. In all of the storm preparations, no one worried about the small ark in the beit midrash. The little torah had survived pogroms and a trip to a new land. It could not survive the fury of an angry ocean. Parchment and ink cannot be repaired from salt water inundation. No one died in Long Beach, NY. But that torah, and four others, were casualties. How do I mourn?

As many of our members, like Joyce , have roots in New York and New Jersey we have contacted the Miami UJA to find out how we can help with the Hurricane Sandy relief and recovery. They have a special fund for this purpose with 100% of the funds going to Sandy victims and nothing withheld locally. To donate, sign on to the internet at www.jewishmiami.org, then press donation and enter the amount you wish to donate. Make sure that in the "comment" box you type "Hurricane Sandy Fund."

# Sisterhood's Count Your Blessings Fundraiser

As we begin the New Year, and in the spirit of thanksgiving, the KJCC Sisterhood wants to recognize and appreciate all the blessings in our lives, both big and small. Please support our "Count Your Blessings" fundraiser by focusing on gratitude and help our Sisterhood projects.

Please check the blessings listed and make a donation for each. You are welcome to compose your own personal blessings by adding them below.

\_\_\_\_\_Today my family is healthy and well. My life is abundant and prosperous.

\_\_\_\_\_My friends support and love me.

\_\_\_\_\_I have a loving and supportive partner.

\_\_\_\_\_My grandchildren bring me joy and love.

\_\_\_\_\_Today I have reached out to others in need.

\_\_\_\_I love my job and the rewards it brings.

\_\_\_\_Today I received great news.

\_\_\_\_I am blessed to live in the Florida Keys.

\_\_\_\_Today I took care of my body and exercised.

\_\_\_I am not alone.

My own blessings\_



| Total number of blessing | s  |
|--------------------------|----|
| @ \$2.00 per blessing    | \$ |
| Additional Contribution  | \$ |
| Total Contribution       | \$ |

Please complete and return by December 31st to: KJCC Sisterhood PO Box 116 Tavernier, FL 33070

> Finally, a Fundraiser you do not have to attend!

⊗n Memoriam ∂ecember 2012

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Alex Avner

By Gloria Avner

In Memory Of

**Daniel Birnbaum** 

By Norbert Birnbaum

**Frances Bader** 

By Ivan & Jean Bader

In Memory Of

Arnold Biskar

By Rosie Biskar

Rose Beth

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake 

In Memory Of

Joseph M. Bloom

By Marc Bloom <><><>

In Memory Of

**Julius Kohlenbrener** 

By Joan Boruszak

In Memory Of

#### In Memory Of

Burton V. Boruszak

#### **Teddy Sharenow**

By Marc Bloom 

In Memory Of

Leatrice Tomor

By Barbara A. Calev 

In Memory Of

Edward Sandberg

By Claire Cooper 

In Memory Of

#### Harry J. Friedman

By Stephan & Jane Friedman 

In Memory Of

#### Edwin Jackson

By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman 

### David M. Orans

By Carol Field 

In Memory Of

#### Harry Wolfe

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson 

In Memory Of

Sylvia Sarah Grossman

#### By Stuart Grossman

In Memory Of

#### Morris Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin 

In Memory Of

#### Sidney P. Finklestein

By Max & Mildred Finklestein 

In Memory Of

#### Jeanne Schneider

By Maryon Gould 

In Memory Of

#### Dinah Levy

By Michal Kamely 

Chai-Lights December 2012 ||

### By Joan Boruszak

In Memory Of Eva Levine

By Barnet O. Coltman

In Memory Of

In Memoriam December 2012 In Memory Of

. . *.*....

In Memory Of

| Barbara K. Silverberg                    | William Kay                              | Gary Kreitman                            |  |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--|
| By Erwin Kantor                          | By Harvey & Joan Kay<br><><><><><><>     | By Marcia Kreitman<br><><><><><><><>     |  |
|                                          |                                          |                                          |  |
| In Memory Of                             | In Memory Of                             | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Claire Lempel                            | Ruth Greenwald                           | Raymond Martell                          |  |
| By Linda Pincus                          | By Paul & Susan Roberts                  | By Skip & Rene Rose                      |  |
| <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> |  |
| In Memory Of                             | In Memory Of In Memory Of                |                                          |  |
| Rhonie Lee Klipper                       | Sylvia L. Singer                         | Murray Blinder                           |  |
| By Mary Lee Singer                       | By Mary Lee Singer                       | By Steven & Barbara Smith                |  |
| <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> |  |
| In Memory Of                             | In Memory Of                             | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Peter F. Steinberg                       | Steve Cimkowski                          | Bernard Swartz                           |  |
| By Richard & Sheila Steinberg            | By Stephen & Carol Steinbock             | By George & Muriel Swartz                |  |
| <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> |  |
| In Memory Of                             | In Memory Of                             | In Memory Of                             |  |
| Iris Werthamer                           | Julius Kohlenbrener                      | Dinah Levy                               |  |
| By Robert & Heide Werthamer              | By Joan Boruszak                         | By Michal Kamely                         |  |
| <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> | <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> |  |

#### How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the treasures that lie between these covers." *Tree of Life Leaves*: We have two beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$50 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light." *Garden Bricks*: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. No one ever made tastier blintzes."

In Memory Of

### Sisterhood Lauren Sax

D eady, set, go!!! That is how I feel after a **N** summer and fall of planning meetings. Someone asked me why I haven't made Sisterhood announcements lately. My husband would disagree with me on this but I actually have had nothing worthwhile to report. I feel that when I get up in front of an audience I should have something meaningful to say. And to announce every Friday night that we are in the planning mode, just doesn't get it

in my mind. So I am happy to be able to say that after months of meetings, emails and countless phone calls, it is all coming together. We are entering that busy time of the year. Not only do we aet to see our snowbird friends and hear all about their summers, but we finally get to see the fruits of our labors.

So lets get going:

Our newest Blessings Fundraiser has generated much interest. As we approach the end of the calendar year, let us ponder what we are thankful for. If you haven't already done so, let us know your thoughts and be part of this unusual fundraiser while raising funds for your KICC. Look for the Blessings page. fill it out and mail it in so we can count you in.

By now the gift shop should be looking very festive. Susan and Roberta McNew (we are thrilled to have you back, Roberta!) have been busy reorganizing and displaying Chanukah merchandise. Over the summer Susan was fortunate to find a few ludaica companies with small minimums which have allowed us to shop wholesale. In this way we can pass the savings on to you as well. Take a peek and see the fruits of our labors.

Erica is waiting for cooks and bakers to

| SISTERHOOD OFFICERS FOR |
|-------------------------|
| 2013-2014               |

ASAP

President Barbara Knowles Treasurer Georgia Landau Vice President Jane Friedman Recording Secretary Roberta McNew We have also been plugging away on Sisterhood's Maior Fundraiser. I hope you will notice the date change. It has been moved to Saturday, January 19th at 6 p.m. at the KICC. We have decided to bring back our wildly popular Authentic Deli Nite. Our great, great food will still be the main event along

with the ever popular schnapps and we can't forget Bingo. New this year is a very unusual auction involving temple congregants. You won't want to miss this! The full page ad in this months Chai -Lights says it all and like the previous one, it should be a sell out so R.S.V.P A.S.A.P.

