

Chai~Lights



January 2013

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

January 2013

19 Tevet - 20 Shevat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur <i>Amelia & Steve</i> <i>Kasinor</i> <i>Arline & Jonathon</i> <i>Line</i>	5
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors.</div>						
6	7 Sisterhood Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8	9	10	11 Joyce Peckman <i>Joan Boruszak</i>	12
13 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Kaskeset 12:30 p.m.	14	15	16	17	18 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Patti & David</i> <i>Gross</i> <i>Carol & Steve</i> <i>Steinbock</i>	19 Authentic Deli Nite 6:00 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25 Steve Steinbock & Steve Hartz 6:30 Service <i>Carol & Steve</i> <i>Steinbock</i>	26 Shabbat Service with Rabbi Agler Chai- Yaking
27	28	29	30	31		

2012 - 2013 Officers and Board

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President's Message Stuart Sax



I cannot begin to tell you how many times a member of our congregation pats me on the back and tells me what a great job I am doing. While I am flattered with the compliment, I am troubled with the reference to the job "I" am doing.

This is not a solo act but an ensemble cast of seasoned veteran players who bring decades of knowledge and expertise to our Board meetings. There is not one member on the KJCC Board that does not contribute or carry their fair share. Everyone is opinionated at times and that is a good thing. We discuss. We sometimes border on arguing. But in the end, we resolve our issues and choose the solutions that are in the best interests of the congregation at large.

Some temple Boards often hide behind the excuse that synagogues in general operate with an annual deficit and that is acceptable because they, in fact, are non-profits. That thinking is both dangerous and counterproductive. Thankfully, your KJCC Board researches, compares, and prioritizes our needs to keep us fiscally responsible and, most of all, to keep our dues and fees at a most affordable level. Do you realize that our dues are much the same as they were ten years ago? That does not happen by chance. It happens through intense

discussion and dedication.

As we move into this new year, I will again ask each and every one of you reading this column to look at your involvement in this congregation. Become more a part of who we are and what we have become. If it means the addition of attending just one Shabbat service each month, I assure you that it will be worth it. And if you have not indulged in a Saturday morning Torah service and discussion with Rabbi Agler, then you are missing something that we as a congregation have wanted, needed, and asked for for decades.

Later this month, your Sisterhood will be knocking themselves out again with a major fundraiser aimed at having a wonderful social evening of food, fun, games, and auction items all to benefit YOU! Additional information on this event is inside this month's Chai-Lights.

And that leads to another consideration. The events that Sisterhood undertakes and the various committees that make the KJCC operate so efficiently takes people. You don't have to be an officer or board member to make things happen. Consider serving on a committee of your choice. It helps all of us.

Nosh

In Memoriam - Kurt Kluger

The KJCC has recently lost not only a long time member but an avid fisherman, a dear friend, and an active member of the Board for many years. Kurt was the chairman and major force behind our Scholarship Committee awarding dozens of scholarships over the years and often presenting them at the local high school graduations. May fond memories serve as a comfort to his family.

Save The Dates

Thanks to Rabbi Agler's generosity, we have the opportunity to participate in Shabbat morning services and study Torah once each month. These learning sessions are warm, stimulating, informal, interactive, and fascinating as well as educational. You don't want to miss even one. Mark your calendars: January 26th, February 9th, and March 16th; all start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Oneg Sponsors for January 2013

January 4th - Amelia and Steve Kasinof in honor of their anniversary, Arline and Jonathon Line to celebrate the birthday of Crue Lamarche.

January 11th - Joan Boruszak - Happy New Year!

January 18th - Patti and David Gross to honor Alvin's birthday. Carol and Steve Steinbock in Memory of Karen Hayhurst.

January 25th - Carol and Steve Steinbock to celebrate Carol's birthday. Jessica and Roget Hernstadt to honor their anniversary.

Rock at the Foot of the Tree of Life

In Honor of

Alvan Field

Beloved Husband

Devoted Father

Adored Grandfather

November 2011

Leaf for the Tree of Life

In Honor of our very dear friend

Maryon Gould

November 2012

Linda Pollack

Rene Rose

Mary Lee Singer

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."

January Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Sanford & Nancy Yankow.....23
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof.....32
8th	Steve & Luzviminda Levine.....5
12th	George & Muriel Swartz.....33
17th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg..... 20
23rd	Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld..... 64
26th	David & Pamela Marmar.....28

Kaskeset In Concert

A very special matinee performance of world renowned A Cappella group, Kaskeset, will be held on Sunday, January 13th at 12:30pm at the KJCC. This performance is sponsored by Stuart & Lauren Sax in association with the Adult Education Committee. The concert is free for all KJCC members, \$18 for non-members. A reception will follow the concert. See page 14 for more details.

January Birthdays

1st.....	Jerry Olsen
1st.....	Justin Wade Gilson
1st.....	Laura Goodman
2nd.....	Sherrie Willner
2nd.....	Stanley Rosenberg
3rd.....	Crue LaMarche
4th.....	Howard Gilson
4th.....	Randi W. Freundlich
6th.....	Janice Gorson
6th.....	Stanley Margulies
8th.....	Jessica Hernstadt
8th.....	Matthew Barrett
8th.....	Roger Levy
9th.....	Cathy Rakov
9th.....	Deborah Beinfest
9th.....	Sarah Kamely
10th.....	Nancy Yankow
11th.....	Michelle Zinner
12th.....	Alex Dutton
13th.....	Amy Nobil
15th.....	Charlie Horowitz
15th.....	Heather Gilson
15th.....	Jamie Goodman
15th.....	Jill Taksey
16th.....	Brieze Levy
16th.....	Donald Zinner
17th.....	Andrea Kluger
17th.....	Neal Rakov
17th.....	Suzi-Sarot Feder
18th.....	Barry Alter
18th.....	Henry Isenberg
19th.....	Benjamin Friedman
19th.....	Mark Kanarek
19th.....	Sandy Seder
20th.....	Mary Terner
22nd.....	Sheila Olsen
24th.....	Stuart Grossman
26th.....	Carol Ann Steinbock
26th.....	Marshall Kaplan
27th.....	Beth Hudson
27th.....	Pat VanArtsdalen
28th.....	Yardena Kamely
29th.....	Beth Kaminstein
29th.....	Jeffrey Boruszak
30th.....	Kristen M. Schur

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 Gardens 4900 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

Yartzeit Plaque

Alvan Field

Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather
You Will Live Forever
In Our Memory
November 15, 2011

Serving Plates Needed

Your Sisterhood is in need of glass serving dishes and plates. If you have any you would be able to donate for use at the various food oriented get-togethers, please contact Sisterhood or Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

Leaf on the Tree of Life

In Honor of
Brittany Leanne Schur
Bat Mitzvah
11/17/2012

*by Lee Schur, Grandma
Larry & Elizabeth Schur, Parents*

KJCC Arza World, Tour of Israel, June 11-23, 2013

Led by the best tour guide possible - our own Rabbi Richard Agler.

Why visit Israel? Because it is like no other place on earth. Whether you have never been or whether it feels like a second home, Israel always has something new to teach and something new to experience.

But Israel is no ordinary destination. Israel gives Jewish visitors the gift of living Jewish heritage. For Christians, the Holy Land deepens faith and understanding. For all people, a visit to Israel helps us to understand the mysteries of the world we live in.

Come and see the vibrant culture, the historical treasures, the exotic sights, the extraordinary people. I promise you Israel will be a journey unlike any you have ever taken.

Join me with the KJCC—This year in Jerusalem!

-Rabbi Richard Agler

We have ten deposits with ArzaWorld (contact.arzaworld.com, search word - keys / or call 888-811-2812), and ten to go to meet our planned minimum group of twenty participants.

Please contact Dave Mont if you are planning to go or have any questions at moogoodave@yahoo.com or call him at 305-393-9883.

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.

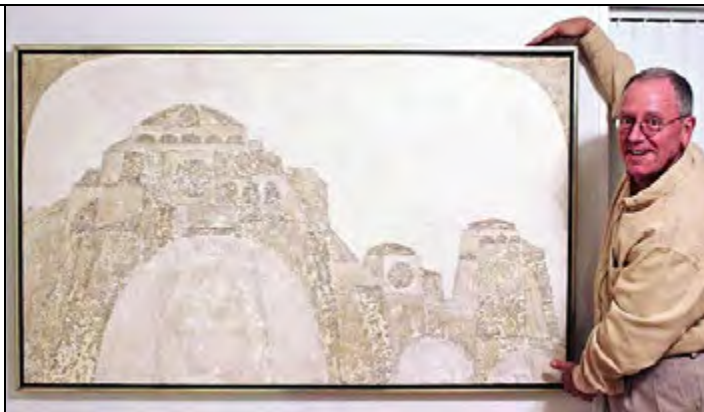
CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to make your donation.

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.

Coming Upon The Stones of Time

An original work by Fred Terna being auctioned to benefit your KJCC Sisterhood



FRED TERNA BIOGRAPHY

Fred Terna is a Holocaust Survivor who learned in 1945 after spending four years in the concentration camps, that he was the only survivor of his family.

Following the war he spent time in Paris before immigrating to the United States in 1952. His recollections of time spent during the Holocaust became the inspiration for many of his works of art.

At age 89, he is currently teaching at the New School of Art in New York City on "Art In Jewish Life".

Fred Terna on his work:

This imaginary version of the Temple in Jerusalem is one of several paraphrases on the subject. It also is about transformation of themes. Once, far back in my past, I found myself in a difficult state. I was painting one execution wall after another. Later, for reasons I'm not sure of, the word wall made me think about the West Wall in Jerusalem. I started sketching, and eventually made a painting. Then followed the question of what was the structure behind the wall. In later paintings I added gates to the wall. I had found a way of painting myself out of anguish into serenity.

There is, today, fairly good information about the Temple and the Temple Mount built by King Herod, and destroyed by the Romans. My Temple paintings are pure invention. I'm omitting traditional perspective, light source, the usual methods of representation, taking the subject matter out of space and time.

"Coming Upon The Stones Of Time" Value - \$9,000.00

The measurements for the painting are: 61 ½ inches wide x 38 inches high

The above piece of incredible artwork is one example of the auction items to benefit the Sisterhood of the Keys Jewish Community Center. This will be in conjunction with our Authentic Deli Nite.

DATE:	January 19, 2013
TIME:	6:00 P.M.
Cost:	\$25.00 by 1/11/13 \$30.00 after 1/11/13
R.S.V.P.	Georgia Landau 305-393-9885

Sisterhood Lauren Sax



I hope those of you who attended our Chanukah Dinner enjoyed yourselves and I am sure you got plenty to eat! As usual Erica labored in the kitchen and I applauded her as well as all those who helped from start to finish with the dinner. Also, a big thank you to Linda and Joel Pollack for sponsoring.

Don't forget our Authentic Deli Nite Dinner on January 19th. Our last Deli Nite was two years ago and this one will be even better than the last. Besides the mouthwatering foods, there's Bingo and a fabulous live auction that will be like no other we have had at the KJCC. Only 80 tickets are being sold so pony up and call Georgia to reserve your seat.

It is good to see our snowbirds back and I am happy that we are one big *mishpocha* again. I want to remind everyone that our calendar still has plenty of available dates to sponsor an oneg. Contact Joyce Peckman as it is a mitzvah to celebrate an anniversary, birthday or even a homecoming.

Remember gift shop when it comes to Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and all gift giving needs. Our gift shop is fully stocked with new merchandise so contact Susan Gordon, Roberta McNew or Medina Roy as they will be happy to assist you.

With extremely mixed emotions I find myself at the end of my last column as KJCC Sisterhood President. I was always so proud to stand up in front of my congregation be it at services, dinners or fundraisers and be the one who represented such a wonderfully dynamic group of women. Below are excerpts from my remarks at my last Sisterhood meeting as president.

"I would like to thank all of you for a most rewarding and gratifying two years as Sisterhood President. Thank you to my executive board, my committee chair people, past

presidents and volunteers. You have all been there for me in one way or another. You ALL have helped to make me look extremely good and at the same time helped me to accomplish the various goals I had for Sisterhood."

In the two years during my tenure, our gift shop is now fully stocked and we are making a nice profit, our oneg sponsorships continue to grow, we have had seven Shabbat Dinners, we have kept up with our traditional Break The Fasts and added Erev Rosh Hashana Dinner, served Purim brunches, had two successful major fundraisers, conducted two Sisterhood Shabbat Services, socialized at two amazing Sisterhood Teas, orchestrated capacity filled women and family seders, purchased a new refrigerator for the religious school, remodeled the ladies bathroom and have purchased a new ice machine for our kitchen.

I am grateful for all your hard work, great efforts and guidance but most of all your friendship. To that end, Stuart and I will be hosting the February 1st oneg as a way of saying "Thank You" to you and the rest of the congregation. I hope you will join us and at the same time give yourselves a much deserved pat on your backs!"

I couldn't end my tenure without acknowledging my wonderful husband. Stuart, I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for your love, support and for always being there for me!

As my favorite singer, Kenny Loggins sings, "This is it." I wish the new Board and all of you a good, happy and a very fruitful 2013! It was an extreme pleasure. ♦

Contributions to KJCC

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

General Fund
Pollack, Joel & Linda

In Honor of
Georgia Landau's recovery

Tree of Life
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Rose, Skip & Rene

In Honor of
Maryon Gould
Maryon Gould

General Fund
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Sachs, Joseph & Susan

In Memory of
Bradley Schocket
Audra Bloom
Wendy Sue Reiff
Barbara Levine
Todd Levine

Schur, Lee
Singer, Mary Lee

Brittany Leeanne Schur - bat mitzvah
Maryon Gould

Rabbi and Cantor Fund
Silverman, Mort and Gene

Sisterhood "Count Your Blessings"
Grossman, Elinor
Kaplan, Myra
Steinbock, Carol

Yartzeit
Boruszak, Joan
Boruszak, Joan
Coltman, Barney
Coltman, Barney
Krissel, Michael
Krissel, Michael
Kwalick, Teresa
Kwalick, Teresa
Riley, Michelle

In Memory of
Buron Boruszak
Julius Kohlenbrener
Robert Coltman
Eva Levine
Deborah Cannon
Joseph Krissel
J. Carryl
Barry Kwalick
Abraham Travers

Sisterhood Oneg Fund
Pollack, Joel & Linda

In Honor of
Anniversary

Yizkor Book
Kamely, Michal

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 \$75 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."

KJCC Gift Shop

New Merchandise for a
New Year!