Lastly, one other big happening was choosing a new slate of officers for the 2013-2014 year. Huge thank-yous go to a congenial yet effective group of women who made up our nominating committee. They are: Susan Gordon, Linda Pollack and Carol Steinbock. The slate was brought to our November meeting where it passed unanimously. Installation will be Sunday, January 6.th This is a fabulous slate and I know everyone at the KICC will support them in the coming months. Now I have something to say!  $\diamond$ 

sign up for the Chanukah Pot Luck. It is hap-

Our Chanukah Dinner is always lots of fun

pening Saturday, December 14 that 6 p.m.

and the best part is there is no charge for

Linda and Joel Pollack. Any and all help is

most appreciated so please contact Erica

members thanks to a generous donation by





# **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.

| Bookplates                   | In Memory of             | Scholarship Fund                | In Honor of         |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Gould, Maryon                | Jim Boruszak             | Sax, Stuart & Lauren            | Rabbi Richard Agler |
| Singer, Mary Lee             | Jim Boruszak             | Sax, Stuart & Lauren            | Rabbi Ed Rosenthal  |
| Singer, Mary Lee             | David Gulkis             |                                 |                     |
| Swartz, George & Muriel      | Audrey Bloom             | Scholarship Fund                | In Memory of        |
| -                            | ·                        | Wohl, Milton & Joan             | Audrey Bloom        |
| Bookplates                   | In Honor of              | -                               |                     |
| Avner, Gloria Toby & David ( | Goldfinger's anniversary | Sisterhood Count Your Blessings |                     |
| Begam, Delores               | please pray for us       | Pollack, Joel & Linda           |                     |
| Hirsch, Gerald               |                          | Rose, Skip & Rene               |                     |
| Present, Marjorie            |                          | Steinbock, Steve & Carol        |                     |
| Rutkin, Linda                | Linda Pollack            | Line, Jonathan & Arlene         |                     |
| Rutkin, Linda                | Rene Rose                | -                               |                     |
|                              |                          | Sisterhood General Fund         | In Memory of        |
| General Fund                 | In Memory of             | Line, Jonathan & Arlene         | Jim Boruszak        |
| Avner, Gloria                | Jim Boruszak             | -                               |                     |
| Boruszak, Joan               | Bradley Schocket         | Sisterhood Oneg Fund            |                     |
| Collier, Shelby & Randie     | Jim Boruszak             | Peckman, Joyce                  |                     |
| Conklin, Rita & Wes          | Jim Boruszak             | Steinbock, Steve & Carol        |                     |
| Coral Harbor Condo Assoc.    | Jim Boruszak             | Gitin, David                    |                     |
| DeLuca, Anthony & Marie      | Jim Boruszak             | Knowles, Richard & Barbara      |                     |
| Goodman, Jamie & Laura       | Jim Boruszak             |                                 |                     |
| May, Robert & Karen          | Jim Boruszak             | Tree of Life                    | In Memory of        |
| McNew, Rick & Roberta        | Jim Boruszak             | Pollack, Joel & Linda           | Bradley Schocket    |
| Norris, Camille              | Jim Boruszak             |                                 |                     |
| Pollack, Joel & Linda        | Arnold Greenberg         | Yahrzeits                       |                     |
| Pollack, Joel & Linda        | Milton Rothman           | Avner, Gloria                   | Perren Gerber       |
| Pollack, Joel & Linda        | Audrey Bloom             | Dorf, Barry & Natalie           | Jack Dorf           |
| Present, Marjorie            | Jim Boruszak             | Steinberg, Richard & Sheila     | Rose T. Steinberg   |
| Rellin, Rosalie              | Jim Boruszak             | Steinberg, Richard & Sheila     | Joel S. Cohen       |
| Sachs, Joseph & Susan        | Jim Boruszak             | Steinberg, Richard & Sheila     | Saunders G. Cohen   |
| Sachs, Joseph & Susan        | David Gulkis             | Tallent, Lillian                | Samuel Tallent      |
| Schulberg, Alan & Elaine     | Jim Boruszak             | Temkin, Robert                  | Kenny Temkin        |
| Shutan, Alvina               | Jim Boruszak             |                                 |                     |
|                              | -                        | Yahrzeit Plaques                |                     |
| Meditation Garden            | In Memory of             | Boruszak, Joan                  | Jim Boruszak        |
| Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake  | brick - Jim Boruszak     | Coltman, Barney                 | Reserved            |
| Rose, Skip & Rene            | Bradley Schocket         |                                 |                     |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren         | Jim Boruszak             | Yizkor Book                     |                     |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren         | Bradley Schocket         | Olsen, Gerald & Sheila          |                     |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren         | Audrey Bloom             |                                 |                     |
| Steinbock, Steve & Carol     | brick - Jim Boruszak     |                                 |                     |

## YEDA VE'TORASHA Yardena Kamely



# Israel Series Part III: TVERYA - TIBERIAS

Tverya, Tiberias, is the old historically important city on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee (in Hebrew called the Kinneret), in the Lower Galilee. Established in 20 C.E., it was named in honor of the emperor Tiberius. Tiberias is Israel's lowest city at 200 meters below sea level. It is famous for its 17 natural mineral hot springs and has been attracting visitors for more than 2000 years. They came

the burial place of the Jewish patriarchs: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca and Jacob and Leah (Me'arat Ha'machpelah). Safed (Tz'fat) came to be regarded as a holy city after the arrival of Jews expelled from Spain in 1492, and became known as a center of kabbalistic scholarship.

Tiberias was significant in Jewish history as the place to where the Sanhedrin (the High

from every part of the ancient world, and in modern times this is one of the favorite places of the lsraelis because of



Court of Israel during the period of the Second Temple) relocated from Seppho-

the fresh water of the Kinneret and the hot springs.

Tiberias played an important role in Jewish history from the middle of the 2nd century C.E. to the 16th century, when it had been considered one of Judaism's Four Holy Cities. In Jewish tradition these are the cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed and, later, Tiberias, the four main centers of Jewish life after the Ottoman conquest of Palestine. Jerusalem has been the holiest city in Judaism and the spiritual center of the Jewish people since the 10th century B.C. where the Holy Temple stood on Har Moriah (the Temple Mount). Hebron is the second holiest city to Jews. It is ris. In the Mishnaic and Talmudic period, Tverya was an important spiritual center. The Mishna was completed in Tverya in 200 C.E. under the supervision of Rabbi Yehuda Ha'Nassi, Judah the Prince. The Jerusalem Talmud was compiled in 400 C.E.

After his death in 1204, the great Jewish sage Maimonides was buried in Tiberias. His tomb is on Ben-Zakkai Street, a short distance from the town center. Maimonides' tomb has become one of the most important Jewish pilgrimage sites in Israel. Considered among the greatest sages of the Jewish people whose analytical abilities are admired to this day, Maimonides, known as the Rambam, was



**Maimonides Tomb** 

also a physician to the Muslim ruler Saladin. He composed a special healers' prayer, the lewish equivalent of the Hippocratic Oath. which physicians often make a point of visiting the tomb to recite. Maimonides died in Cairo and his remains were later re-buried in Tiberias. The walkway to the tomb is symbolic - seven columns on either side are inscribed with the names of the 14 chapters of his famed codification of the Mishna. the Mishneh Torah, and a stream of water flows along the sides. (Maimon, his father's name, comes from the Hebrew word "mayim" - water.) A large metal structure over the tomb complex symbolizes a crown, indicating the great respect given to Maimonides in Jewish tradition.

Rabbi Yochanan Ben-Zakkai is also believed to be buried nearby. He was the youngest and most distinguished disciple of Rabbi Hillel. He has been called the "father of wisdom and the father of generations (of scholars)" because he ensured the continuation of Jewish scholarship after Jerusalem fell to Rome in 70 C.E.

According to tradition, Ben-Zakkai was a pacifist in Jerusalem in 68 C.E. when the city was under siege by General Vespasian. Jerusalem was controlled by the Zealots, people who would rather die than surrender to Rome (these are the same people who controlled Masada). Ben-Zakkai urged surrender, but the Zealots would not hear of it, so Ben-Zakkai faked his own death and had his disciples smuggle him out of Jerusalem in a coffin. They carried the coffin to Vespasian's tent, where Ben- Zakkai emerged from the coffin. He told Vespasian that he had had a vision (some would say a shrewd political insight) that Vespasian would soon be emperor, and he asked Vespasian to set aside a place in Yavneh (near modern Rehovot) where he could start a small school and study Torah in peace. Vespasian promised that if the prophesy came true, he would grant Ben- Zakkai's request. Vespasian became Emperor within a vear, and kept his word, allowing the school to be established after the war was over. The school Ben- Zakkai established at Yavneh became the center of Jewish learning for centuries and replaced Jerusalem as the seat of the Sanhedrin. (Source: "Judaism 101".)

Another shrine in Tverva is the Tomb of Rabbi Akiva. He started out as a poor ignorant shepherd, but became a great sage with 24,000 students, and a wealthy man. His wife Rachel, who married him against the wishes of her father because of Akiva's poor prospects, supported his career of study; theirs was a great love story. Akiva, who backed the second-century C.E. rebel leader Bar Kokhba. was put to death by the Romans with the Shema the last words to pass his lips. According to tradition, his body was miraculously transported to Tiberias for burial alongside his students who had died in a plague. His tomb. located on the mountainside behind the Kiryat Moshe neighborhood, overlooks Tiberias and the Kinneret, and has been a



**Roman Theatre** 



seated over 7,000 people. In 2004, excavations in Tverya conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority uncovered a structure dating to the 3rd century C.E. that may have been the seat of the Sanhedrin. By 535 Tiberias had been conquered by the Moslems; it became a prosperous mixed Jewish, Moslem and Christian city. An earthquake damaged Tiberias in 1033. Towards the end of the century the Crusaders conquered Galilee, and destroyed Tiberias. In 1998 an archeological treasure unexpectedly turned up, which tells

> us about the advent of the Crusaders, and what life in Tiberias looked like at this time. A huge metal treasure was discovered in three buried large

#### Roman Spas in Tiberias



storage jars. All in all there were 1000 rare objects; candelabras, lamp-stands, scissors, bowls with ancient Arabic writing and 58 Byzantine coins. Archaeologists think the hoard may have been of an artisan who had hid his money and stock when he heard warnings about a Crusader invasion. Important archeological sites have been destroyed by earthguakes that occurred in the Middle East throughout its history. Tverya, like other towns in the Galilee, has been severely damaged by earthquakes since antiquity. In the earthquake of 1837, Tiberias was almost totally destroyed. But archeologists believe that there are many more sites to be discovered under the city of Tverya in present time. ◊

The House of Dona Gracia

pilgrimage site at least since the early Middle- Ages. It became a special tradition to pray for

rain at Rabbi Akiva's tomb during drought years. Among those who visited here was

Rabbi Isaac Luria, the Ari, which made the site even more sacred. (Source: Israel Ministry of Tourism.)

The excavation of the 4th century Galilean synagogue at Hammat Tiberias in 1920-1 exposes a mosaic floor depicting a Zodiac panel, torah shrine, and menorahs, as well as a portable stone candelabrum.

Another interesting site to visit in Tiberias is the Dona Gracia Museum, which tells the story of Gracia Nasi who used her considerable wealth to save many Jewish refugees of the Spanish Inquisition and build a Jewish city in Tiberias. (Naomi Ragen wrote a fictionalized version of Dona Gracia's life, "The Ghost of Hannah Mendes"). The House of Dona Gracia is a unique hotel, cultural center, and museum combined into one house.

Israel is one big archeological site (in my view); with every step and you find yourself standing on a historical site. In Tiberias and surroundings, examples of interesting archeological findings are the pools or baths of hot springs that date back to Roman times. The Romans were masters in building water systems like the "Spas". In Tiberias, a 2,000 year-old Roman theatre was discovered; it 18 Chai-Lights December 2012





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### World Jewish Report Medina Roy



#### The "Yenta" App

If you are Jewish and single, there's a new, free iPhone application for you....it's called "Yenta." The app, which debuted in mid-September, uses GPS technology to track your location on your phone and show you a list of other Jewish singles in the vicinity. Creator Luba Tolkachyov created the program so that users can walk into a coffee shop and have the ability to scope out other lewish singles. It differs from the popular "IDate" because there is no need for a lengthy profile. The "Yenta" profile asks "How Jewish are you?," "What's your shtick?," and "What will impress your mother?" There are currently 10,000 users world-wide. (www.nypost.com, 10-11-12)

#### "Make Me a Match?"

Larry Greenfield, a Jewish multi-millionaire from New York, isn't having much luck finding his *bashert*. The 47 year-old securities trader has spent \$65,000 on six matchmakers over the past twelve years. He's had 250 dates but no luck. His ideal match? He's looking for a "beautiful, thin, smart Jewish woman with a sense of humor and from New York ... but not an 'alpha'." One of Greenfield's recent dates suggests that perhaps he is the problem. Hmmm......Ya think? (*www.jta.org*, 10-12-12)

#### The "Jewish Indiana Jones"

A federal judge in Manhattan sentenced Rabbi Menachem Youlus of Maryland to 51 months in prison plus three years probation for defrauding contributors to his tax-exempt "Save-a-Torah" Foundation. He was also ordered to pay almost one million dollars in restitution to his victims. Youlus, 51, the selfproclaimed "Jewish Indiana Jones," was found guilty of peddling what he falsely claimed were Holocaust Torah scrolls. He maintained that he repeatedly risked his life to rescue these Torah scrolls and bring them out of Poland, Ukraine, Germany and other areas of Europe where millions of Jews had been annihilated during World War II. A sofer (Torah scribe). Youlus pleaded quilty back in February to mail and wire fraud and admitted fabricating his thrilling adventures. He said that he had found holy relics at concentration camps, in monasteries and in mass graves. however passport records indicate that he never even traveled to Europe. According to prosecutors, Youlus bought old Torahs from local dealers and resold them at a profit. The prosecutors alleged that he used his outlandish tales to raise \$1.4 million for his charity. He also solicited donations from bar and bat mitzvah children and diverted the money to his personal use. The case against Youlus was launched after a lanuary 2010 article in The Washington Post Magazine exposed his outlandish tales. More than 50 of his supposed Holocaust Torahs made their way to congregations in the Washington area and beyond, with synagogues holding emotional ceremonies to rededicate the scrolls for worship. (The Washington Post, 10-11-12