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



For further information contact:

Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

Medina Roy (305) 852-3872

Roberta McNew (305) 522-0643

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



The Twelve Million Dollar Man

Jewish baseball player Kevin Youkilis has been offered a one year contract with the New York Yankees worth twelve million dollars. Youkilis will play third base, replacing Alex Rodriguez who won't play until next June because of hip surgery. Before a trade to the Chicago White Sox this past June, Youkilis played his entire Major League Baseball career for the Boston Red Sox where he was a three-time All-Star. He also earned a Gold Glove and a World Series championship in 2007. Youkilis was scheduled to play for Israel at the World Baseball Classic this past March but Israel ended up losing to Spain in the finals of the qualifying tournament. Youkilis, along with New York Rangers forward Jeff Halpern and New York Knicks forward Amare Stoudemire, are the Big Apple's pro athletes with Jewish heritage. (*The Forward*, 12-12-12)

A Genizah Burial

At the end of November, a funeral was held for Jewish holy books destroyed and/or damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The funeral was held in Far Rockaway, New York, an area that experienced some of the worst damage from the storm. The funeral consisted of a caravan of three trucks carrying prayer books, bibles, volumes of the Talmud and other holy books damaged in the storm in New York and Long Island. It was a mass *genizah* burial (*genizah* is the Hebrew word for "storage"). Holy books and ritual objects containing the name of G-d that can no longer be used are buried in a special area of a Jewish cemetery, given the honor of a funeral because of their holiness. According to *halacha* (Jewish law), objects containing the name of G-d cannot be destroyed. Thousands of books were collected for the event and

after the funeral, the books were taken to a Jewish cemetery in New Jersey for burial. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-28-12)

Vanessa Redgrave

Vanessa Redgrave, Oscar-winning actress and longtime critic of Israel, will portray a Holocaust survivor in a play that will run off-Broadway. The 75-year-old Redgrave who is remembered for attacking "Zionist hoodlums" during her Academy Award acceptance speech in 1978 (and still remains an outspoken advocate of Palestinian causes), will star in "The Revisionist," which will open in February 2013. In her most recent stage performance, Redgrave played another Jewish character, Daisy Werthan, the title character in the 2010 Broadway revival of "Driving Miss Daisy." Redgrave won her Oscar for playing an anti-Nazi activist in the 1977 film "Julia," the same year as "The Palestinian," a documentary about the PLO which she financed and narrated.

(www.timesofisrael.com, 9-21-12)

Two for Your Netflix List

Two Israeli films are on the Academy Awards' short list in the Best Documentary category: "5 Broken Cameras" and "The Gatekeepers." Co-directed by Palestinian Emad Burnat and Israeli Guy Davidi, "5 Broken Cameras" documents Burnat's chronicle of his non-violent resistance in the West Bank village of Bil'in to the actions of the Israeli army. During the course of five years, each of Burnat's five cameras was destroyed by the Israeli army, each camera telling a portion of the story. The film won the documentary director's award this year at the Sundance Film Festival. "The Gatekeepers," is a collection of interviews with six former directors of *Shin*

Bet, Israel's secret counterterrorism agency. Israeli film director Dror Moreh convinced all six men who ran the agency from 1980 through 2011 to speak publicly for the first time about their work. The two films are among the 15 finalists selected from 126 films in the category. The list of five finalists will be announced on January 10th. The Academy Awards ceremony is scheduled for February 24th. (www.latimes.com, 11-25-12 and www.jta.org, 12-5-12)

Improving Lives

The founders of Israel's Arava Power Company launched Energiya Global Capital, a new company to develop solar fields outside of Israel delivering green energy to 50 million people mostly in developing countries. Yosef Abramowitz, Arava's president and co-founder said, "We have a moral and strategic interest to end the burning of oil for electricity production worldwide by harnessing solar energy while also improving the lives of tens of millions of people." The company is scheduled to break ground in Rwanda, the Galapagos Islands and Romania by the second quarter of 2013. (www.jta.org, 11-28-12)

"Turning Art into Abomination"

A Swedish art gallery in the city of Lund has cancelled the exhibition of a painting made with the ashes of Holocaust victims. Protests by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and a variety of Jewish groups and organizations convinced the gallery owner to pull the exhibit of the painting by Carl Michael von Hausswolff. "Mr. von Hausswolff, you, like the Nazis' use of human skin for lampshades and fat to produce soap have similarly twice murdered the bodies that were once the ashes you have desecrated, turning art into abomination," said Shimon Samuels, director of international relations of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "Hitler, as an aspirant painter, would have surely applauded." Von Hausswolff took the ashes during a 1989 visit to the crematorium at Majdanek, which, during its 34 months in operation from 1941 to 1944, claimed approximately 79,000 lives, the vast majority of them Polish Jews. Von Hausswolff

mixed the ashes with water to create the monochrome painting "Memory Works." The painting features vertical brushstrokes that he said represented the suffering of the victims. (www.upi.com, 12-11-12)

A Bar Mitzvah for Birthright

More than 300,000 young Jews from 59 countries (mostly from the United States and Canada) have gone on the 10-day free trip to Israel with the Taglit-Birthright Israel organization (*taglit* is the Hebrew word for "discovery"). Birthright is celebrating its bar-mitzvah, having been established 13 years ago by Jewish philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt in collaboration with the Israeli government and a variety of Jewish organizations. The founders were concerned that due to the rate of intermarriage for American Jews (more than 50%) and the aging generation of Jews who experienced the Holocaust, Jewish young adults appeared to show little interest in Judaism and the Jewish state. The Birthright experience has shown that the trip sparks a stronger sense of a Jewish identity among participants. (www.onlinewsj.com, 11-1-12)

A Year of Nice Jewish Guys

It's not too late.....you can still order your "2013 Nice Jewish Guys" Calendar. The calendar has no buff, shirtless firemen but it does consist of a collection of twelve average-looking Jewish guys with good jobs possibly making a Jewish mother *kvell*. Created by Adam Cohen, the producer of the Food Network's TV show, "Cupcake Wars," Cohen got the idea in 2010 after joking with friends about how calendars only feature sexy firemen or pin-up beautiful women. He felt that nice Jewish guys deserve and should also get some attention. You can get the calendar online for \$7.99. (www.huffingtonpost.com, 12-4-12)

A Lifetime Achievement

French filmmaker and producer Claude Lanzmann, best known for his 1985 documentary "Shoah," will be honored in February with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the

2013 Berlin International Film Festival. Born in Paris to Jewish parents, Lanzmann, 87, fought in the French resistance. "Shoah," the nine-and-a-half hour documentary, took nearly twelve years to make. It includes interviews with Holocaust survivors and footage taken at various death camps. The film has come to be known for, among other things, conveying a feeling of hopelessness by the constant repetition throughout the film of the sound of the trains going to the camps. When the film was first screened, the Israeli Defense Forces brought large numbers of new recruits to the theater, using it as an educational tool.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-30-12)

In Memoriam

-Leah Gottlieb, a Holocaust survivor born and raised in Hungary who, along with her husband Armin, founded Gottex, a successful international swimwear business, has died. She was 94. Gottlieb was born and raised in Hungary. She hid from the Nazis with her young daughters while her husband was sent to a forced labor camp. After the war, the couple lived for a short time in Czechoslovakia before moving in 1949 to the new Jewish State. In Hungary, Armin's family was in the raincoat business, but in sundrenched Israel, the business was not profitable and so they switched their focus to swimwear. Leah sold her wedding ring in order to buy a sewing machine and some fabric to start a new life in Israel. It was her colorful designs that caught the attention of fashion conscious consumers. Elizabeth Taylor and Queen Elizabeth II were both outfitted in Gottex for beachwear. The author of a book on Gottex said, "Leah came up with an idea no one before had thought of: to inject glamour into women's swimsuits and beachwear." (*The Forward*, 11-21-12)

-Vladka Meed, a Jewish Resistance fighter in World War II who smuggled weapons into the Warsaw Ghetto, has died at the age of 90. Vladka (she was born Feigel Peltel), managed to live outside the ghetto, passing as a gentile with her Aryan looks and fluent Polish. "To remain a human being in the ghetto one

had to live in constant defiance, to act illegally," she once said. "We had illegal synagogues, illegal classes, illegal meetings and illegal publications." She became a courier of weapons materials and also managed numerous times to smuggle Jewish children from the ghetto, taking them to live with non-Jewish families. She was a courier for the Jewish underground hiding documents in her shoe. Vladka married Benjamin Miedzyrzec (the name was later changed to Meed), another resistance member and soon afterwards, they were on one of the first boats carrying Holocaust survivors to New York. The Meeds arrived in New York in 1946 with eight dollars between them. In 1948, she wrote "On Both Sides of the Wall," one of the first eyewitness accounts of the Warsaw Ghetto and the desperate uprising. Benjamin started an import-export business and eventually served on a board that helped establish the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. In the 1980s Vladka began training teachers in Holocaust education and took them on three-week programs to Israel and Poland, including visiting death camps and Warsaw. In 1981, Meed and her husband helped found the *American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors* and assisted in compiling a national registry of Jewish Holocaust survivors that is now maintained by the USHMM (*The Washington Post*, 11-22-12)

Did You Know...

-Issur Danielovitch, aka Kirk Douglas, turned 96 on December 9th. (*The Forward*, 12-11-12)

-The cover of the December 10, 2012 issue of TIME Magazine features a portrait of Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. The photo was taken by Israeli photographer Nadav Kander. (*The Forward*, 11-29-12)

-According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, average life expectancy in Israel has topped 80 years. In the 2005 - 2009 survey, Ra'anana, a wealthy Jewish city in the center of the country, had the highest average life expectancy of any city in Israel: 85.5 years. (www.haaretz.com, 12-7-12) ◇

K A S K E S E T



A very special matinee performance of world renowned A Cappella group, Kaskeset, will be held on Sunday, January 13th at 12:30pm at the KJCC. This performance is sponsored by Stuart & Lauren Sax in association with the Adult Education Committee. The concert is free for all KJCC members, \$18 for non-members. A reception will follow the concert.

Kaskeset was founded in 1996 under the auspices of Hillel at Binghamton, becoming the first and only Jewish A Cappella group at Binghamton University. Over the past 16 years, Kaskeset has accomplished much. Most notably, Kaskeset recently became the first Jewish A Cappella group to advance to the semi finals of the International Collegiate A Cappella Competition. The group was also granted a Contemporary A Cappella Recording Award for best world-song; "Mima'amakim" and has performed with Grammy nominee Cantor Bruce Benson.

All of their songs are performed A Cappella, meaning without instrumental accompaniment. The group sings four to fourteen part harmonies, creating a vocal band ambiance using only the human voice and body. Members of the group come from all over the country, with unique backgrounds and observances. Kaskeset offers an extensive repertoire of music addressing or pertaining to Judaism and its values, sung in Hebrew and English. The genres include choral works, rock, liturgy, pop, Israeli, humor, and everything in between. Ultimately, what unites and defines all of them is a love and dedication to Jewish music!

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to president@keysjewishcenter.com by January 9.

BUDAPEST'S DOHANY STREET SYNAGOGUE

By Joyce Peckman

This October Susan Ellner and I embarked on a delightful river cruise that began in Budapest, Hungary. Since I am not allotted 50 pages here, I want to share with you only a bit about our time in Budapest.

We arrived two days early, totally jet lagged, checked into our room overlooking the Danube and the former royal castle across the river, and decided that our first priority the next day would be to visit the historic Great Doheny St. Synagogue. In the 18th Century Jews were banned from Budapest so they established a Jewish quarter just outside the old city boundary. Remains of the old Pest city walls run on the opposite side of the road. By the mid 1800's, during the time of the Enlightenment when science and commerce flourished, the late Austro-Hungarian empire somewhat relaxed its restrictions on Jews and encouraged cultural assimilation.

Most Jews spoke Hungarian, and although they lived in a mandated ghetto, they were free to travel and work throughout the city. Neo-log Judaism developed in Hungary, maintaining orthodox rituals



The Dohany Ark



Joyce and Susan in the courtyard of the Dohany Street Synagogue.

with separation of men and women, but adding organ music to the service. (The musician of course was a hired Christian, since playing an organ would violate the Sabbath.)

The Great Synagogue opened in 1859. It is the largest in Europe, seating 3000, and is truly magnificent. Walking toward it from the main shopping streets, we saw a beautiful Moorish structure with two onion-shaped domes sitting on twin towers, symbolizing the two columns of Solomon's Temple. We paid our admission, passed through security and several small souvenir stands, and entered a huge and gorgeous temple. The style of the Dohány Street Synagogue is Moorish but its colorful interior design is like a Byzantine basilica, with three spacious aisles, richly decorated walls, ceiling and columns, two



Above and right: Interior of the synagogue

caust. We did not go upstairs to the women's balconies, which are seldom used. The guide, a member of the temple, said that on the high holidays the temple is nearly filled, men in the center and women on the sides. After the high holidays, Neolog services are held in the 250 seat Heroes' Temple next door, which can more easily be heated in the winter.

The Doheny St. Synagogue complex is a living testament to the history of Budapest Jewry in WWII. The synagogue was bombed in 1939, and then used as a stable and a base for German Radio. During the Russian Siege of Budapest, when all of the bridges over the Danube were destroyed, it suffered even more damage.

Doheny St. became the border of the walled ghetto into which all Jews from the city and its surroundings were imprisoned during the final year of World War II, starting in November of 1944, soon after the Nazi occupation of Budapest began. It soon became massively overcrowded, and the people impris-

oned there were denied basic foods, fuels and medicine. As soon as the ghetto was established, selections were made and deportations began to the Nazi death camps, mainly to Auschwitz in Poland. Thousands died from starvation and disease, resulting in piles of bodies being stacked up in the streets and courtyards. The Arrow Cross Party, Hungary's homegrown Nazi ally, pulled hundreds of people from the ghetto, lined them up on the shores of the Danube, forced them to remove their valuable shoes, and shot them into the river.

During the winter of 1944-45, the ghetto community, fearing the disease that would come from the bodies that were piling up on the cement streets, made the difficult decision to bury 2000 people in 20 mass graves in the garden on the synagogue property, putting the health of the community over the prohibition of burial on sacred ground. The headstones added after the war by surviving relatives are randomly placed because most of the bodies are unidentified.

During the years of Communist rule, the much-diminished Jewish community used the damaged structure as a house of prayer. The enormous task of restoration did not begin until 1991. It was financed partly by the newly free state, partly by the local community and visitor fees, along with a substantial donation from the U.S. by Hungarian Jewish immigrant Estée Lauder.

The Synagogue property includes the cemetery, the smaller Heroes' Synagogue, a community center, a Jewish museum, and an aluminum and silver Willow Tree Memorial funded by Tony Curtis, whose family emigrated from Hungary. Each leaf represents a life. There is also a memorial to the Righteous Gentiles. About 20,000 Budapest Jews were given diplomatic protection by representatives from neutral countries who were based in Budapest. Among them were Raoul Wallenberg (Swedish), and Carl Lutz (Swiss), who issued protective passes and were able to house people outside of the ghetto.

Next to the temple there used to be a two-



story home where in 1860 Theodore Herzl was born and raised. He celebrated his bar mitzvah in the Grand Synagogue. On this location a museum was built. Our guide in the Museum was also very knowledgeable and passionate about Jewish history in Budapest. She used the collection of ceremonial objects and artifacts from the city and surrounding *shtetls* to paint a picture of Jewish life and holiday celebrations. I found especially interesting a display from a small town *Chevra Kadisha* (burial society), with its bowl of lots that were picked to choose who would have the responsibility of cleaning and preparing the dead for burial. As we entered a room detailing some of the atrocities of the Nazis and hated Arrow Cross Party, her emotions were visible. She said that over 600,000 Hungarian Jews were murdered. She also showed how after the war, Hungarians turned over members of the hated Arrow Cross party to the Allies and watched as they were hung.

Budapest now has over 100,000 Jews and 17 active synagogues.



Willow Tree Memorial funded by Tony Curtis.