#### "Stumbling Memorial"

A group of neo-Nazis vandalized several "stumbling block" Holocaust memorials in the former East German city of Greifswald. The vandalism took place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom. German artist Gunter Demnig created the *Stolpersteine* (literally, "stumbling blocks") project in the mid 1990s, after hearing an elderly woman deny that there were ever any Holocaust victims in her town. The blocks are actually brass-covered stone plaques – each engraved with the name, birth year and fate of murdered Jews - which Demnig placed outside the homes where they had lived before the Holocaust so that current residents and people passing by would be confronted on a daily basis with a memorial to Hitler's victims. Since 2003, more than 30,000 of these plaques have been installed across Germany and in other European countries. Demnig was awarded an Obermayer German Jewish history award in 2005. The award honors non-Jewish Germans for their contribution to recording or preserving the Jewish history of their communities. (*The Forward*, 11-11-12)

#### WAZE and Hurricane Sandy

As reported in an earlier edition of Chai-*Lights*. about 30 million mobile app users rely on Israel's WAZE, a "crowd-sourced navigation app" used for directions when driving. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the White House saw an opportunity to use this app following wide-spread gas shortages as a result of the devastating storm. Government agencies asked WAZE to help figure out where to send gasoline trucks in New lersev since many gas stations had no power or were unable to open. Within an hour, WAZE had a system up and running allowing users at a gas station to report on conditions there, indicating the availability of gas and how long one would have to wait on line. The WAZE app also displayed pins on its maps highlighting gas stations that were open. WAZE relayed hundreds of messages back to both FEMA and the White House and sent the data along to Google's Crisis Maps which collected disaster resource information. After opening up a line of communication with New Jersey residents, WAZE heard from users in Staten Island and Long Island, who also complained of gas shortages. WAZE then expanded its reporting program to those affected areas and turned that information over to the government, helping them target more gas stations. Amber alerts and rerouting traffic around trouble spots are additional opportunities where a system like WAZE can work with government agencies. In future crisis situations, this type of program

could play an even bigger role in restoring order, gathering information and providing need. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-12-12)

#### An Official Apology

Sixty years ago, Perry Brickman was thrown out of Emory University's dental school in Atlanta, Georgia because he was lewish. Now, the retired oral surgeon has returned to the university and received an official apology. University President James Wagner offered a public *mea culpa* to Brickman and other lewish students who faced anti-Semitism at the school between 1948 and 1961. The apology was partially due to Brickman's research about Emory's former discriminatory policies which are detailed in his documentary film, "From Silence to recognition: Confronting Discrimination in Emory's Dental School History." Emory University has come a long way since those days. Deborah Lipstadt, a distinguished American historian (and my childhood play-mate), is a professor of Modern lewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory. She created the Institute for lewish Studies at Emory and was its first director from 1998 to 2008. She currently directs the website known as HDOT, Holocaust Denial on Trial, www.hdot.org. (www.jta.org, 10-12-12)

#### In Memoriam

-Henry Friedlander, Holocaust scholar and survivor of Auschwitz, has died. He was 82. Through his research. Friedlander established the significance of Hitler's mass murder of the disabled as a precursor to the Holocaust. He is best known for his book, "The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final solution," which detailed the role German doctors played in the development of the gassing process of prisoners. Unlike other scholars who focused their research on the experience of the victims. Friedlander stressed the nature of the crime itself. He concentrated on and thoroughly researched the so-called "euthanasia" program that preceded the evil medical experiments performed by physicians such as losef Mengele. Hitler issued a direct order in 1939 that established six killing centers for non-Jewish Germans who were defined as "life unworthy of living" and "useless eaters." These individuals included the physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped and they were killed because they were an embarrassment to the Nazi idea of the master race. Gassing became the preferred method because starvation and lethal injections proved to be too slow. Seventy thousand were killed in the Nazis' euthanasia program. Friedlander taught history in the department of Judaic studies at Brooklyn College for over 25 years. He also edited the 26-volume series, "Archives of the Holocaust." (The Forward, 10-23-12)

-Arlen Specter, long-time moderate Jewish Republican senator from Pennsylvania who broke with his party and joined the Democrats in 2009, died recently at the age of 82. Specter served 30 years in the Senate, the longest-serving Senator in Pennsylvania history. He began as a Democrat, switched to the Republicans and returned to the Democratic Party in 2009. Specter became disillusioned with the Republican Party as it moved to the right and grew more conservative, especially on social issues and health-care funding. He knew when he voted for President Obama's stimulus bill that he was signing his political death warrant but he strongly believed that the country desperately needed the relief the bill would provide. His crossover helped secure passage of the President's health-care reforms. As a young assistant Philadelphia district attorney in 1964, Specter served on the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. (The Jerusalem Post, 10-14-12)

#### Did You Know...

-"Homeland," the popular *Showtime* series that was named 2012's best drama series at the 64<sup>th</sup> Emmy Awards ceremony at the end of September, is based on the Israeli television series, *"Hatufim."* The series also won Emmys for Best Actress (Claire Danes) and Best Actor (Damian Lewis), along with Best Writing. *(www.jta.org, 9-24-12)*  -The world's largest Jewish center – it has more space than Windsor Castle – opened in October in Dnepropetrovsk in south-east Ukraine. Shmuel Kaminetzky, Chief Rabbi of the town said, "In 1941, on *Simchat Torah*, 11,000 Jews were massacred by the Nazis in Dnepropetrovsk. To be able to open...in the memory of those that died was very important." The town has a Jewish population of 50,000. (www.thejc.com, 10-18-12)

-The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress will have ten Jews in the Senate (eleven if you include Senator Michael Bennet, (D-Colorado) who does not identify a religion but notes that his mother is Jewish and a Holocaust survivor) and twenty-two in the House of Representatives, a decline from the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress when there were 12 Jews elected to the Senate and 27 elected to the House in 2010. Five Jewish members of Congress are retiring. Jews make up roughly two percent of the U.S. population. (*www.jta.org, 11-7-12*)

--Mel Brooks, 86, has been named the recipient of the 41<sup>st</sup> American Film Institute's (AFI) Life Achievement Award and will receive the award in June 2013. Brooks, prolific writer, director, producer and actor is best known for his classic films, "Young Frankenstein," "Blazing saddles," "The Producers," and "Spaceballs" to name just a few. "He's a master of an art form that rarely gets the respect it deserves...," said Howard Stringer, chairman of AFI's board of trustees. Brooks is only one of 14 entertainers to have been awarded a "grand slam" of prizes in the arts an Oscar, an Emmy, a Grammy and a Tony. He began his career as a stand-up comedian in the Catskills and as a writer on the classic early 1950s comedy variety series "Your Show of Shows." (www.latimes.com, 10-5-12)

- Although it's three years away, the Israel Space Academy will host the 2015 International Astronautical Conference. Selected to host the conference by the International Astronautical Federation, Israel was chosen over her counterparts in Mexico, Thailand and Turkey. In recent years, the event has attracted over 3,000 scientists from around the world. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 10-7-12) ◊

# **Photo Gallery**

(Below) Gloria Avner stands near one of her new paintings, "Butterfly Koi" (and old favorite "Portrait of a Poet") at the first gala Key Largo Gallery Opening event of the Season. (by David Gitin)



(Left) Rabbi Agler leads us in Kiddush after a wonderful late October Saturday morning service while Pauline looks on. (photo by David Gitin)

(Below) Gloria Avner, Bernie Ginsberg, and Yardena Kamely get excited about possibilities for creating a Jewish folk dance program after Deli Night. If only they could remember the steps to that lovely tune "Mizerloo." (by David Gitin)





(Right) Rabbi Ed Rosenthal holds up the Challah for HaMotzi after services Nov. 2nd, while Rabbi Ed's Hillel students, our guests for the weekend while they do reef restoration volunteer work dives, look on along with Steve Steinbock and David Goldfinger. (Photo by David Gitin)



(Right) Erica Garrett plays piano as Pauline Roller and Linda Pollack light the Shabbat candles on November 2nd. Erica went on to lead the service.





Saturday evening, November 3<sup>rd</sup> was a very special evening. In addition to the tem-

peratures being a bit cooler and the humidity being low, the skies were clear and the stars as bright as jewels. This made for a special setting for our Havdalah service which was led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal who was visiting with his Hillel students from Eckerd College in Tampa. They call themselves the "Scubi Jews" and were here to help in the Keys Coral Restoration Project and

stayed at the KJCC over the weekend.

Following the Havdalah service everyone retired into the social hall where we were treated to ice cream sundaes and a most inspiring discussion by Rabbi Ed titled, "What's Your Sign? An Introduction to Jewish Astrology." We shared thoughts on the mysticism of what we know as common astrology and

> the ancient basis of following the stars and how the zodiac signs relate to the Hebrew calendar. It was an evening as sweet as the ice cream sundaes and we look forward to future visits from Rabbi Ed and his students. Upon departure the Scubi Jews left notes of thanks on the classroom board and left

the place cleaner than when they arrived.





November 16th saw the GAL Dinner which is sponsored by Voices for Florida Keys Children. In the photo at left are Wes and Rita Conklin. The photo below features Linda Pollack, Rene Rose, Mary Lee Singer and Maryon Gould.



Why is this happy couple smiling so hard? They came to temple in time for Rabbi Agler's Shabbat morning Kiddush and shared with us the news that they are winners (we knew that)! After participating in the 5K walk race for the benefit of Mariner's Hospital, Dave Mont received the first place medal in his age category and 2nd place medal overall. Georgia Landau came in second in her category. We have amazing people in our *mishpocha*. *Mazel Tov*! (Photo by David Gitin)



Thankful for warm coats! Pauline Roller at a Thanksgiving parade in Plymouth, MA where she spent the holiday with the Dr. Steve Smith family. Dr. Smith gets credit for the photo.

# MORE THAN A MIRACLE – THE DREIDEL ADDS UP

#### Gloria Avner

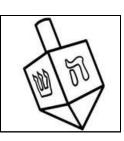
We all know that the letters on the sides of our Chanukah Dreidel stand for "Nes Gadol Hayah Sham," "A great Miracle Happened There." When we spin our dreidel, if it topples Shin side up, we put a coin in, if Nun, we get nothing. Hay brings us half the pot and Gimmel gets us all the gelt. What we may not know is that the game was devised for use as camouflage when Torah study became punishable by death under the reign of Antiochus; young scholars hid in caves to study, telling any Greek soldier who discovered them that they were simply playing a gambling game. Put this knowledge together with Gematria, a system of assigning numeric values to each of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet and calculating values of words and phrases, and the dreidel changes from a toy to a whole and holy book.

Gematria was used largely by kabbalists, who excelled in attributing Divine Significance to everything around them. We are most familiar with its use in the word "Chai," or "life" whose letters add up to 18, a number which has become, in some multiple, the basis of most Jewish gift giving.

Here's how we know what to add. The first 10 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet, Alef through Yod, are valued from 1 to 10. The second set of nine letters, Kaf through Kuf, counting in tens, are valued from 20 to 100 and the last three, Reish through Tav, counting in hundreds, are valued at 200 to 400. The letters on our spinning top, Nun (50), Gimmel (3), Hey (5), and Shin (300), add up to 358.

Here are just a few of the meanings associated with the letters and corresponding numbers of our Chanukah dreidel (shared by a writer named Rivka Berman),

One mathematically minded rabbi found that the phrase "God is king, God rules and shall rule" totals 358. The number 358 also equals the numeric value of Mashiach, the Jewish Messiah, who will bring upon the world a time of redemption. Mashiach is spelled: Mem =40, Shin = 300, Yud =10, Chet = 8.



God may rule, but Evil too gets its due in the Chanukah Gematria battleground. This scenario is replayed with every dreidel spin. Three of the letters have the same value as the Hebrew word for snake, nachash, Nun (50), Chet (8), Shin (300). Beginning with the story of Adam & Eve and the forbidden fruit, the snake became the Jewish anthropomorphic representation of evil. Every time a dreidel ends its spin, evil (nachash - snake) falls. When evil stumbles, God's goodness triumphs.

Students of Kabbalah, who thrive on finding and interpreting symbols, read the dreidel as a comment on the struggle between the rational, physical, and spiritual forces within everyone.

Which one will win out?

There are soaring moments when the soul dominates, when corporeal material desires carry more weight, when cool calculating logic rules, but nothing compares to the harmony of all aspects working together.

As the song says: "Chanukah hu chag tov. Sivivon, sov, sov, sov." Chanukah, though the newest of all our holidays, is a good one. Watch that little dreidel, spin, spin, spin.

Chag Sameach. We are entering the darkest time of the year. May we all experience a joyous and illuminating Chanukah.

# KJCC Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 14, 2012 Dairy Dinner 6:00 PM

Followed by return of our favorite Chanukah Play: "The Flying Latke"

Services at 8 pm Contact Erica @ (305) 853-1003 hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your spot and coordinate your dish.

Donations -Members: no charge NonMembers: \$18

# Channukia Basics – Let Your Light Shine

#### Gloria Avner

The candles should be arranged in a straight row, and should be of equal height. The *sham-ash*—the "helper" candle that kindles the other lights—should be placed apart from the rest (higher, outside the row, etc.). Some people put the their "Chanukiah" in a window or doorway opposite the Mezuzah, so the light is visible to the world, evidence that God can make great miracles. Light the candles after nightfall, bringing illumination into the darkest time of the year.

On the first night of Chanukah one light is kindled on the right side of the Menorah. On the following night add a second light to the left of the first and kindle the new light first, proceeding from left to right, and so on each night.

The third blessing is chanted only on Day One. The first two blessings are chanted on all eight days, starting Saturday evening, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

1. Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam A-sher Ki-de-sha-nu Be-mitz-vo-tav Ve-tzi-vanu Le-had-lik Ner Cha-nu-kah.

**2.** Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-a-sa Ni-sim La-avo-te-nu Ba-ya-mim Hahem Bi-zman Ha-zeh.

**3.** Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-heche-ya-nu Ve-ki-yi-ma-nu Ve-higi-a-nu Liz-man Ha-zeh.

בְּרוּהְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הְעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קַרְּשֶׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצְוֵנוּ לְהַרְלִיק נֵר חֲגָבָּה. בְּרוּהְ אֶתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשְׁר נִסִים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בּזְמַן הַזֶּה. בְרוּהְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֶלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֵיֵנוּ וְקַיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעֵנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה.