On Saturday I attended services at the much smaller Heroes' Synagogue, which they are still renovating. I can read Hebrew and am familiar with Orthodox Shabbat Services, so I thought I would be able to follow in the Hebrew-Hungarian prayer book. I took my place with the women on the left side. A boy of about 14 was busily wandering around handing out *aliyas* for when the Torah would be read. Behind the bimah I could hear the organ and a hidden choir. I was eventually able to locate the page, but found the service difficult to follow. The Cantor had an old-style European pronunciation, and the rotunda created an echo. Virtually all of the singing and chanting came from the cantor or the hidden choir. Most of the attendees seemed to be just listening, and walked out as soon as the Torah reading concluded, before it was returned to the ark. I left a little later, just in time to meet my tour bus, with a greater appreciation of the spiritual connections found at the KJCC service, and the fortunate lives we lead. ◇



Doheny Cemetary

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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:

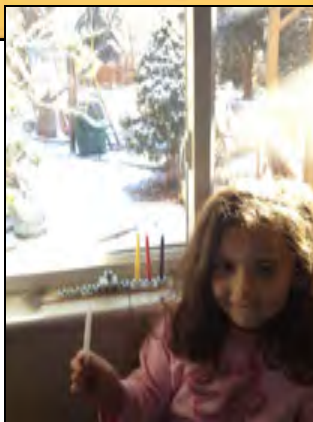
- Old City of Jaffa and a stroll through the artists' colony and the ancient port;
- A visit to Safed, the center of Jewish mysticism since the 16th century;
- The stunning Bahai Gardens & Shrine;
- A visit to Yad Vashem.

Photo Gallery

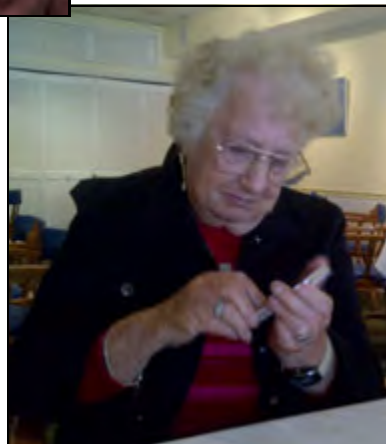
Right - The Silverman family got together for Thanksgiving at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. Pictured are Mort, Gene, Mark, Andrea, Matt and Kevin



Above - Barbara Smith and Pauline Roller at Plymouth Rock. Steve Smith took the photo. Stuart says Pauline looks like an elf in that parka!



**Left - Chanukah in Denver
Michal Peckman
From my window I can see the glow of my menorah on the newly fallen snow - just like the song.**



**Right - (by Stuart Sax)
"This photo is of Dorothy Schocket trying to figure out how to work a cell phone. Priceless."**

Chanukah at the KJCC 5779

*Text by
Gloria Avner*

It was a particularly joyful Chanukah this year. One of our oldest traditions took on a new twist. Ages ago, we would meet at our founder Joel Cohen's house along with board members, elders, and all our students and their parents. We all brought Chanukah Menorahs from home. We'd light candles, chant blessings, play dreidel, sing songs and eat latkes. With candles glowing from a dozen chanukiah's on the darkened back porch, it was truly a festival of lights. When Joel passed, we started celebrating at Pauline Roller's. The tradition continued. But when a person is on their way to a 98th birthday, the prospect of making 200 latkes and hosting high spirited "kinderlach", no matter how

well behaved, could be overwhelming. Enter the sensitive and generous Pollacks! With barely a week's planning time, out came the cooks and the Chanukiahs, the songs and the dreidels, and we enjoyed ceremony galore in a lovely home on a glorious evening.

We were delighted with Rabbi

Agler's sweet, meaningful Havdalah service on Joel and Linda's screened porch, in which students Mikheala Bitton held aloft the wine cup, Natalie Werthamer passed around the spices, and Noah Bitton doused the multi-

wicked candle in the wine. Shabbat was over, and Chanukah began. A collection of beautiful Chanukias (taking the shape of everything from classical meno-



**George Swartz and
Yardena lead the
ceremony**

**KJCC First Night of
Chanukah Menorahs
at Pollack's home
12/8/12**

meaningful Havdalah service on Joel and Linda's screened porch, in which students Mikheala Bitton held aloft the wine cup, Natalie Werthamer passed around the spices, and Noah Bitton doused the multi-



**George Swartz lighting the Chanukah Menorah at Pollack's Home on
12/8/12**



Visitors from Texas join us at Pollack's for First Night of Channukah (next to them is Joyce Peckman)

rahs to a tiny toy train set to a large bronze giraffe to ceramic children) were assembled and our children lit the first night candles. We



sang the three blessings and moved on to the food. Dreidel was played for pennies and every level of the house, up to the star viewing rooftop,



Above - Rabbi Richard Agler explains part of the Havdallah service to the Bitton's son at the Pollacks's home on 12/8/12.



Rabbi Yaakov Zucker leading a Chanukah candle lighting with members of his family



was filled with conversation and laughter.

Six nights later, instead of saying goodbye to *Shabbat*, we are lighting seven candles and saying hello. Rabbi Agler introduces the evening beautifully, tying in this week's *parshah*,

saying we are doing the most important thing the Jews who went down to Egypt did to maintain the Jewish culture in a strange land. We keep the traditions. More than 80 people light *chanukiahs*, bless wine and challah, and the eating begins. Erica and her crew do a magnificent job creating a joyous atmosphere and elegant delicious food.



**Above -
New meaning to the
phrase "Her face lit up!"
Terri Weisbert, joyously
wearing her Chanukiah.**



ing Latke." Will anyone ever forget the food fight between Uncle Izzie (Bernie Ginsberg) and Shecky (Sam Vinicur) over the Buick vs. the Ford? Or Stuart as the Father telling a Colonel he was shooting down a potato pancake? Or Susan as semi-hysterical Aunt Etta and Gene Silverman as the latke making mother who wouldn't make appetizers? Moira did a beautiful job narrating her family's story. Our new students, Cole and Westley Silverman, charmed everyone with their stage presence and British ac-

cents. Natalie Werthamer and Mickhaela Bitton were lovely dreidels, commentators, and gigglers, and Noah Bitton and Harry Friedman not only played their parts well, but contributed to many readings in the service.

Yes, the service was led by the students and

And then there was the play, a laughter filled adapted reprise of Arthur Yorinke's "The Fly-

teachers of the KJCC Religious School Theater! We were full to the brim with "koach" (strength) and "ruach" (spirit), ingredients that celebrating children bring to a community that wants to survive for future generations. ◇



Thank you to all who contributed photos to this retrospective, including Carol Steinbock, David Gitin and Stuart Sax.



**Above -
Harry, Noah, Natalie, Michaela,
Moira, Cole, and Wesley introduce
their play.**

**Right -
Uncle Shecky (Sam) prepares for
his food fight scene, surrounded by
KJCC Students.**



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February 2013

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

February 2013

21 Shevat - 18 Adar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></div>					1 Erica Garrett <i>Stuart & Lauren Sax</i>	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting	4	5	6	7	8 Steve Steinbock & Yardena Kamely <i>Leslie & Sam Janowitz</i>	9 Shabbat Service With Rabbi Agler
10 Board Meeting 9 a.m. Annual Meeting 11 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15 Ken Atlas & Sabrina <i>Erica Lieberman-Garrett</i> <i>Murial & George Swartz</i>	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Stuart & Lauren Sax with Rabbi Agler 6:30 Service <i>Joel & Linda Pollack</i>	23 Chai-Yaking
24 Purim Meghillah And Potluck	25	26	27	28		

2012 - 2013 Officers and Board

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P.O. Box 1332
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President's Message Stuart Sax



Over the past twenty-three months I have had the opportunity to meet the vast majority of the members of the KJCC. Many possess the solid commitment to the future of this congregation through personal involvement and financial support. Others through financial support only. Both are valuable. My father always believed that to have a tribe you can't have all chiefs and no indians.

The members of the KJCC who have diligently served on our Board the past two years have made my job that much easier and have made me look good. When I asked someone to help with something and they said "Yes" without hesitation, that was the mark of a solid working Board. It is definitely the exception and not the rule in most organizations.

I have been blessed to have served my congregation for the past two years with people that individually, and collectively, made things happen. Our membership has grown thanks to Dave Mont's personality and persistence. In the face of adversity, Rene Rose has continued to send get well greetings and condolences to our members when needed. First term members David Gitin, Gene Silverman, Steve Hartz, and Medina Roy have actively brought their knowledge and experiences to the table. I have often said and I will say it again, this congregation would be nowhere without the dedicated involvement of Linda Pollack. Everyone

brought something to the table and I personally applaud each and every one of you for that. My only regret was the recent loss of long time Board members Jim Boruszak and Kurt Kluger.

What has also made the past two years a success was working together with Lauren as President of our Sisterhood. She forged new horizons in fundraising and laid the groundwork for Barbara to lead the group to even greater heights. We often discussed temple business over breakfast, lunch, AND dinner. Some would call that dedication; others would call that nuts! It worked.

Now the time has come for me to pass the KJCC torch to Dr. Bernie Ginsburg. He has served religiously (pun intended) as Executive VP for the past two years. Part of his responsibility was to Chair the Finance & Budget Committee. Bernie has been diligent and frugal in this capacity and has helped keep us financially sound. Bernie will bring to the Board a strong sense of leadership along with a similar degree of humor to keep things lively.

My very best wishes to everyone and as Bob Hope sang, "Thanks for the memories." ♦

Nosh

Ritual Reminder: Save the Dates

Rabbi Agler will be leading his monthly Shabbat morning Service on February 9th at 10:00a.m. Everyone who has attended knows what a satisfying, stimulating experience this is. Warm, educational, and informal, these services and discussions led by Rabbi Agler continue to enrich our appreciation of Jewish heritage and history. Don't miss it.

Oneg Sponsors for February 2013

February 1st - Stuart and Lauren Sax in appreciation of serving as presidents.

February 8th - Leslie and Sam Janowitz in honor of Leslie's birthday.

February 15th - Erica Lieberman-Garrett to celebrate Erica & Ron's birthdays. Muriel and George Swartz in honor of Muriel's birthday.

February 22nd - Linda & Joel Pollack in honor of their Anniversary.

Meditation Garden Brick

IN HONOR OF LAUREN & STUART SAX

Havdalah with Rabbi Ed and Reef Relief

Once again, on the weekend of February 8th and 9th, KJCC will host an environmentally committed group of Rabbi Ed Rosenthal's Hillel Students from Tampa. Welcome them to Shabbat Services on Friday night the 8th. On Saturday, Rabbi Ed will conduct a Havdalah Service in our Meditation Garden. Discussion will follow in the Social Hall on a topic to be announced. If you've been engaged in any of Rabbi Ed's previous teachings, you know this is a treat not to be missed.

February Birthdays

1st.....	Evan Grossman
1st.....	Roy Pollack
3rd.....	Caeleigh Stuart
3rd.....	Dick Bromwich
3rd.....	leslie Janowitz
5th.....	Rebecca Smith Strasser
5th.....	Robin Kantor
6th.....	Martin Field
7th.....	Erica Lieberman-Garrett
7th.....	Larry Jacobs
9th.....	Deborah Kaplan
9th.....	Linda Pincus
9th.....	Ron Garrett
12th.....	Johnny Knowles
12th.....	Paul Roberts
13th.....	Jerrold Benowitz
14th.....	Debbie Madnick
14th.....	Steven B. Sanders
15th.....	Judith Weber
18th.....	Beth Hayden
21st.....	David J. Marmar
22nd.....	Harry J.C. Friedman
24th.....	Emily Caryn Gershowitz
24th.....	Muriel Swartz
24th.....	Suzie Greenman
25th.....	Rita Conklin
26th.....	Jim Williams
26th.....	John D. Schur
27th.....	Betsy Grossman
28th.....	Arlene Line

Shabbat Across America

On March 1st, 2013, tens of thousands of Jews across America will come together to eat, drink, relax, dance, enjoy, debate and celebrate at the 17th Annual Shabbat Across America and Canada. This will be the 4th year in a row that KJCC has participated. Watch weekly announcements for details.

February Anniversaries

		Years
9th	Uri & Liliam Kamely.....	21
11th	Joel & Linda Pollack.....	51

Sisterhood's Blessing Fundraiser

We would like to thank all those who sent in their very special blessings. We feel blessed that this first time fundraiser generated almost \$600 and for that reason we are extremely thankful. It just goes to show that from the convenience of your home and with little effort, you can make a difference.

*Lauren & Erica
Blessings Chairwomen*

Todah Rabah to Marc Kravit

Marc has sent KJCC another thoughtful gift, a box of mezuzahs. Talk to Susan if there are any rooms in your home that could use a mezuzah. Thanks to Marc, we now have many choices.

Anonymous Thank You

The KJCC Meditation Garden has turned out beautifully, and it is also having a beautiful impact. Steve Steinbock wanted to share this note that was found at the entrance to the garden -
"Thank you. This garden was an answer to prayer... I needed a place to pray and to be and I came across this Silent reprieve. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. 1/6/13"

Meditation Garden Brick

IN HONOR OF
MY FAMILY
LOVE, GLORIA AVNER

Leaf on the Tree of Life

Honoring Kurt Kluger
December 13, 2012
From the Mah Jongg Group

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.

Keys Jewish Community Center

Arza World - Tour of Israel, June 11-23, 2013

**Led by the best tour guide possible - our own
Rabbi Richard Agler.**

DAY ONE: Tuesday, June 11, 2013

DEPARTURE Depart U.S.A. Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Wednesday, June 12, 2013

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Thursday, June 13, 2013

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Friday, June 14, 2013

CONQUESTS AND CREATIVITY ALONG THE COAST Overnight: Haifa

DAY FIVE: Saturday, June 15, 2013

SPIRITUALITY, PRACTICALITY AND IDENTITY Overnight: Haifa

DAY SIX: Sunday, June 16, 2013

ROOTS, KABBALA AND ROOTS Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY SEVEN: Monday, June 17, 2013

SERENITY AND SECURITY ON THE GOLAN Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY EIGHT: Tuesday, June 18, 2013

NEW VISION AND OLD Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Wednesday, June 19, 2013

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Thursday, June 20, 2013

INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Friday, June 21, 2013

MEMORY AND RENEWAL Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TWELVE: Saturday, June 22, 2013

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM Overnight: Flight

DAY THIRTEEN: Sunday, June 23, 2013

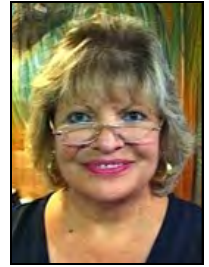
DEPARTURE Arrival in the USA

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A deposit (\$300) can be made now and full payment is due by April 11, 2013.**

**Please contact Dave Mont if you have any questions at moogoodave@yahoo.com
or call 305-393-9883.**

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



As I sit here writing my first Sisterhood President report, I realized that I am at a total loss for words. For those of you who know me, that is something that seldom ever happens.

I am aware that all of my predecessors were and are such amazing, bright and just absolutely “Stellar” ladies. It’s tough to follow after them, but I do know I will do my best to make this a great year, full of fun, dinners, meetings and as much as we can squeeze into every month. We have a great team of wonderful women who are not afraid to step up to the plate and help whenever needed and for this I am not only grateful but sincerely appreciative.

As of this writing, the KJCC was honored with the presence of 15 young college students singing Acappella. The group *Kaske-set* was in our sanctuary performing some amazing songs all written by them. It was so inspiring and innovative to watch the energy that this group brought to us. After they performed, they ate a light lunch provided by many of the Education committee, Sisterhood and KJCC members. The show and the food were excellent and I’d like to thank everyone who made this a success. A very special thanks to Stuart and Lauren Sax for providing this entertainment for us.