# Unexpected Treasure -- the Gansa Megillah

Gloria Avner

T he KJCC received a very special gift this month. Thanks to Marc Kravit, a friend of Rabbi Agler's from Boca Raton, we now have our own *Megilla*t *Esther*. We will read from it this Purim. It is a beautiful, genuine sheepskin hand-calligraphied scroll, decorated with elaborate hand-drawn "crowns" over special words, particularly the word "*melech*" as it appears repeatedly on the top line. The origin and history of this *megillah* is unknown as yet, but detective work has begun. One of the most interesting and unexpected pieces of new information to come

from this gift is the discovery

Bernie Ginsberg's grandfather's brother was a scribe. Bernie's greatuncle learned

Bernie practices chanting from our new Megillah. We will all participate in the mitzvah of hearing the stpry direct from the scroll this coming Purim, thanks to Marc Kravit's gift.

בערב היא נאה ובבקר שני אריד שעשגז סרים המכ לא תבוא עור אל המלר כי אם בעים ובהגיע תר אסתר בת א אשר כקח כו כבת כבוא אל ה כי אב את אשר יאמר הגי סו אל המכר אחש

Even without vowels, the writing is so clear it can fairly easily be read . The "crown" decorations over special words and letters are elaborate and beautiful.

Lo.m.

The gift of a megiiah, handscribed by quill and lampblack ink, on sheepskin



his craft at a Yeshiva in Europe, sat in a room with other scribes on the lower East side of New York, made his own ink out of "lampblack," and took a year to "write" a *Torah*. There is more to tell; the story will continue in a future issue.

For now, we are purely grateful for Marc Kravit's generous donation and we need to protect it. The scroll is without a cover. What a per-

fect opportunity for someone to come forward and honor a loved one. Research reveals that a lovely cylindrical holder for the scroll, crafted from hardwood, can be ordered for slightly over \$200. Please contact Linda, Stuart, or Gloria if this *mitzvah* calls to you.

We trust that Mr. Kravit will visit us in the near future so we can thank him in person. Meanwhile, we wish Marc a hearty "Todah Rabah" from the entire congregation, his new KJCC "mishpocha." ◊

Photos by David Gitin

# Our Russian Cruise Between Moscow and St. Petersburg

#### by Gene Silverman

ur long-awaited trip to Russia really started at JFK airport in the late afternoon, last August 21<sup>st</sup>, when we met up with Elaine and Alan Schulberg. The four of us had been planning this special river cruise in Russia for what seemed an eternity.

After our non-stop overnight flight to Mos-

cow, we were met (at the surprisingly modern airport) in the morning by some of the staff from the River Victoria (the name of the ship we would be aboard) and transported there via a very interesting ride through Moscow itself. Moscow seemed to be made up of huge tenement apartments, skyscrapers and people, and had more cars than anywhere we had ever seen. There are over 300.000 new cars sold there every vear, with no place to park them. (What we didn't know just then was that the four of us would be snarled in that famous traffic three days later for more than three hours.)

Early the next day having lost the previous evening to jet lag - we were ready for Moscow,



Gene, Mort, Elaine, Alan at St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

so we joined the ship's tour for a panoramic view of the city. Moscow had been founded in 1156, during the lifetime of Maimonides. We passed by the Kremlin (the word translates as a major fortified complex – or, in easy terms, a fort), the Bolshoi Theater, KGB building, Red Square, Gum (pronounced GOOM) Department Store and the House of Government. Then we started walking in Red Square, which is bordered by St. Basil's Cathedral (with its

famous colored onion domes), Lenin's Mausoleum and the Moscow Museum. The square was being decorated with huge grandstands for a celebration to take place in one week, so its enormity wasn't really apparent. But the people selling (or hawking) merchandise were very apparent.

It was difficult to come to the realization that we were really in Red Square and there were no soldiers, no one carrying a gun (that we could see) and no one shooting at us, and that we were made to feel very welcome. It was a strange sensation after being brought up with the Cold War.

Then the four of us left the tour to have lunch on Arabat Street in a local



Elaine, Alan, Mort just outside the entrance to Moscow's Red Square.

restaurant. at which we were the only Americans. Actually we were the only people who spoke English. which made readina the menu (thank heaven for pictures) a stretch. Then the auide we had hired met us and off we went. with our own private van and driver. We had planned for this because

Uzbekistan

we wanted to see the oldest and largest remaining synagogue in Moscow. The Moscow Choral Synagogue is beautifully preserved and it was a treat.

It is Orthodox, with seating upstairs for the women, of course. The synagogue is located near the former Jewish settlement in

#### Bemah at the Moscow Choral Synagogue.





Moscow Choral Synagogue Altar

Zaryadye, a historic district established in Moscow in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1881, the community had hired architect Semeon Eibuschitz, an Austrian citizen working in Moscow, to design their grand synagogue. You will not be shocked to hear that authorities often stalled its construction, either disapproving plans or finding excuses to de-

mand that completed sections. such as the outer dome and sculptures of the scrolls containing the Ten Commandments. be removed. Years passed. Eibuschitz died in 1898. In 1905. during the first uprising against Tsar Nicholas II and the Russian aristocracy, the government was forced to remove all bans



Alan, Elaine, Mort on the Kremlin's grounds.



Holocaust Sculpture at the Memorial Synagogue at Poklonnaya Gora in western Moscow.

against religious worship. So another architect, Roman Klein, was hired by the Jews of Moscow to finish the synagogue's construc-



tion. It opened in 1906, and actually operated all through the Soviet period. In one famous episode, in 1948, newly appointed Israeli Ambassador Golda Meir annoyed the Soviets by attending Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services there. In recent years the synagogue, having outlived Tsars and Soviets, has been restored.

What we didn't know before visiting the synagogue was there is a Holocaust Memorial in a park there, complete with unbelievable metal sculptures. The rabbi at Moscow Choral, who was warm and

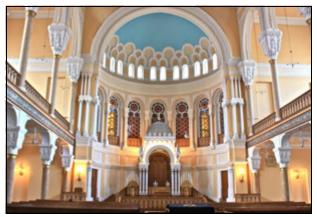


Memorial Synagogue sculpture Tombstone portion.

welcoming and couldn't do enough to help us, volunteered to lead us (with our guide Katerina, who is a Fulbright Scholar) to our next stop, the Memorial Synagogue at Poklonnaya Gora.

Poklonnaya Gora, on the western fringes of the city, is the point at which the Red Army, in the winter of 1941-42, halted the invading German forces on their march to

Additional sculpture of everyday items of Jewish life at the Memorial Synagogue garden.



Grand Choral Synagogue interior, St. Petersburg.

Moscow. Oversized tank barriers and a monument had marked the location for some years, but as the fiftieth anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War approached (their term, not mine), a large memorial complex was created to commemorate the war dead. (More Russians died in World War II, at least 20 million, than all other nationalities put together.) A museum is at the center of the site, flanked by a Russian Orthodox church, a mosque, and a synagogue. Near an arch celebrating, ironically, a previously unsuccessful attempt at invading Russia – that by Napoleon – stands a mindnumbing sculpture.

On your left one family begins a curving line of stark and gaunt people, stripped of all clothing - depicting the systematic attempt to also strip away their dignity – trying to shield the eyes of the young from the horror. It has at its forefront a child about 12 or 13 in front of his mother; her hand is over his eyes. The father is behind her, with his arms over his wife and his hand over his child's heart. The memorial is huge, at least four times lifesized, in metal and so powerful it literally took our collective breath away. Behind this one family stand other families, all in a curved long row, standing and waiting, naked, to be executed. In the silence, you can almost hear the Shema being tearfully chanted.

As the line stretches into the distance and curves around to the right, the figures become less and less distinct. They begin leaning back more and more precariously. The etched lines of their bodies fade as those bodies become more and more rectangular. The forms break through a high wall. And as you follow the line of shapes you slowly realize that you are no longer looking at human bodies, but at gravestones. The sculptures, of the metal gravestones, are all tilting backwards, with different inscriptions in different languages depicting all who perished. Scattered, in another two sculptures on the floor, are everyday items showing the normal life that had in virtually a moment been taken away from them. Their hats, glasses, dolls, toys, teeth, and praver books lie on the ground behind them.

It was shocking. Emotions welled up in all four of us, beyond any hope of control.

The rabbi, who had stayed with us, then took us into the synagogue and explained the contents of each glass-encased memorial exhibit, all intended to portray a part of Russian Jewish history. There are two main sections, one depicting elements of the Holocaust, and one showing Jewish participation in the World War II defense of Mother Russia, both in tradi-

#### Alan & Mort at the St. Petersburg Choral Synagogue.



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Interior of the St. Petersburg Choral Synagogue.

tional combat units and also as partisans, either in wholly Jewish bands or together with various irregulars, peasants and provocateurs who regularly harassed and sabotaged the German forces behind the front lines.

After spending the afternoon at Moscow's Grand Choral Synagogue, the memorial and then this synagogue, we walked through a very large, beautiful park to our van. I think we were all very grateful to be out in the sunshine after such a deep, sorrowful experience. Then we got caught in that infamous Moscow traffic. OY VEY – it was four times worse than anything we've ever been in (including Chicago and California).

The next day we went with the ship's tour for a ride on the Moscow subway. WOW – marble statues at each stop, with marble ceilings, floors, walls and marble benches. (Lots of marble.) What a ride – it's about 14 stories underground and the escalator ride back up is an engineering marvel plus a ride that rivals anything at any amusement park. You have to hang onto your tummy and not look back. Then we were in downtown Moscow, ready to see the Kremlin. Inside (remember, Kremlin means "fort") there are many, many buildings, often now used for governmental offices. They're but a part of the Kremlin palace complex, which includes four palaces, four cathedrals, the official residence of the President of Russia and a very large collection of office buildings. There's also a cannon that was never fired and a bell that was never rung.

The Armory, huge and exhausting, is home to Moscow's oldest and most prestigious museum, which boasts a staggering collection of Tsarist artifacts, Russian and foreign jewelry and medieval armor. The museum has been open to the public since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Upstairs the first two rooms contain Russian gold and silver from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards, a sumptuous collection of jewelry, tableware, icons and decorative objets d'art. The large case of Fabergé eggs – created as presents to be exchanged between the Tsar and Tsarina every Easter – is probably the

> The bemah of the St. Petersburg Choral Synagogue.



highlight of the collection. The famous Fabergé eggs are hinged, and inside are jewels of every description.

We had made special reservations ahead of time to visit the Diamond Vault on Saturday. Because of its smallish size, visits to the Diamond Vault are limited. But as anyone who knows us can imagine, this was a must see for us, and Elaine and Alan were more than happy to accompany us on this expedition.

There was literally no traffic on Saturday morning, as many Muscovites had already driven to their suburban or country dachas the day before. Prior to our appointment, we stopped by a grocery store, which was in a very old building with amazing ceilings; it was clean and very diversified, with counters of fresh vegetables, fruits, breads and even a display of matzos. What a shock to see them. (The matzos, not the fruit and vegetables.)

In 1967 the Diamond Fund (Vault) of Russia opened up in the Moscow Kremlin Armory. It contains a world-famous collection of



Alan & Elaine at Peterhof Palace, St. Petersburg. elrv. diamonds and rare precious stones. There are over 900 extraordinary large, natural uncut diamonds: "Free Russia" weighs in at 241.81 carats. "The Star of Yakut" at 232 carats: the largest, "The 26<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party" diamond. weighs 342.57 carats. The Impe-

artifacts. iew-

rial jewelry collections of Peter



Gene at Peterhof Palace, St. Petersburg.

The Great, Empress Catherine II (1762), Emperor Nicholas II (1896), Alexander I – plus tiaras, crowns, necklaces, brooches, earrings and military awards, badges and medals – are all on display. According to experts, there are only three world-famous collections: the crown treasures of Great Britain, the treasure of the previous Shah of Iran and this – the Diamond Fund of Russia.

What a fabulous morning. But we had to return to the ship, as it was leaving for our next stop - Uglich.

Between Moscow and St. Petersburg we would go through 17 locks. Uglich is some 80 miles away from Moscow, and in between are beautiful parts of rural Russia. A canal links the Moskva River to the Volga and we were heading north.

Up till now the weather had been sunny, clear and relatively warm, but we were notified that soon the weather would be changing - RAIN!

This afternoon onboard ship they were having a blini presentation and we all decided that we weren't going to miss it. We hadn't been going to their lectures, as the lecturer was very difficult to understand. But blinis – we were in! And they were yummy.

Lake Onega is the second-largest lake in Europe; it's fed by 58 rivers and has 1,369 islands surrounding it. It is a great inland sea, similar to the Great Lakes, and can get very rough. In the middle of it stands Kizhi Island, where all the buildings are made of wood. The island has no trees (not a surprise since, hello, everything is built from wood) and it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Russian settlers came here in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but started erecting the cathedral in 1714 in commemoration of Peter the Great's victory over Sweden. The entire cathedral was built without the use of nails. (Think about that.)

We were met in St. Petersburg by the partner of our very capable Moscow guide. She came with the car and driver and then we were off to see Peterhof Palace and Gardens, have lunch there on the grounds and then take the Hydrofoil back. Our driver would meet us at the dock and then we'd be off to see the Choral Synagogue of St. Petersburg.

The interiors of Peterhof Palace were breathtaking. The Grand Palace at Peterhof had been designed to be the centerpiece of Peter the Great's "Russian Versailles." As builders of great palaces sometimes do, Peter died in 1725 before Peterhof was finished. The project was almost abandoned, until his daughter Elizabeth came to the throne in 1740.

The fountains of Peterhof are one of Russia's most famous tourist attractions, drawing millions of visitors every year. The most famous ensemble of fountains, the Grand Cascade, comprises 64 different fountains, and over 200 bronze statues, bas-reliefs, and other decorations.

The St. Petersburg synagogue was built after a building permit was granted in 1869 by Tsar Alexander II himself, who first had to agree to lessen the restrictions on Jewish residence in St. Petersburg. (You know, inside the Pale of Settlement.) He had been petitioned by the leader of the Jewish community, one Evzel Ginzburg, a major supplier of the Russian Imperial Army. It was Moorish in style. Bombed by the Nazis during the siege of Leningrad (St. Petersburg) during World War II, the synagogue survived and enjoyed a major reconstruction beginning in 2000.