Planning is underway for the 2013 season. Plans are already being made for the Officers Installation Brunch on February 10th. A wonderful Purim Megillah and Potluck Brunch is being planned for Sunday, February 24th. The 10th Annual Women’s Seder will be on Sunday, March 17th and we can’t forget our KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club on Tuesday, March 26th. Exact times will be Chai-Lights and in the President’s email. Please reserve your space for our Family Passover Seder early as

seats fill up quickly as I’m sure everyone is aware. The Passover Seder is one that in the past has been done by our recently departed Jim Boruszak. Stuart Sax has announced that he will step up and lead us on this very special night. Thank you Stuart.

While we are on the subject of upcoming events, please consider sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat on Friday nights, as well as helping out in the kitchen, (which is so needed), so that we can all continue to enjoy our Friday evening Shabbats. Angela will be with us through most of April and takes on all the responsibilities in the kitchen during that time. When Angela leaves, we will need all you wonderful ladies to lend a hand and sign up with Joyce Peckman or myself to setup and clean up for the weeks we will be on our own for those 6 months. So please call Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665 or 305-240-1000, or myself at 305-772-0503, and let us know what week or month you will be available to help set up and clean up for the Oneg’s.

The next Sisterhood Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 3rd. Every woman who is a member of KJCC is welcome to join us for breakfast in Sisterhood and help play an active role in our event planning and many of the fun things we will be planning for the new year.

Well in closing, I’d like to thank my executive board, whom I know is going to make me shine:

Jane Friedman – Vice President, Georgia Landau-Treasurer, Roberta McNew-Recording Secretary.

Thank you also to my mentor Lauren Sax and all the wonderful ladies that supported me on my first nervous night of installation as Sisterhood President. ♦

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>	<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>Scholarship Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Begam, Delores	please pray for Jimmy	Ellner, Susan	
Cohn, Nancy		Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Mark Lieberman's bar mitzvah
Cooper, Claire	Celebration of Life for Murray		
Forst, Al		<i>Scholarship Fund</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Sisterhood		Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Kurt Kluger
		Steinbock, Steve & Carol	Kurt Kluger
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Sisterhood Oneg Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Belofsky, David & Judith	Jim Boruszak	Knowles, Richard & Barbara	
Boruszak, Joan	Shirley Burnett	Janowitz, Sam & Leslie	Leslie's birthday
Cameron, Dixie	Murray Cooper		
Irwin, Bette	Murray Cooper	<i>Sunshine Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Peckman, Joyce	Wendy Reiff	Sax, Stuart & Lauren	wishing Georgia Landau
Peckman, Joyce	Kurt Kluger		a speedy recovery
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Kurt Kluger	Sax, Stuart & Lauren	wishing Mary Lee Singer
Schilling, Marylou	Talia Agler		a speedy recovery
<i>Holidays/Seats</i>		Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Marc Bloom -
Steamer, Donald			just because
<i>Meditation Garden</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>Tree of Life</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Avner, Gloria	Brick - Avner family	Berger, Carol	Kurt Kluger
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin	Brick -	Biskar, Rosie	Kurt Kluger
	Stuart & Lauren Sax	Boruszak, Joan	Kurt Kluger
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Foster Davidson & Carol Laskin	Conklin, Rita & Wes	Kurt Kluger
<i>Meditation Garden</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	Gould, Maryon	Kurt Kluger
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Wendy Reiff	Pollack, Joel & Linda	Kurt Kluger
		Rose, Skip & Rene	Kurt Kluger
<i>Rabbi and Cantor Fund</i>		Schulberg, Alan & Elaine	Kurt Kluger
Ellner, Susan		Silverman, Mort & Gene	Kurt Kluger
		Singer, Mary Lee	Kurt Kluger
<i>Sisterhood Count Your Blessings</i>		<i>Yartzeits</i>	
Blumenfeld, Ivy		Boruszak, Joan	
Boruszak, Joan		Cooper, Claire	
Coltman, Barney		Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin	
Dils, Lynn		Emkey, Gerri	
Landau, Georgia		Gould, Maryon	
Laskin, Carol		Grossman, Stuart	
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica		Isenberg, Henry & Patricia	
McNew, Roberta		Taramona, Hermine	
Peckman, Joyce			
Sax, Lauren			

Keys Jewish Community Center 10th Annual Women's Seder

Sunday

March 17, 2013

5:00 PM @ KJCC

Homemade Seder Dinner
w/Wine

Come celebrate the 10th
Women's Seder

Donation: \$18 chai
+ \$10.00 for 10 years =
\$28.00

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

Limited seating - Contacts:
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bethkam@bellsouth.net
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hipplejap@hotmail.com



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



An Undertaking of Biblical Proportions

Using books 6 through 9 of *Genesis* as his inspiration, creationist Johan Huibers, a Christian resident of the Netherlands, recently finished his 20-year pursuit to build a full-scale, functioning replica of Noah's Ark. The Dutch artist followed the instructions G-d gave to Noah, translating cubits to modern measurements and came away with a vessel that is 427 feet long (the length of a football field with an additional 67 feet), 95 feet wide and 75 feet high. The ark contains huge stalls where Huibers has placed life-size stuffed animals. The ark also has an actual petting zoo and an impressive aviary of exotic birds. As in most tourist attractions, there's a restaurant on the top-most level and a movie theater capable of seating 50 people. Huibers ark which is now open to the public is moored in the city of Dordrecht, just south of Rotterdam. Huibers is a builder by trade. To see photos of the ark, go to <http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/real-estate/dutchman-completes-20-year-quest-build-full-scale-noah-ark-article-1.1217581> (www.nydailynews.com, 12-11-12)

"Set the Bubbles Free"

If you'll be watching the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 3rd, pay close attention to the advertisements in the fourth quarter. *SodaStream*, an Israeli firm that turns flat water into sparkling water in a matter of seconds, will pay about \$3.5 million for a 30-second spot. The ad is intentionally scheduled to air in the fourth quarter when empty soda bottles and cans have piled up at Super Bowl parties across America. *SodaStream* USA president Gerard Meyer said, "We expect the ad will inspire a life-changing moment for consumers making them realize they have the power to enjoy their bubbles...without

the hassle of carrying, storing and disposing of all of those bottles and cans ever again." (www.businessinsider.com, 12-4-12 and www.jta.com, 12-9-12)

They Made the Grade

According to test results of the *Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study* (TIMSS), eighth grade students in Israel ranked seventh in the world for math and came in first among Western countries. The score for 2011 was up from 24th place when the last test was administered in 2007. The top five scorers overall were Korea, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and Japan. In science, Israeli students finished 13th, up from 25th. In the International Reading Literacy Study for fourth-graders, Israel ranked 18th, up from 31st. (www.jta.org, 12-11-12)

A \$200,000,000 Pledge

Mortimer Zuckerman, owner and publisher of the *New York Daily News* and *U.S. News & World Report*, recently pledged \$200 million to endow a Mind Brain Behavior Institute at Columbia University. The Zuckerman Institute will seek cutting-edge research in neurobiology and human mental functions in both health and disease. A variety of areas will be studied, among them Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and neuro-developmental disorders such as autism, Asperger's and schizophrenia. In total some 1,000 scientists are expected to work for the institute. (www.jewishpress.com, 12-24-12)

Six Million: A "Significant Number"

For the first time, the Jewish population of the State of Israel has passed the six mil-

lion mark. Anita Shapira, professor of Jewish history at Tel Aviv University said that even though six million is a significant number, “living Jews do not compensate for dead Jews. The number [6 million] symbolizes a catastrophe, not a recuperation.” Dina Porat, chief historian of *Yad Vashem* added “...worldwide we are still in the same place. Before the Holocaust there were around 18 million Jews in the world; after it, a bit more than 13 million. We are still a bit more than 13 million.” Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics released figures showing the total population of Israel to be 7.98 million. Jews make up 75.4 percent. Just over a fifth of the population is Arab and four percent are defined as “other.” (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 1-3-13)

Cambridge University’s Digital Library

Discovered in Egypt in the late 19th century, *The Nash Papyrus*, a 2,000 year-old fragment containing the Ten Commandments and the *Shema* prayer, has been scanned and uploaded to the University of Cambridge’s Digital Library. It is the world’s second oldest known manuscript containing a text from the Hebrew Bible. (The oldest are the *Dead Sea Scrolls*.) Also digitized and uploaded was the *Cairo Geniza*, a collection of manuscript fragments that were found in a storeroom in Egypt in the late 1890s. The fragments reveal details of life in a Jewish community in Cairo from the Dark Ages through the 19th century. (*Genizas* house documents forbidden from destruction because Jewish law deems them holy). In addition, the library holds one of the world’s largest set of medieval Jewish manuscripts. Thanks to a donation by Joyce Peckman, a book about the *Cairo Geniza* is located in the KJCC library. Look for *Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza*, by Adina Hoffman. (*The Forward*, 12-21-12)

In Memoriam

-N. Joseph Woodland, who, while dragging his fingers through the sand on Miami Beach more than 60 years ago got the idea which led to the development of the Universal Product Code, or UPC (the rectangular barcode

that appears on virtually everything today), has died. He was 91. In 1948, Woodland was a graduate student at Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia, now known as Drexel University (*By the way, when I was in college, I had a friend who attended Drexel. He affectionately referred to it as “Dreck Tech”*). The chain of events that led to the development of the barcode is fascinating. In 1948, a local supermarket executive visited Drexel’s campus looking for a way to come up with an efficient means of encoding product data. Bernard Silver, a classmate of Woodland’s, overheard the conversation and together the two men began working on the idea. Woodland went to Miami Beach to stay with his grandparents in the winter of 1948-49 and spent much time at the beach thinking. He wondered what would happen if Morse code, which he learned as a Boy Scout, were adapted graphically? He began trailing his fingers through the sand and thought perhaps wide lines and narrow lines could be used like the dots and dashes of the Morse code. As a result, Woodland and Silver created a technology able to read product data. In October 1952, the men were awarded a U.S. patent for their discovery. But the method they came up with was expensive and unwieldy and languished for years. The two men eventually sold their patent to Philco for \$15,000 – all they ever made from their invention. Over time, laser scanning technology made the barcode viable. In 1973, the barcode we know today was adopted as the industry standard. Woodland received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation in 1992. In 2012, he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame (Mr. Silver, who died in 1963 at age 38, was inducted posthumously along with him). In retail establishments worldwide, a barcode is scanned at a rate of more than five billion a day. (www.nytimes.com, 12-12-12)

-Jack Klugman, the actor best known for his roles in “The Odd Couple” and later “Quincy, M.E.,” died in December. He was 90. What is not very well known however is the instrumental role he played in passing critical health-care legislation through Congress

known as the “Orphan Drug Act.” Klugman’s involvement began with a hearing in 1980 by the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment on the problem of developing treatment for rare diseases. (Klugman’s brother Maurice suffered from a rare cancer). These illnesses didn’t afflict enough people to entice pharmaceutical companies to develop treatments and became known as “orphan” diseases. There were several diseases in this category: Tourette’s syndrome, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, spina bifida, ALS among others. The situation was especially tragic because scientists were discovering promising treatments but couldn’t interest drug makers because they didn’t see potential for profit. Klugman was invited to testify before Congress by Rep. Henry Waxman of California. At the time, a celebrity speaking to Congress was pretty much unheard of and received wide attention which led to a bill with large incentives for drug makers. It also established an Office of rare Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. The bill ran into some obstacles in the Senate and was blocked by Senator Orin Hatch (R-Utah). Klugman and his brother came up with the idea to write a couple of real-life episodes of “Quincy,” the widely popular medical drama. One episode dealt with rare illnesses and another with an orphan drug bill being held up by a U.S. Senator. Hatch eventually softened and thanks to Klugman, the “Waxman-Hatch Orphan Drug Act” became law in 1983. The law has been a huge success. The FDA has approved more than 300 orphan drugs, with 1,100 more under development. Two years later, Congress expanded the law to include biological and chemical drugs, which helped spur the biotech industry. (www.washingtonpost.com, 12-25-12)

-Senator Daniel Inouye, second-longest serving senator (he served one month shy of 50 years), and a staunch supporter of Israel, died in December. He was 88. Inouye played a pivotal role in advancing U.S.-Israel relations. Inouye lost his right arm in Italy at the end of World War II. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, but it took 55 years to get that recognition because Japanese-American

servicemen were denied recognition for their heroism at the time because of their race. His combat experience as a member of a segregated Japanese-American unit in Europe in World War II and learning about the Holocaust affected his world view. Recovering after the war he studied Jewish history. Working his way through college, Inouye became a registered Israel Bonds salesman. He once considered converting to Judaism but didn’t because of his concern for his devoutly Methodist mother. Throughout his career he enjoyed close ties to the Jewish community, both in Hawaii and nationally.

(*The Forward*, 12-18-12)

Did You Know....

-Israeli supermodel Bar Rafaeli and race car driver Danica Patrick will appear together in a Super Bowl commercial titled “Perfect Match.” This will be Rafaeli’s first Super Bowl commercial. (www.upi.com, 1-6-13)

-According to Forbes.com, Israeli-born actress Natalie Portman is Hollywood’s “most bankable star,” providing studios with the highest average returns for her films. The Academy Award winner (Best Actress for “Black Swan” in 2011) provides about \$42.70 for the studio for every dollar she earns. “Black Swan” was produced for an estimated \$13 million and earned \$329 million in global box office sales. (*Reuters*, 12-26-12)

-The Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial site registered 1.43 visitors last year, a record number in its 65-year history. The Nazi death camp has seen record numbers of visitors since 2004, the year Poland joined the European Union when there was a marked increase of people from across Europe traveling to Poland. An estimated 1.3 million people were murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Most (about 90 percent) were Jewish but the victims also included Polish political prisoners, Gypsies and gay people. (www.haaretz.com, 1-4-13) ◇

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.

Bahai
Gardens on
Mt. Carmel
in Haifa



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.

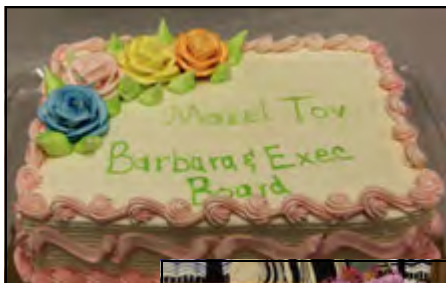
Photo Gallery

Susan Gordon sent in some photos from a recent Chai-Yaking trip with Dave Mont and the gang. If you haven't yet joined them in one of their monthly outings, here's a look at what you're missing!



(Right) - Steve and Carol Steinbock, Dr. Bernie Ginsberg and their friend Patty Murphy of the Reporter Newspaper, attended a concert by DuDu Fisher at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on January 10th. Here is a photo of Steve with DuDu Fisher as he signed CDs afterwards. DuDu Fisher is an Israeli singer who performed in English, Yiddish and Hebrew. The concert was a delight.

-Carol Steinbock



(Above Right) - January saw the installation of your new Sisterhood President and Executive Board. Pictured (left to right) are Georgia Landau - Treasurer, Barbara Knowles - President, Jane Friedman - Vice President, and Roberta McNew - Recording Secretary. Congratulations ladies!



(Right) Lauren Sax - outgoing President and Barbara Knowles - New Sisterhood President, are pictured with Carol Steinbock, who did the presentations.