Now we were really exhausted, so back to



Elaine at rear of Peterhof Palace, St. Petersburg.

the ship because the next morning we were off early for a tour of the Hermitage, and then in the afternoon out again with our private guide for a tour of St. Petersburg itself.

The Hermitage was founded by Catherine the Great in 1764 and has been open to the public since 1852. Its collections, only a small part of which are on permanent display, comprise nearly three million items, including the largest collection of paintings in the world.

You stand before paintings that look very, very familiar. And there are no barriers; you are not separated by ropes or set back in any way. You are, literally, nose-to-nose with French neoclassical, impressionist and post-Impressionist art, including works by Renoir, Monet, Van Gogh and Gauguin. There are also paintings by Camille Pissarro (Boulevard Montmartre, Paris), Paul Cézanne (Mount Sainte-Victoire), Alfred Sisley, Henri Morel, and Degas. In her lifetime Catherine acquired 4,000 paintings from the old masters, 38,000 books, 10,000 engraved gems, 10,000 drawings, 16,000 coins and medals and a natural history collection filling two galleries.

It was almost too much for the senses. We were on overload and it was still morning. After a pleasant lunch we were ready to see St. Petersburg, which is very much like Venice, thanks to Peter the Great's vision. It was built literally in the middle of nowhere in essentially what was a swamp. He brought in the finest architects from Italy, the greatest decorative artists from Europe and the most celebrated painters and gave them free rein. It really is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

We set off with our guide for Nevsky Prospect, a St. Petersburg street famous for strolling, shopping and eating (just what we didn't need). The weather was sunny, almost balmy, and it seemed that everyone was out walking around. We of course had to stop in their local, upscale grocery store and check out their prices for Beluga or Servuga caviar, which were way beyond what we remembered.

Now were off to see St. Isaac's Cathedral, built between 1818 and 1858 to be one of the most impressive landmarks of the Russian Imperial capital. The Cathedral was originally the city's main church and the largest cathedral in Russia. One hundred and eighty years later the gilded dome of St. Isaac's still dominates the skyline of St. Petersburg.

We learned that Russian Orthodox churches do not have seats or pews. Their services are done while the congregation stands, which could be for more than three hours. We also learned that people just don't stand in one place. They walk around and chat with their families, friends or neighbors.

The next day we were ready to see Catherine's Palace – or so we thought. The morning started out with pouring, driving rain, but this time we were on the bus with the ship's tour. And, unbeknownst to us, you couldn't park a big bus close to the Palace. But we wanted to see the famous Amber Room and Palace so off we went with the group. (Lots of palaces, I know. Next time we'll go into the Pale and do the miserable shtetl tour. Catherine's Palace is named after Catherine I, the wife of Peter the Great, who ruled Russia for two years after her husband's death. She is not to be confused with Catherine the Great.)

We spent that afternoon, our last in Russia, on the ship. We had to pack, as our luggage was being picked up during the night; our flights home were very, very, early the next morning.

Up and out at 4:30 a.m., we were ready for the trek home. Silly us. We thought that since the Moscow airport was so modern that St. Petersburg's would be the same. No - no - no.

It is a throwback to the 50s. (Supposedly they are building a new one.) We had made it to the airport in record time, but our flight to Paris didn't leave until 7:20, so there was nothing to do but stand around. But that was after Alan and Elaine had to literally chase around to get their leftover rubles changed into dollars. They first had to go through a security set-up, then go up a escalator that wasn't working at this early hour, get the monies exchanged, come back downstairs. go through security again and then wait in line for the counter to open. Then we all had to go through another security check, even though we hadn't left the place we were in, and then board a bus to the plane for the short ride to Paris. Thank goodness our connection was close to where we deplaned and left within two hours. And we landed in Miami riaht on time.

We loved Russia, the river cruise and being with Elaine and Alan, and look forward to cruising again with them. Stay tuned for our next adventure.  $\Diamond$ 



Gene and Mort at Mandrogi, a reconstructed village along the Volga River.

# Plan Now to Be Part of the Special KJCC Trip to Israel June 11-23, 2013, a Trip To Be Led by the Best Tour Guide Possible — Our Own Rabbi Richard Agler.

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### Tour features:

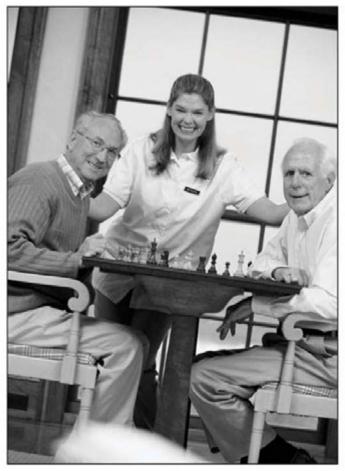
- -10 nights hotel accommodations;
- -18 meals: 10 Israeli buffet breakfasts, 2 lunches and 6 dinners;
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### Tour highlights:

-Old City of Jaffa and a stroll through the artists' colony and the ancient port; -A visit to Safed, the center of Jewish mysticism since the 16th century; -The stunning Bahai Gardens & Shrine; -A visit to Yad Vashem.

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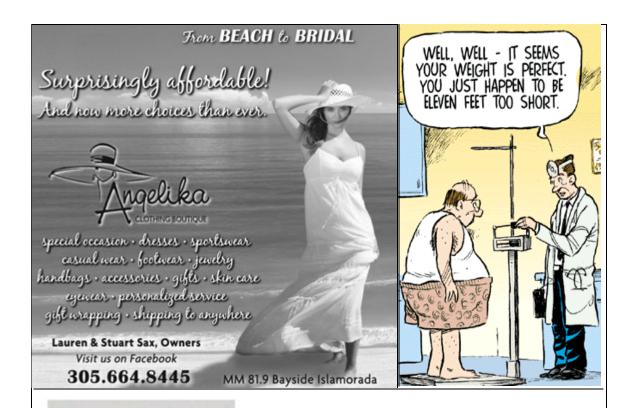


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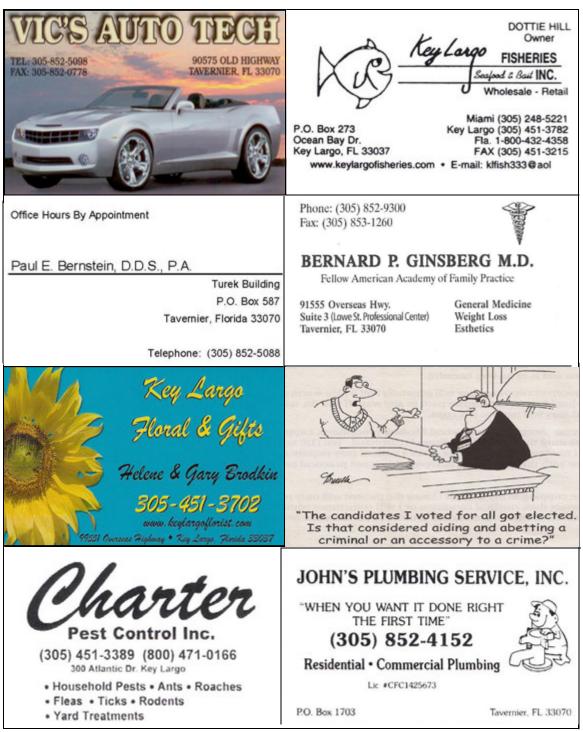
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