Photos courtesy of Linda Pollack and BarbaraKnowlesPhotography.com

KASKESET

LIFE IS A CHAIWAY

Text by Gloria Avner

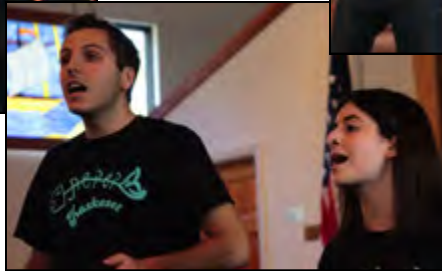
Photos courtesy of
BarbaraKnowlesPhotography.com

With 60 people filling our Sanctuary-turned-Concert-Hall, and 15 very talented Hillel students from Binghamton University singing multipart harmony (with very creative mouth/body sound effects) while moving about the Bimah, The Keys Jewish Community Center was treated to a world class roof-raising event on the afternoon



of Sunday January 13th. The energy was extraordinary. The songs, Hebrew and English, traditional and original, were all sung "a cappella," without musical accompaniment. Nobody missed it.

These are bright young men and women, ranging from college freshman to seniors, with one grad student for good measure. (They were hungry too, and very grateful for the homemade luncheon that Education Committee members and sisterhood volunteers



prepared for post concert nutrition). Whether their majors are Engineering, Creative Writing, Drama, or Business, we

know these youngsters have great careers and rich cultural lives ahead of them. They certainly enriched our lives for an afternoon.

Their original songs, in both Hebrew and English, were inspiringly beautiful. Each of the students took turns in the spotlight; their movements as well as their blended



Rosh HaShanah, and Kaskeset members began to join in. It was an afternoon not to be missed (but if you did, word is out that a recording was made for us, thanks to Barbara and Richard Knowles; you may yet get a chance to hear it).

Many thanks to Stuart and Lauren Sax for this gift. As they prepare to step down from their two-year positions as President of KJCC and KJCC Sisterhood, their generosity in sponsoring this concert

voices were riveting, and our attention never wavered.

One of the sweetest moments came after the food had been eaten and dishes were cleared. Our own Cantor Mark Halpern and his daughter Ariela began to sing in beautiful harmony the "L'cha Dodi" version they share with us after Taschlich each



leaves us grateful and smiling. It was a gift of music, but also a gift of youthful energy, continuing the strength of Judaism for another generation. *Todah Rabah. ◇*



From the Kaskeset bio - "What brings us together is our love for Jewish singing.."

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“The Jews in the Time of Jesus”

The Education Committee’s “Brunch and Learn” Series

By Gloria Avner

On the last Sunday of 2012, KJCC members were treated to a fascinating hour of exploration on the topic “The Jews in the time of Jesus.” It was the latest in our Education Committee’s “Brunch and Learn” Series, and we are grateful to Rabbi Richard Agler for sharing the presence and chochma (wisdom) of his good friend and internationally recognized scholar and author Rabbi Stephen Wylen. It’s not often we have an opportunity to analyze, discuss, and clear up 2000 years’ worth of misconceptions.

Was Jesus a Rabbi? No. In that historical moment, the term rabbi meant “my master,” and the term rabbi only came to mean what it does today after the destruction of the Temple. The mark of a Jewish Rabbi is that he acknowledges his source, his authority coming from precursor teachers going all the way back to Moses at Mt. Sinai. Jesus was the antithesis of a Rabbi. When Jesus preached, people walked away amazed, not because the



Rabbi Stephen Wylen

content was new, but because he spoke independently.

Was Jesus a Prophet? A zealot, rebelling against the Romans? Was he the Messiah? Eliyahu HaNavi? The answers posited by Rabbi Wylen were clearly “No,” but the discussion on prophecy and the concept of Messiah, (Jews have not had a consistent notion or belief in a messiah ever, only in an “anointed one.) was mind expanding and intriguing. Those who want to know more are encouraged to read Rabbi Wylen’s book, “The Jews in the Time of Jesus.” There will be a copy in our library. (We already use another of his books, “Settings of Silver: An Introduction to Judaism”, in Yardena’s conversion class) How fortunate we were to take part in discussion with Rabbi Wylen in person. One more “Todah Rabbah” to Rabbi Agler for adding so much to our Jewish enrichment. ◇

Photos courtesy of David Gitin



**Rabbi Richard Agler, Gloria Avner,
Rabbi Stephen Wylen and
KJCC President Stuart Sax**

A New Year, a new Blessing of the Fleet

Ministers from various congregations and our KJCC representatives join others on the bridge and, as each boat passes in front of the bridge and announces who they are

over their ship radio, a blessing is said for the boat, etc. Steve and I on *Shalom* (without the pup-

pies this year) asked Gloria Avner to give us a blessing for peace and health to all and for God to Bless our Troops.



I heard Gene Silverman (with Mort & guests) give a beautiful "prayer" as their boat approached the bridge. Many power boats participate, of all sizes



and kinds, including the unique pink "Nautilimo" you see here, as well as the Monroe County Sheriff's Dept and the Coast Guard and Auxillary. And this year I even saw a sailboat.

Here you can see the line up of boats waiting to get to the bridge for their blessing. It was a great morning. If you have a boat

(any size) and can get to the bridge before 10 am on New Year's Day, it is definitely the way to start a new year.

Hope to see you there next year. ♦



The "blessers" from various Keys congregations including the KJCC's own Gloria Avner gather with spectators for the annual Blessing of the Fleet. (It's like playing "Where's Gloria?")

-Carol & Steve Steinbock

KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder



Tuesday, March 26, 2013

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

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Barbara Knowles 305-853-5653, iweddu@bellsouth.net
or Joan Boruszak 305-852-0833, joanborus@gmail.com.

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

PASSOVER

Donations:

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

Non-Members: \$75

KJCC's Purim 5773

Not Just the "Gansa" Megillah, but a Real One

By Gloria Avner

What makes this Purim different from all other Purims? Our children will still wear masks and costumes, dance and sing their *Purimspiel*, and make *hamantaschen* for our celebration. The KJCC congregation will still come together to perform the *mitzvah* of reading and listening to the story of Esther's role in the salvation of Persian Empire Jews. We will boo, hiss, and stomp our feet every time Haman's name is uttered, and we will eat the traditional Purim meal, or *se'udah*, after the reading. If we are really observant, we will also drink to excess (while arranging for designated drivers).

The Scroll of Esther, though not the most important of the five Scrolls, is universally known as **the Megillah**. Immensely popular because of the joyousness of the holiday and accompanying celebration, its public reading is an acknowledged *mitzvah*. Most significant, it is the only scroll that is still generally read from parchment. Up until now, however, our congregation, has always read *Megillat*

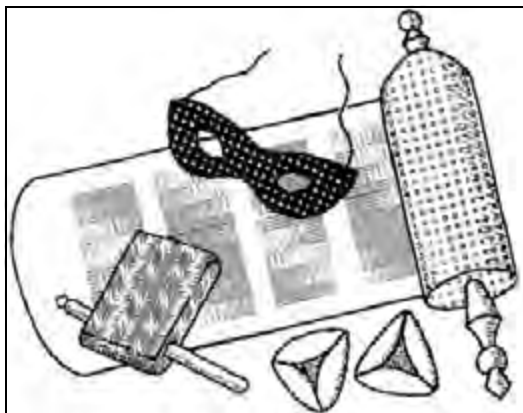


Esther from a book.

At one time, it was not unusual for every Jewish household to possess a *Megillah*. In that era, much time and skill were devoted to creating beautifully illuminated texts and elaborate wooden and

silver cases that would house the scroll, written the same way a Torah is written—by hand, on parchment, with a goose quill.

We can now, however, number ourselves among those that read the words of the *Megillah* from an actual *Megillah*. Thanks to a gift from Marc Kravit, a friend of Rabbi Agler, Bernie will start us out, chanting the words directly from a beautifully adorned sheepskin scroll, stored in a handmade wooden case generously donated by Natalie and Barry Dorf in honor of their granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah. We now have the opportunity to follow the ancient customs of the *Megillah*.



Customs for Reading of the Megillah

(excerpted from "My Jewish Learning")

The Book of Esther is chanted according to a special cantillation used only in the reading of the Book of Esther. [This cantillation parodies the tropes used for reading at other times of the year.] If no one is present who knows this cantillation, it may be read without the cantillation, as long as it is read correctly. According to the Code of Jewish Law (*Orach Chayim* 690:9), it may be read in the language of the land. In practice, however, the usual custom is to chant the Megillah from the scroll in its original Hebrew.

Before the reading, the custom is to unroll the scroll and fold it so that it looks like a letter of dispatch, thus further recalling the story of the great deliverance.

The *Megillah* must be read standing and from the scroll, not by heart. During the reading, there are four special verses, called "verses of redemption" (*pesukei ge'ulah*), which are

[traditionally] said aloud by the congregation and then repeated by the reader. [Esther 2:5, 8:15-16, 10:3]

At certain key points in the Book of Esther, it is a custom for the reader to raise his or her voice, add-

ing drama to the story. [Esther 1:22, 2:4, 2:17, 4:14, 5:4, 6:1. In this last verse the king cannot sleep and commands that the

book of records or chronicles be read to him. This is considered to be the turning point in the Esther story.]

Another interesting part of the chanting of the Book of Esther is the four verses (Esther 9: 7-10) enumerating the ten sons of Haman. The custom, already mentioned in the Talmud (*Megillah* 16b), is for the reader to chant the names of Haman's sons in one single

breath, in order to signify that they died together. Another reason for this custom is the fact that we should avoid the appearance of gloating over their fate, even though it was deserved.

Let's gather together in the KJCC schoolroom on March 24th at 11:00 a.m., just as we have done in years past. We will revel in the joyousness of this mitzvah and be grateful that we can number ourselves among those reading the *gansa Megillat* Esther from an authentic *Megillah*. ◇



Reading the Megillah Photo Credit: Rbarenblat

Original Artwork By Gloria Avner.



PURIM

The whole Megillah--

The real Megillah--

The KJCC Megillah--

Sunday, February 24, 2013

- Wear a costume -

Bring a dish!

10:30 Megillah reading, primarily in English, round robin style, with an introductory presentation by the Hebrew School students.

Thanks to Mark Kravit, a friend of Rabbi Agler's from Boca Raton, we now have our own Megillat Esther. We will be reading from it on this holiday. It is a beautiful, genuine sheepskin hand-calligraphied scroll, decorated with elaborate hand-drawn crowns over special words.

11:30 Brunch - Potluck

Contact Joyce Peckman, (305) 451-0665, joycepeckman@gmail.com, to coordinate your dish.

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Chai~Lights



March 2013

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

March 2013

19 Adar - 20 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted. </div>					1 Erica Lieberman-Garrett <i>Carol & Steve Steinbock</i>	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 9:30 a.m. Lecture 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Shabbat Dinner 6:30 p.m. Services 8:00 p.m. Joyce Peckman, Beth Hayden & Gloria Avner <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	9
10 Board Meeting at KJCC 9:00 a.m. Lecture 7:00 p.m.	11	12 Rosh Chodesh Nisan	13	14	15 Sam Vinicur & Gloria Avner <i>Elaine & Bernard Solas</i>	16 Torah Learning Service with Rabbi Agler 10:00 a.m.
17 Women's Seder at KJCC 5:00 p.m.	18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22 Yardena Kamely, Jane Friedman & Richard Knowles <i>Barbara & Richard Knowles</i>	23
24 Interfaith Seder 31	25 Erev Pesach, First Seder	26 KJCC Family Seder 6:30 p.m. Pesach 1st Day	27	28	29 George Swartz 6:30 Service <i>Anonymous</i>	30

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
monthly publication of the
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P.O. Box 1332

Tavernier, Florida 33070

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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



It is with the greatest trepidation that I take over as KJCC President from Stuart Sax. It will require my maximum effort just to continue the programs and projects that the former leaders of our synagogue have instituted, even with the help of my dedicated officers, directors and the Sisterhood's officers and members and all of you.

There is nothing our congregation needs but "more." More of our fine educational activities, more of our fellowship, more enjoyment of our wonderful Meditation Garden, more of our delightful dinners and parties (maybe monthly), more Yiddish nights, more Torah services with Rabbi Agler, more outside lectures and trips. More, more, more.

My greatest emphasis in leadership will be in two areas: 1) The education of our children; 2) Making all our programs rewarding and fun.

Educating our children is obviously the only path to Judaism's survival. It must be our primary responsibility, but even that should be fun. (For them and us.) We all learned in psychology 101 that if you want to keep rats running through a maze you must give them a reward. People are not so different! The great rabbis of old were asked: is it ethical to bribe your children with sweets and presents to go to syna-

gogue? The answer was yes, because eventually they will get into the habit of going for the pure pleasure of it. We have to make it pleasurable. We need MORE dinners with our activities and more entertaining plays from the Hebrew School children.

Our congregation has a wisdom gained from long experience: "if you feed them they will come." So let's feed them, and entertain them too. From that will (painlessly) come educating and inspiring them.

As Stu often said, everyone at KJCC is on the Membership Committee. If we have an activity that you enjoy, invite a member friend who perhaps hasn't come to our activities recently. If you know a non-member who might come and enjoy and join, invite them too.

With all of your help and prayers for success, we can make it happen. Just as a *chazan* prays before *Mussaf* on Yom Kippur, I ask in advance that you forgive me for my inadequacies, and know that if I make any errors or slights to a congregation member it is without intent.

I look for comfort in the words of the psalmist, who said: Hope in the Lord, make your heart strong and brave and Hope in the Lord.

Your "tziterdick" new president, - Bernie.

Nosh

Yardena's Lecture Series Concludes

Parts three and Four of Yardena's 2013 lectures on the three Abrahamic religion will take place this month as the series concludes. Lectures one and two compared Judaism, Christianity, and Islam by exploring how each monotheistic religion views their respective Abrahamic heritage; how they created their customs and traditions to distinguish themselves from one another; and how their Sacred Texts convey the particular messages of their faith.

Parts three and four will continue the exploration. How do these three religious faiths conceptualize God? Who are the human intermediaries through whom God's messages are transmitted – the prophets and apostles? How are the angels, spiritual entities in the service of God, seen in each of the three religions? What are the beliefs and requirements that qualify one as a member of each faith?

Lecture three will take place at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 3rd. The final lecture will be on Sunday, March 10th. All KJCC members and their guests are welcome to attend at no charge. Light refreshments will be served.

Jane and Richard Join the Tribe

On Friday, March 22nd, we will have a special service, led by Jane Friedman and Richard Knowles celebrating the final part of their conversion ceremony. They have chosen to join themselves to our people's faith. We will welcome them into Jewish life and as Jewish members of our congregation.

At this joyous moment, we renew the covenant between God and the people of Israel, recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Strangers shall join them and shall cleave to the house of Israel." Join us for this celebration, a rare Giyur (Conversion) service at the KJCC.

Yardena Kamely, who taught and guided both as they prepared for their conversions, will be leading the ceremony and co-leading the service.

-Gloria

Three Seders

Three separate and distinct Passover seders will be available to KJCC members in March. The Tenth Annual Women's Seder will be held at KJCC on Sunday, March 17th at 5:00 p.m. Seating is limited, and it fills fast, so if you haven't made your reservation, contact Beth Kaminstein (bethkam@bellsouth.net) or Erica Lieberman-Garrett (hippiejap@hotmail.com) soon. There is a \$28 donation, much of which goes to *Tikkun Olam*. This year's interfaith seder in Marathon, which includes many KJCC members, will take place on Sunday, March 24th. Contact Jessica Hernstadt (miamijess@aol.com) or Judy Greenman (jifgreenman@aol.com) for information. The Annual KJCC Family Seder will take place on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Donation is \$50 for KJCC members and \$75 for non-members; children under twelve are our guests. Stuart Sax and Gloria Avner will co-lead this year, both mindful of the memory of Jim Boruszak, who led for so many years. Contact Barbara Knowles (iweddu@bellsouth.net) or Joan Boruszak (joanborus@gmail.com) for further information. See ad on page 31.

Oneg Sponsors for March 2013

March 1st - Carol and Steve Steinbock in honor of Steve's birthday.

March 8th - Joyce Peckman in memory of Dorothy Ross.

March 15th - Elaine and Bernard Solas-Just Because.

March 22nd - Barbara and Richard Knowles - to honor the conversion of Jane and Richard.

March 29th - Anonymous.

Rabbi Agler's March Service

Rabbi Richard Agler will continue his great ongoing gift to KJCC with another Torah Learning Service on Saturday, March 16th, at 10 a.m. in the KJCC sanctuary. Ask anyone who's been there. It is guaranteed that you will come away with a deepened and fuller understanding of that week's Torah text plus have aspects and nuances of it opened up that you have never considered.

March Birthdays

1st.....	Melvin L. Jacobson
1st.....	Sasha Dutton
2nd.....	Barbara Kantor
3rd.....	Stephanie Gilderman
3rd.....	Stephen Steinbock
4th.....	Benjamin K. Kwalick
6th.....	Bea Graham
7th.....	Hannah Feig
7th.....	Toby Goldfinger
9th.....	Pearl Jacobs
10th.....	Kate Horowitz
10th.....	Thomas Davis Smith
11th.....	Alvin J. Gottlieb
11th.....	Bryan Schur
11th.....	Sandy Yankow
12th.....	Heath Greenbaum
13th.....	Carl Roy
13th.....	Ira Stein
14th.....	Jenna Lane
14th.....	Seth Horowitz
15th.....	Allan Boruszak
15th.....	Johanna Willner
16th.....	Steven Nobil
17th.....	Daniel E. Friedman
18th.....	Eric Grace
19th.....	Michelle Palacino
20th.....	Janet Palacino
20th.....	Susan Sachs
21st.....	Barbara A. Calev
21st.....	Erwin Kantor
21st.....	James Nobil Jr.
21st.....	Joseph Palacino
23rd.....	Ken Atlas
24th.....	Doug Graham
25th.....	Joe Gould
25th.....	Stephanie Coeurjoly
25th.....	Sylvia Berman
27th.....	Michelle E. Denker
28th.....	Roger Vorcheimer
29th.....	Joel Pollack
30th.....	Anthony A. Gutierrez
30th.....	David VanArtsdalen
30th.....	Lee Schur
31st.....	Jane S. Friedman
31st.....	Sari Eliz. Goldstein

March Anniversaries

		Years
1st	Jerry & Sheila Olsen.....	54
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson.....	17
7th	Joseph & Susan Sachs.....	48
22nd	David & Patti Gross.....	16
25th	Joseph & Susan Goldberg.....	20

Shabbat Dinner on March 8th

On Friday, March 8th at 6:30, KJCC will offer its members the first festive Shabbat dinner in the reign of new president Bernie Ginsberg. Bernie will emcee, which alone is worth the price of admission. (Actually, there is no admission, since Bernie is sponsoring the dinner.) It will be a dairy dinner. We'll be inviting our advertisers again this year to honor them for their support of KJCC. We will loudly thank Stu Sax for his two years of service as KJCC president. We'll also be reaching out to new members, or members who haven't attended many events lately, to join us for an evening that will surely be well attended and full of laughter, good fellowship and great food. So call your KJCC friends who you haven't seen here for a while. Please R.S.V.P. no later than March 1st, so we can plan the seating and menu. Services will follow at 8:00, to be led by Joyce Peckman, with cantorial harmony by Gloria Avner and Beth Hayden.

A Possible Incident

I received a call from the ADL on February 13th that there might have been an anti-Semitic incident at KJCC. This photo shows what I found, a half a ham lying on the sidewalk in front of our sign. It might have been an accident, or a juvenile joke, but we've learned historically that, where anti-Semitism is concerned, we have to risk over-reaction, even if we end up looking silly, to guard against not being vigilant enough. I did file a police report.

-Bernie





The brand-new handmade Megillah cover that we are commissioning to house our Megillat Esther is being given to us by members Barry and Natalie Dorf. It is a gift meant to honor their newly Bat-Mitzvahed granddaughter Emma, whose Bat Mitzvah, more than a rite of one girl's passage, was an extraordinary event. We empathize with the difficulties faced by the family during Hurricane Sandy and applaud their creativity and determination in the face of obstacles. Brava Emma, and Todah Rabah, dear Dorf family. -Gloria

A Uniquely "Cool" Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, on November 3rd, just one week after hurricane Sandy devastated Long Island, our granddaughter Emma was Bat Mitzvahed. She chanted her Haftorah in the middle of the day, in an unheated, unlit temple to a congregation of 80 people wearing gloves, hats and coats with only daylight streaming through the windows.

The original plans were for a Saturday evening service followed by a reception in the temple. Needless to say, we had to develop a plan 'B'. Emma's aunt Risa and uncle Matt were fortunate enough to have heat and power and close enough to the temple for our 'fuel rationed' guests to join in a reception at their home. Instead of the hot meal we were going to have we ended up with the next best 'Jewish' thing - we had lox and bagels!

The party was a smashing success with family and friends sharing this special day in a very special way. We are sure that all will remember the hurricane Sandy Bat Mitzvah of our granddaughter, Emma Dorf. *by Natalie Dorf*

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.

March Events from Ritual

March will be another month chock full of ritual, celebration, and learning opportunities at the KJCC. Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss any of it.

Rabbi Agler will lead another warm, informal and insightful service with discussion on Saturday morning, March 16th. On March 17th, at 5p.m., the women of KJCC will celebrate their 10th Annual Women's Seder. On Friday, March 22nd, Yardena Kamely will lead a special service honoring the conversions of Jane Friedman and Richard Knowles. All are encouraged to come and support them, their commitment, and the work they have done to achieve this landmark. The following Sunday, March 24th, KJCC Religious School will celebrate its own Passover Seder in the morning (and those who can go to Marathon are invited to another Passover Seder, sponsored in part by KJCC members Judy Greenman and Jessica Hernstadt – watch announcements for time and place.). By way of grand Pesach finale, KJCC members and visitors will come together for our own Community Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club on Tuesday, March 26th. It will not seem right for Jim Boruszak to be missing from the head table, but outgoing president Stuart Sax will honor Jim by performing "head of the family" duties in his stead, along with me again as co-leader. (See the ad on page 31.)

Weather permitting, we're expecting to have Rabbi Ed Rosenthal back the first or second week of March with his Hillel "Scuba Jew" contingent, and he'll again help us celebrate Havdalah. (They also plan to be here again in April.)

We are blessed to have two learned, generous rabbis in our midst willing to share their time and wisdom with us. We are also privileged to be part of a congregation that supports such a diverse, creative program of Jewish enrichment.

-Gloria

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of Jerry Oshinsky, who passed

away on February 8, 2013, one week before his 63rd birthday. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Jerry and his longtime girlfriend Sherry

Zwerdling had recently visited Israel, where he placed his prayers in the Western Wall – the Kotel – in Jerusalem. Hopefully those prayers have been answered. His wish in life was to visit the Promised Land, and he did.



It's Your KJCC

Come be a part of it. The next Sisterhood Meeting, (all female members of KJCC are automatically members of Sisterhood and are welcome) will be on March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. at the KJCC. The next Board Meeting will be on March 10th at 9:00 a.m., also held at the KJCC. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. See you there.

Serving Plates Needed

Your Sisterhood is still in need of glass serving dishes and plates coming into this busy food service season. If you have any you would be able to donate for use at the various food oriented get-togethers, please contact Sisterhood or Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

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.com.

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.

Bahai
Gardens on
Mt. Carmel
in Haifa



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:

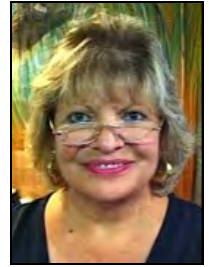
- 10 nights hotel accommodations;
- 18 meals: 10 Israeli buffet breakfasts,
2 lunches and 6 dinners;
- 9 days touring in a comfy motor coach;
- all program and entrance fees;
- tipping and all portage included.

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.

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



Sisterhood has been pretty busy during the months of January and February, which is not over as of this writing. We did a lot of planning for many months, and the result was our extremely successful Deli and Auction Night. We had high stakes bingo, 50/50 raffle, of course a fabulous live auction (with wonderful items that were donated and available to bid on), and great deli food, including knishes. Oops, I forgot to mention the Schnapps. It was truly a terrific and productive time. Thanks to everyone who donated time, services and everybody in attendance who made it an overall great night.

We are into February as I write this. So far we had a successful Brunch on Sunday, February 10th, after the installation of the 2013-2014 KJCC Officers and Directors. Thank you to everyone, and all of Sisterhood, who helped make it once again a great brunch. We had an abundance of food, including bagels & lox, egg salad, tuna salad, Jane's delicious egg rolls, salads, desserts and more.

At the end of the Board's term, it's usually a bittersweet time, saying "thank you" and so long to our former President and welcoming our new President and Board. But it was not that way at all this year. Stuart, as always, was gracious and humble and happy to be passing all his hard work off to Bernie. Bernie picked up without missing a beat and everything went on as usual. The previous Board did a phenomenal job, and I'm very sure the 2013 board will do the same. I'm looking forward to all the next year has to bring.

The next event coming up will be Purim, on Sunday, February 24th, where we will once again have "The Whole Megillah." The Megillah reading will start at 10:30 a.m. with our Hebrew School students and teachers, mem-

bers and guests all in a round-robin style setting, reading out loud and fulfilling the mitzvah. Hope to see everyone there. Brunch will begin at 11:30.

March will start off with a Potluck dairy dinner on the 8th at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be sponsored by our President Bernie, so there will be no charge for members. All the Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers will also be invited to join us, as we did for a dinner last year. Please contact Joyce Peckman at 451-0665 to help coordinate any dishes you'd like to bring.

March will also feature this year's Women's Seder, on the 17th at 5:00 p.m. Please come celebrate the 10th Annual Women's Seder with us. The cost is a total of \$28.00 (\$18.00 *chai* donation plus \$10.00, \$1.00 for each year.) For information & reservation, contact Erica at 305-853-1003 or hippiejap@hotmail.com.

Finally, KJCC's Annual Family Passover Second Seder is Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Please make your reservation early as this will be opening up to the public after March and we would love to have everyone be able to join us. For information and reservations please contact me, Barbara Knowles, at iweddu@bellsouth.net or Joan Boruszak at joanborus@gmail.com. Please mail your checks to the KJCC Sisterhood at P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL, 33070, since your check "Is Your Reservation." Donations for this event: Members - Adults \$50.00, children 12 and under are our guests. Charge for Non-Members - \$75.00.

March will be busy, and wonderful. Hope to see you often. ◇

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> Rose, Skip & Rene	<i>In Memory of</i> Kurt Kluger	<i>Scholarship Fund</i> Congregation	<i>In Honor of</i> Donations at Kaskeset concert - thank you all
<i>General Fund</i> Agler, David Ginsberg, Bernard	<i>In Honor of</i> to sponsor March 8th Shabbat dinner	Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Bat Mitzvah of Mindy Zucker
Gould, Maryon	Stu & Lauren Sax - thank you for Kaskeset concert	<i>Sisterhood Oneg Fund</i> Bernard & Elaine Solas	
Plutzer, Arthur Pollack, Joel & Linda Rose, Skip & Rene	Pauline Roller Bernie Ginsberg - thank you for all you do Stuart & Lauren Sax	<i>Sunshine Fund</i> Sax, Stuart & Lauren	<i>In Honor of</i> Wishing Michal Kamely a speedy recovery
<i>General Fund</i> Luse, Robert & Carol Plutzer, Arthur Pollack, Joel & Linda Pollack, Joel & Linda	<i>In Memory of</i> Kurt Kluger Al Roller Rita Cline Cynthia Rose Guadagno	<i>Yahrzeits</i> Boruszak, Joan Emkey, Gerri Friedman, Ingrid Graham, Bea Krissel, Michael Kwalick, Teresa Olsen, Gerald & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Tallent, Lillian Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy	<i>In Memory of</i> Robert Kohlenbrener Bob Kinney Max & Flora Rosenthal Nicholas & Lilian Goldenberg Joseph Krissel M. Teresa Astray-Caneda Betty Weinstein Sally Sussman Morris Estrin Morris Feinberg, Samuel Wolfe
<i>Meditation Garden</i> Sax, Stuart & Lauren Sax, Stuart & Lauren	<i>In Honor of</i> Wishing Bernie Ginsberg and Barbara Knowles great success Linda Pollack for making Stuart look good for the past 2 years		
<i>Rabbi & Cantor Fund</i> Sax, Stuart & Lauren	<i>In Honor of</i> Mazel Tov to Rich & Mindy Agler on their new home		
<i>Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund</i> Grossman, Herb & Elinor			
<i>Sisterhood Count Your Blessings</i> Ellner, Susan			
<i>Following is a correction to the February Contributions Page</i>			
	<i>Yahrzeits</i> Boruszak, Joan Cooper, Claire Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin Emkey, Gerri Gould, Maryon Grossman, Stuart Isenberg, Henry & Patricia Taramona, Hermine	<i>In Memory of</i> Emma Kohlenbrener Edward Sandberg Henry Rubin Nathan Weisberg Jeanne Walters Schneider Sylvia Grossman Ernest Isenberg Norma Robinson	

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Exploring Israel: The Kibbutz *The Story Of Degania*

Telling stories about Israel, I must include the story of the kibbutz. I have very fond memories of one of the first kibbutzim, *Ein-Charod*, in the Yizrael Valley in North Israel. Growing up in Haifa, my nicest vacations were travelling to the kibbutz and spending a couple of weeks there, enjoying nature, agricultural life, and plenty of fresh food...in times when food was scarce in Israel. My parents had formed a very special friendship with a German couple, Ruth and Willy Dagan, who were among the founding pioneers of the kibbutz. Their friendship lasted for more than 60 years and we, their children, are continuing this special friendship; we have a close relationship, formed when we were kids, feeling like close cousins.

The KJCC trip to Israel will take you to one of the best known kibbutzim, Degania. It is a century since a small group of young Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, inspired by Zionist and socialist ideals, founded the

first *kvutza* ("group" in Hebrew), on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, *Kineret*. It was a different form of settlement from the *moshava*. They renamed it *kibbutz* – "community" – when the group grew and counted 70 members. They viewed the *kvutza* as a closely-knit, egalitarian community, based on common ownership of the means of production and consumption, where all, together, made decisions by majority vote and were all responsible for each other.

In 1909 a group of young pioneers, who drained swamps near Hadera, decided to es-



The early settlers living quarters in Kibbutz Degania Alef, which were built in 1912. Named The Pioneers' Courtyard, it has now been turned into a museum.



The first house of Degania.

establish an independent farm owned by its worker-members. Ten men and two women came in 1910 to the land known at the time as Umm Juni. These first settlers came from the nearby *Moshava* (colony/village) of *Kinneret*. Umm Juni was later renamed Degania and became the first communal settlement, *kvutza*, in *Eretz Yisrael*. One of the settlers wrote to Arthur Ruppin (head of the Zionist Organization) to notify him of the decision to change the name of the settlement to Degania. The explanation given was that the name was meant to signify the five grains that were grown in the area. (However, by some accounts, at that time only three grains – wheat, barley and oats – were actually grown by the settlers.)

These "founding fathers" had immigrated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (with the Second *Aliyah*), mainly from Russia, and were motivated by the ideals of socialism and Zionism. They believed in a Zionism based on the return to the Land of Israel and the working of its soil, and that this would lead to the creation of a new Jewish identity.

These first settlements regarded themselves as enlarged families and kept membership small. In 1913/14, for example, Degania had only 28 members. They were poor, life was harsh and work centered on agricul-

ture, which required draining swamps, removing rocks from hills and painstakingly transforming the soil into fertile farmland. They also had to cope with extreme heat, malaria and food-related illnesses. In his first years in Israel, working on one of the settlements near Degania, my father contracted malaria, but survived it; he had a very strong constitution, then and always.

Social life at Degania revolved around the dining room, where people would meet, eat and talk. Decisions were made by direct democracy. In discussions, which often continued late into the night, members would decide how to organize the following day's work, apportion guard duties (security and safety were important issues from the beginning), kitchen chores and other tasks, as well as debate problems and make decisions.

As the first settlement based on communal living, Degania *Alef* became known as the "Mother of the Kevutzot." Members of Degania *Alef* insisted on maintaining the scale of the small *kvutza*, as opposed to the bigger collective settlement - the *kibbutz* - and



Life in Degania, 1910.

therefore, in 1920, with the coming of Third Aliyah pioneers, Degania *Bet* was founded. In 1932, part of the land was granted for a third collective settlement - Kibbutz *Afikim*.

Degania (population 550) is still an almost "classical" kibbutz, but it has had to deal with many changes. M. Tzur, an Israeli historian, writes in his book "Not in High Clouds" (the name is taken from a poem by Rachel Bluwstein, "Here on Earth") about the development of Degania almost year by year. The kibbutz today is not the same as it was in the beginning. The book tells of a hundred years packed with successes as well as failures.

And that many famous people passed through and lived in Degania. A.D. Gordon lived his last years

there. Moshe Dayan was born there, and lived there for his first six years. A sad story links Degania to Rachel

Bluwstein, who lived on the kibbutz and helped take care of children there after World War I. But when the poet, known in Hebrew as "the poet Rachel," was diagnosed with tuberculosis, she was asked to leave.

Tzur writes that no formal, official decision was

handed down by the kibbutz, but Bluwstein later recalled that one of the members had informed her: "We're healthy and you're ill - you have no place among us." Other members, embarrassed, fled to the fields as she departed, in order not to see Rachel suffering. In the following years her connections with Degania continued, but "she didn't forget the wound of the expulsion."

There was a time when every child in Israel knew of "Degania's tank," the Syrian tank that broke through the kibbutz fence in 1948, was stopped by the kibbutz defenders and went up in flames. But there were less dramatic stories in its rich, productive history, too, such as immigrant absorption, the development of new branches of agriculture and industry, and regional cooperation. Degania's contributions in the areas of work, agriculture, family, culture, and leadership in general - female leadership in particular - were many.

Degania was unharmed by the economic crisis in the 1980s that hit many other kibbutzim, but its members nonetheless de-

manded that the kibbutz change its structure.

In 2004, after years of doubt and discussion, the kibbutz approved a statement of principles by which it agreed to privatize Degania and pay its members differential salaries in accordance with market rates, while guaranteeing mutual responsibility among the members.

"But does it have a future?" asks Tzur, one of the leading historians and contemporary thinkers of the kibbutz movement. The young people there say it will depend on kibbutz leadership. Others, echoing the spirit of Degania's most well known founding father, Yosef Bussel, say emphatically that its story will still move forward. ♦



During the War of Independence, the Syrian army breached the gates of Degania Alef, but was quickly stopped by their defenses. A burnt-out Syrian tank remains on the site as a memorial.

Calendar of Cultural Events for Jerusalem 2013

Jerusalem offers a unique religious and spiritual experience, rich history, and a calendar full of cultural events and festivals to enrich the visiting experience.

12 February - 28 September: Herod the Great exhibition at the Israel Museum. The world's first exhibition on the life and legacy of Herod the Great will present 250 archaeological finds from the king's recently discovered tomb at Herodium, from Jericho and other related sites.

20 February - 30 April: International Ice Festival. One of the world's largest Ice Festivals arrives in Jerusalem for the second year, featuring ice sculptures, ice skating rink, acrobatic and skating performances on ice, a children's ice city, ice bar and more. Jerusalem Old Station Complex.

23 May - June 8: The Israel Festival. A three-week spectacular of art, music, dance and theater with Jerusalem's top cultural venues showcasing works by artists from all over the world, premieres of Israeli works and free street theater performances. Now in its 52nd year!

28-30 May: Musrara Mix Festival. This multidisciplinary event, part of a UNESCO network of cultural programs, features artists from Israel and abroad and will take place in the Musrara neighborhood.

5-13 June 2012: Jerusalem Festival of Light: A breathtaking display of artistic light creations, designed by leading local and foreign light artists, throughout the Old City's public and restricted areas, as well as at tourism sites.

15 June - 31 August: The Jerusalem Season of Culture: an annual summer showcase of the city's contemporary cultural treasures, including dance, music, poetry, philosophy, visual art, new media, and more.

July 2013: Jerusalem Film Festival: Ten full days of screenings, honorary guests, panels and festivities. Outdoor screenings take place at the foot of the old city walls in Sultan's Pool.

6-18 August: International Arts and Crafts Fair, "Khutzot Hayotser": For over thirty years, the Khutzot Hayotser Arts and Crafts Fair has brought together over 150 Israeli artists and dozens more from countries all over the world.

20-23 August: The Festival of Sacred Music: Israeli and international musicians perform in venues around the city selected for their religious or historical significance, including the Tower of David. A multi-cultural tribute to the people who have glorified Jerusalem for centuries.

September: Chamber Music Festival. Held annually at the YMCA, this festival will highlight chamber pieces by Schubert, as well as shows in collaboration with the Israeli Opera.

September: In The Beginning: A major international exhibition entitled "In the Beginning" will be opened at the Bible Lands Museum featuring a collection examining how the Bible has shaped humanity for over 2,000 years.

10,17,24,31 October: The Knights Festival: A journey back in time to the heroes of the Middle Ages, including knights, kings, princesses and troubadours, roaming the Old City alleyways. Free street performances.

17-19 October: Houses From Within: Tourists and visitors are invited to explore generally private spaces such as homes and gardens during this one weekend.

December: Hot Winter, Long Nights: Hamshushalayim, as it is known in Jerusalem, takes place every long weekend in December (Thursday through Saturday), offering an array of events at cultural institutions in the city with many museums and tourist sites open free of charge, night tours, concerts, special deals in restaurants and more.

General information about events in the city, updated nearer the time, can be found at www.itraveljerusalem.com.

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Bar Mitzvah Boy's *Tzedakah*

More than 800 people attended Robert Leeds' Beatles-themed Bar Mitzvah, complete with entertainers from Cirque du Soleil. Still, this extravagant Bar Mitzvah will most likely be remembered for something else: on the invitations, Robert requested that his guests, in lieu of gifts, donate money for an ambulance for *Magen David Adom* (MDA), the Israeli-based emergency response agency. Leeds ended up raising enough money for *two*, one a standard ambulance and the other a mobile intensive care unit. Together they were valued at \$225,000. Arnold Gerson, CEO of *American Friends of Magen David Adom* (AFMDA), presented the young man with the *Maimonides Award*, making him the youngest recipient ever. AFMDA Western Regional Director Yossi Mentz said, "Robert's Bar Mitzvah had both the *bar* and the *mitzvah*. There's no greater *mitzvah* than saving a life." (www.afmda.org, 1-17-13)

Trees for Newtown

More than 2,000 people have donated money to plant a grove of 3,300 trees in Israel in memory of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. The trees will be part of the Beersheva River Park, a 1,700-acre water, environmental and commercial area being constructed by the Jewish National Fund (JNF). The idea for the grove grew from a request made by Veronique Pozner, whose son Noah was the only Jewish victim (and the youngest) of the shooting. She had said that memorial contributions in her son's name could go to the JNF for trees to be planted in Israel. It was later decided to honor all the victims of the massacre, not just Noah. More than \$61,000 was raised. (www.jta.org, 12-31-12)

"Advisor" Alfred Hitchcock

Two new films about the life of Alfred Hitchcock, one of the truly great film directors, have come out recently: "Hitchcock," starring Anthony Hopkins, and the HBO film "The Girl." Notably absent from both films however, is a little-known chapter in his life. Hitchcock lent his directorial skills to the British Army for what eventually became a documentary entitled "Memory of the Camps." The film contains exclusive footage of concentration camps in the days after their liberation by Allied forces. During that time, Hitchcock was living and working in Hollywood and didn't travel to Europe for filming at Dachau, Belsen and Buchenwald. Instead, he instructed the camera crews accompanying the liberating armies to take as many uninterrupted long shots and unbroken panoramas as possible, knowing that these would best capture the horrible truth about what took place at these locations. Hitchcock was credited as "treatment advisor" on the film. Post-production, he traveled to England and helped organize the footage. (*The Forward*, 11-15-12)

A Gift That Keeps on Giving

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is giving \$350 million to his alma mater, Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University. This gift brings his total lifetime donations to the institution to over \$1 billion, making him the university's largest-ever philanthropic benefactor. Of the new gift, \$250 million will go toward the university's work to take on global challenges such as the preservation of water resources, while the other \$100 million will provide financial aid to undergraduate students. While he was an undergraduate student, Bloomberg paid for his tuition by taking

loans and working as a parking lot attendant. His first gift to Johns Hopkins was \$5 in 1965, a year after he received his bachelor's degree in engineering. Bloomberg's fortune is now estimated by Forbes magazine to be \$25 billion. Now 70, he has said that he will give away his fortune before he dies. Besides education, his donations have targeted public health initiatives, the environment and the arts. He is also funding national campaigns against gun violence.
(www.reuters.com 1-29-13)

Women in the Knesset

A record number of women will serve in the 19th Knesset, Israel's newly elected parliament. With the vote that was cast on January 22nd, the number of seats occupied by females has risen from 22 to 26. This means that women comprise over 23 percent of the Knesset. While this statistic does not come close to representing the proportion of women in Israeli society, it is better than the situation in the United States, where a record number of 98 women were recently elected to Congress. That figure still represents only 18 percent of all those serving on Capitol Hill. One of the women elected to the Knesset is Penina Tamnu-Shata, the first female of Ethiopian origin. Very few Israelis heeded Religious Zionist leader Rabbi Shlomo Aviner's out-of-touch warning that women, for the sake of modesty, should not vote or run for the Knesset. (*The Forward*, 1-23-13)

KJCC's Connection to "Shark Tank"

Local artist and KJCC member Marcia Kreitman has much to *kvell* about. Marcia's two nieces, Susanne Kreitman Taylor and her sister Heather Kreitman McCabe, recently appeared on ABC's "Shark Tank" pitching their invention *Bibbitech*. "Shark Tank" encourages entrepreneurs to pitch their companies to investors while seven million viewers are watching. The young women grew up in Miami, married and became moms. Taylor was inspired to create her bib after a very messy plane ride with her two young sons. The product is an eco-friendly, multi-purpose bib for children and is made in Hialeah. On

her appearance on "Shark Tank," Taylor pitched her "Ultimate Bib," a patented generously-sized stain-resistant and fast-drying child's bib. It can be used as a burp cloth, changing pad, breast-feeding shield, full body bib, place mat, art smock and more. Marcia advises on design. Back in September, *Bibbitech's* sales jumped 40 percent after it appeared on an ABC World News' "Made in America" segment. The product did not get investors from "Shark Tank" but the exposure has exploded their website with business.
(www.miamiherald.com, 1-31-13)

Disturbing Numbers

According to the 2012 report by the *Council for the Welfare of the Child*, 905,000 children in Israel – 35.6 percent – are living below the poverty line, an all-time high. Over the past thirty years, the percentage of poor children has increased from 8.1 percent in 1980 to 35.6 percent in 2011. There was a slight decline in 2010. The report was submitted to Israeli President Shimon Peres, who said that the council's report was an "alarm clock" for the entire country. "The figures in the report are worrisome," Peres said. "We cannot accept a situation whereby the number of poor children has grown fourfold." In 2011, 65.8 percent of Arab children in Israel were living in poverty – almost three times the percentage of poor Jewish children – 24.2 percent. The report indicates that there has been a 60 percent increase in the number of poor children since 1998.
(www.haaretz.com, 12-19-12)

"Schlemielism" in Tel Aviv

Hila Ben Baruch recently parked her car in a legal space near her Tel Aviv apartment, but when she returned to her car the parking space had been repainted for use by the handicapped (while her car was parked in the space) and her car had been towed. She was ordered to pay a fine and the cost of towing in order to reclaim her car. But a surveillance camera across the street recorded the parking spot's transition and she posted it on Facebook. The Tel Aviv municipality returned her vehicle, waived all fees and offered an

apology. "This was indeed a serious error, and schlemielism that is unacceptable..." the city said in a statement. To see the video that captured the city workers painting the space for the handicapped, go to <http://blogs.jta.org/telegraph/article/2013/02/05/3118806/israeli-woman-fights-tel-aviv-municipal-handicap-parking-prank-on-facebook> (www.jta.org, 2-12-13)

In Memoriam

-Pauline Phillips, better known as advice columnist "Dear Abby," died recently. She was 94. Born Pauline Esther Friedman in Iowa, Phillips was the daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants. She wrote under the pseudonym Abigail van Buren and began writing the column in 1956. "Dear Abby" was syndicated in more than 1,200 newspapers and had 95 million readers at its height. Her twin sister, Epie Lederer (born Esther Pauline Friedman), who died in 2002, wrote a similar column under the name Ann Landers. (www.jta.org, 1-17-13)

-Leon Leyson, the youngest of the 1,100 Jews saved by German industrialist Oskar Schindler, has died at the age of 88. Leyson was thirteen when he went to work at Schindler's factory in Krakow, where he had to stand on a box in order to reach the machinery he operated. Schindler often referred to him as "little Leyson." His parents, his older brother and his sister also survived, but his two younger brothers were killed by the Nazis. In 1949, Leyson immigrated to the United States and later fought in the Vietnam War. Using the skills he learned in Schindler's factory, Leyson taught machine shop and was a guidance counselor at Huntington Park High School in Los Angeles for almost 40 years. Leyson rarely spoke about the Holocaust until the 1993 release of Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List." After that, he traveled throughout the United States telling his story. (www.jpost.com, 1-14-13)

Did You Know....

-Dove Lipman is the first American-born member of Israel's Knesset (*Yesh Atid* party)

since Meir Kahane was elected in 1984. Lipman said he will forfeit his American citizenship to assume the role. (www.jta.org, 1-23-13)

-Marc Trestman, a longtime National Football League assistant, has been hired as the Chicago Bears' head coach. The 57-year-old Minneapolis native will be the only Jewish head coach in the NFL. (www.jta.org, 1-16-13)

-Drew Barrymore, the former child star in Steven Spielberg's movie "E.T.," now has a child of her own, a daughter named Olive. Barrymore, of the famed Barrymore acting dynasty, is married to Jewish art dealer Will Kopelman and is planning to raise her daughter "traditionally Jewish." Barrymore said she hasn't converted to Judaism yet but says about Judaism, "It's a beautiful faith and I'm so honored to be around it. It's so family-oriented and beautiful and I learn so much and the stories are beautiful. It's incredibly enlightening." (www.jta.org, 2-1-13)

-Michael Applebaum, 49, has become the first-ever Jewish mayor of Montreal, Canada, the second-largest French-speaking country in the world. He's also the first non-native French speaker in a century to hold the position. Applebaum will serve as interim mayor for a year. He replaces Gerald Tremblay, who resigned in November in a corruption scandal that linked him to organized crime. He will be stepping down as mayor of Cote des Neiges/Notre Dame de Grace, one of the city's most heavily populated boroughs, and one with a high concentration of Jewish residents. His interim post will last only until municipal elections scheduled for November 2013. Applebaum has stated that he will not seek re-election. (*The Forward*, 11-19-12)

-Three Israeli surfers recently rescued eight children swept out to sea and on the verge of drowning in Hawaii as their parents watched helplessly from shore. The children, ages twelve to fourteen, were being pounded by huge waves. Yair Naftali, one of the Israelis, lives in Honolulu. He said that it took 40 exhausting minutes to rescue all of the children. (www.jpost.com, 2-10-13) ♦

**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
SHABBAT DINNER**



FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH

~DAIRY~

For the second year in a row, we are inviting our Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers to thank them for their support. We are also extending a special invitation to our newest members. And we are encouraging prospective members to join with us. Additionally, we will be welcoming our new President, Bernie Ginsberg, and thanking Stuart Sax for two years of hard work.

Contact:

Medina (305) 852-3872, hiitsmedee@gmail.com,
to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.
Please reserve by March 1st.

Sponsored Dinner - no charge

Photo Gallery



Rabbi Ed was joined at the February 8th Kiddush by all ages, from our next Bar Mitzvah boy Harry Friedman and Beth, granddaughter of Jules and Nettie Seder to Mindy Agler, Susan Ellner, a lovely Hillel student, Jane Friedman, Stuart and Lauren Sax.



The oneg was also a chance to celebrate birthday girls Erica Lieberman Garrett and Leslie Janowitz.



A special Birthday cake was awaiting Erica and Leslie at the Oneg.

All photos taken by David Gitin.



(Left and below) On February 9th Rabbi Ed Rosenthal talks about the ending of Shabbat before beginning Havdalah Service in the Beth/Stanlake Gazebo. Twenty members, visitors from Sweden, and Reef Repairing "Scuba Jew" Hillel Students from Tampa participate. Rabbi Ed also presided over a discussion of Tikkun HaYam, a phrase coined by Rabbi Ed himself. It is a playful adaptation of Tikkun Olam, adding "Ha Yam", which means "the ocean." So "Tikkun HaYam" means "repairing the ocean."



Photos by David Gitin.



Mikhaela Bitton during Sunday School, standing in front of the beginning of her own Hebrew Dictionary. Way to go, Mikhaela!

Here's one of the many nice offshoots of KJCC onegs. This Saturday dinner at Num Thai on February 16th arose from a casual conversation around the tables in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall the night before. Actually, five more eventually joined in the fun. "How good and how pleasant it is..."



The KJCC Annual Meeting And A Changing of the Guard

Sunday, February 10th, 2013 was a bitter-sweet day for several members of the congregation, especially for me as outgoing president. In my State-of-the-Congregation comments (mandated by our by-laws), I was able to highlight many of the high points of the past two years, including the growth in our membership, the strength of our financial position, and the involvement of so many members serving on the Board and from the congregation. There were a few low points as well, especially the loss of far too many members in just the past year.

Once again, Carol Steinbock did an exemplary job of recognizing the accomplishments of so many and installing the officers and directors of the new Board for 2013. In an admittedly emotional speech, I thanked everyone for making the past two years truly a team effort. As I love to do, I recited some special and favorite song lyrics, for the congregation and even more especially for my wife Lauren. I emphasized the programs that began before my tenure, ones I'd been able to build upon, and were now being passed along to new president Bernie Ginsberg for additional improvement.

The annual meeting culminated with another outstanding potluck brunch organized



Outgoing President Stuart Sax holding the plaque presented to him by a grateful congregation. The plaque reads:

“Thank you for your love and hands on dedication to our spiritual house. Your day-to-day guidance in all matters of the Temple, large and small, your personal presence and wonderful wit have made the last two years special.”

by Barbara Knowles and several members of the KJCC Sisterhood. Everyone left enriched and well fed.

-Stuart Sax

(Moments before writing this note, Stuart had handed over the KJCC gavel to Bernie, and with that joined the illustrious list of active and irreplaceable past presidents of KJCC: Bea Graham, George Swartz, Joel Pollack, Jeff Schocket, Steve Steinbock and Alan Beth.) ◇



The newly installed KJCC officers and directors for 2013, joined by past presidents who are still active members of the Board.



(Left) New Executive Vice President Sam Vinicur, new President Bernie Ginsberg, outgoing President Stuart Sax.

(Below) Directors Gene Silverman and Rene Rose surround Treasurer Linda Pollack.



(Below) Students from KJCC's religious school, led by teachers Yardena Kamely and Gloria Avner, serenade the new Board with "Mazel tov" after the installation ceremony.



(Below) New President Bernie Ginsberg and outgoing President Stuart Sax hold cakes provided by Sisterhood for the luncheon following the ceremony. (It's a synagogue; there's always food following the ceremony.)



(Left) At the brunch in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, carefully tended to by Sisterhood Vice President Jane Friedman at right.

Deli Nite at KJCC

Great Food, Great Fun, and a Big Success

On Saturday, January 19, 2013, 80 people gathered and enjoyed a wonderful and very scrumptious Deli Nite. After a *bissel* of schnapps, some mini hot dogs and pretzels, we all enjoyed a traditional deli dinner. Also included were knishes, corned beef, pastrami and turkey sandwiches, kosher dill pickles and all the sides.

Then the real fun began. As we assembled in the sanctuary, an array of items was available for our live auction, including an amazing piece of artwork generously donated and valued at \$9000. There were lots of unique items up for bidding, which included getting your car washed by Joyce Peckman, a Shabbat Dinner for four cooked and delivered by Erica Garrett and Linda Perloff, and one hundred egg rolls made by Jane Friedman.

Stuart Sax led the auction and with the generosity of several of our members, the beautiful artwork was



rousting round of Bingo, some apple strudel and chocolate Bobka (extremely yummy), the event was declared a lot of fun and a great success.

Thanks to all of Sisterhood, the hard-working committee, and Marc Bloom as well as all those who supported us in one way or another. You all helped make this event the successful and memorable fundraiser that it was. ♦



The Deli Committee:
Barbara Knowles, Lauren Sax, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Georgia Landau, Roberta McNew and Jane Friedman.



President Stuart acting as auctioneer.

bought as a group and will be kept at the KJCC. It is displayed in the foyer as you enter. After a



Decisions, decisions.

Keys Jewish Community Center 10th Annual Women's Seder

Sunday

March 17, 2013

5:00 PM @ KJCC

Homemade Seder Dinner
w/Wine

Come celebrate the 10th
Women's Seder

Donation: \$18 chai
+ \$10.00 for 10 years =
\$28.00

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

Limited seating - Contacts:
Beth (305) 393-4013
bethkam@bellsouth.net
Erica (305) 853-1003
hippiejap@hotmail.com



A Field Trip To FIU For Jewish Meditation

by Gloria Avner

None of us like to drive at night—especially to Miami. But Joyce Peckman offered her van, so a small band of intrigued KJCC learners went off to hear Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz – highly recommended by our own Rabbi Rich Agler – speak on “Jewish Meditation.”

Mitch Chefitz graduated from MIT in the 60s, went to U.C. Berkeley for a time (I was there at the same time, though we never met), joined the Navy, served in Vietnam, became a Reform Rabbi at HUC, and studied at a yeshivah in New York City. He’s written acclaimed books and spent a lifetime riding motorcycles and exploring hidden worlds by scuba diving, practicing risk-taking that would serve him well.

For over 30 years, this man has been a leader in the *Chavurah/Renewal* movement, formations of small groups gathering in members’ homes to celebrate the rituals and spirituality of Judaism – a phenomenon also called “synagogues without walls.”

Now Rabbi Emeritus and “Scholar in Residence” at Temple Israel in Miami, Rabbi Chefitz and his quiet, intense talk kept four KJCC members and a 22-year-old visitor recently returned from a Birthright Program in Israel totally engaged. We became part of the tenth program in FIU’s Spirituality Series as the Rabbi discussed “What is Jewish about Jewish meditation.” *Purposeful* was the descriptive word.

B’reishit. The ancient words from Genesis provide the key: “a wind of God hovers over the face of the waters.” The Rabbi went on to say we have to be still enough to feel that wind, that “*ruach*.” Nascent creation requires only the gentlest wind possible to allow for development of the universe. The pinnacle of all creation is now, he said, in every



The speaker, Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz.

present moment, and we are co-creators with God. We all have the same question. What is my purpose? Where is this wind blowing me? Where do I go from here? Oops. Right questions. Wrong pronoun. That little individual “I/me” has to disappear. Then we’ll feel the wind and be engaged in this creative partnership. This is post-Rabbinic Judaism.

How do we get quiet enough, still and friction-free enough so that this wind, always blowing, can reach us? Meditation will get us there, says Rabbi Chefitz.

There are breathing exercises, ways to focus, recognition that the spark of life is in everything, animal, vegetable and mineral. We can change our focus from narrow to wide and back again. Other tools are guided repetitive singing of *niggun*s (wordless melodies that can transport us), visualization techniques, and storytelling (ask for the one about the wise village rabbi and the bartender).

We can do as Rabbi Chefitz suggests and take literally the words of Psalm

Adonai, the unpronounceable name of God, as the Kabbalistic mystics see it -- vertically instead of horizontally -- suggesting a human figure, a reminder that we are made in God's image.



16, verse 8 – "I place God before me always." If we set in front of us the letters of the unpronounceable name of God, in a vertical rather than horizontal form, suddenly the letters transform. They become a human figure, the "hay" now a doorway we can walk through, a reminder we are made in God's image.

Introspection (*hitbodidut*), says the Rabbi, requires bravery and risk-taking (not unlike the "*koach*" needed for riding motorcycles through twisting mountain roads or scuba-diving deep seas). It is best, even necessary, to have a guide.

Nearly all of the great European spiritual masters who knew and could transmit these Kabbalistic teachings were lost in the Holocaust. Mitch Chefitz learned from the wise ones who survived -- Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and the man he referred to as the great "sage of our age," Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, translator of the Talmud.

Hearing Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz talk about the place and practice of Jewish meditation in our tradition was captivating. The experi-

ence of being guided in meditation by him was powerful. We want to share it with our *mishpocha* at KJCC. The Ritual and Education Committees are inviting Rabbi Chefitz to join us for a program. It will be a life-enriching experience. Watch announcements for details. You don't want to miss this one. ◇



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MAZEL TOV MARK LIEBERMAN

by Erica Lieberman-Garrett

On the holiday weekend of December 28th, 2012, after a year of planning, preparations, long hard drives through snow from Toronto – and much practice – a wonderful Shabbat and Saturday Bar Mitzvah service was done.

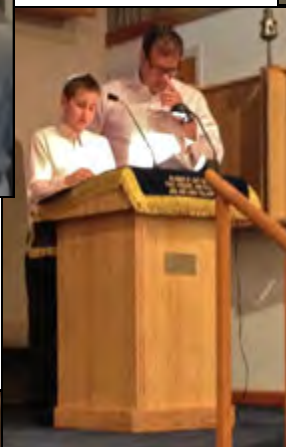
With seventeen of the Lieberman family from Toronto, including my mother Maxine, my sisters Melanie, Andrea, and Risa, along with their spouses, my nieces and nephews, my brother Tevy, his wife and their two boys, including Mark the Bar Mitzvah boy, they drove the long trip, and arrived at our wonderful KJCC, along with my husband Ron.

Having prepared from a distance, Mark studied his Torah and Haftorah, and read and chanted his portions beautifully and with so much confidence.

I led the Friday night service, incorporating my brother Tevy and his family, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah, and then on Saturday, together with Rabbi Agler, we had our Torah service.

I was so honored to be part of this *simcha*, and to have participated in leading the service with Rabbi Agler.

Preparing from a distance seemed challenging, and yet with some organization and practice, everything went incredibly smoothly. Only at our KJCC could such a feat happen. With the encouragement and love of our



congregation, I was inspired to study and work towards standing on the bimah, singing and chanting, as my nephew Mark made us all proud.

To connect in this way, with the love of our KJCC, my family, and the Torah, all in one weekend, is something I will never forget. May you all, in your lives, feel such joy and *nachas* as I felt that weekend. ♦



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Tu B'Sh'vat at KJCC

Happy Birthday to the Trees

by Gloria Avner

Tu B'Sh'vat, the Birthday of the Trees, has always been one of the KJCC Religious School students' favorite holidays. Parents bring the required fruits, nuts, and crackers so we can partake of the "seven species" of Biblical times. We celebrate all the types of fruit that were God's gift to us in Israel. Bernie Ginsberg, our traditional ritual grandfather (and new KJCC president), sits at the head of our table and shares knowledge and stories. This year our children learned about "gematria," how the Jewish alphabet (a Greek word originally derived, by the way, from Hebrew) functions as numbers as well as letters, and the insights our rabbis found in those numbers. (*Tu B'Sh'vat* means the 16th day of the month of Sh'vat.)

Bernie told us a story about the Jewish Rip Van Winkle, an old man who goes to sleep after planting a carob tree while telling a curious child that the tree would not bear fruit for 70 years. Why, the child asks, would you plant a tree now if it won't bear fruit until long after you're gone?

The man wakes up to see a boy harvesting fruit from the tree. It is the *grandson* of the boy who asked him why he was planting this tree. So there's a lesson here for all of us; we don't plant only thinking of ourselves, but also for those who will come after us.

Tu B'Sh'vat fell this year on Sunday, January 27th on the secular calendar, so our chil-

dren were able to celebrate on the exact date. We celebrated our mystical *Tu B'Sh'vat* Seder around a beautifully set table, honoring each season by drinking and blessing four cups of wine ranging from



the pure white of winter to the pure red of summer and the shades between. We blessed all varieties of *p'ri HaEtz* (fruit of the tree). Then, thanks to a gift from Jane Friedman, we went outside to plant three exotic fruit trees. Natalie Werthamer and the other students took turns wielding shovels. Cole and Westley Silverman wrestled bags of soil and cow manure into submission.

Harry watered the plants. Moira read blessings and we all, including parents and KJCC Board Member Medina Roy, danced and sang "Mayim, Mayim" (water, water) as we wished the newest sapling additions to our KJCC Sunday School orchard a productive future. ◇

Thank you to Richard Knowles for the photos.



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Ten Plagues – Ten Possibilities

By Joyce Peckman

Ask any child to tell you about the Pesach Seder, and you will hear something about the ten plagues. It is such a powerful tale, often told complete with props of red-colored liquid, plastic insects, toy animals and blackout glasses. With each memorized word – *dam*, *tzfardea*, *kinim*, *arov*, *dever*, *shchin*, *barad* (blood, frogs, gnats, insects, cattle disease, boils, hail) – we dip our fingers into our wine glasses to diminish our portion of happiness as we imagine the suffering that took place over three thousand years ago. Our ancient rabbis have dealt with the topic in great depth, made acrostics with the letters, over-laden the tale with Hebrew numerology *gematria* and come to the conclusion that the Egyptians suffered 501 plagues!

When we read much of the Torah, there is no scientific evidence to corroborate the narratives we study. The truths in the Torah are found in metaphor and faith. That is not the case here.

Scientists have compiled evidence of devastating events occurring at the ancient city of Pi-Rameses, which was the capital of Egypt during the rule of Rameses II, a city that flourished and was then abandoned around 3,000 years ago.

Climatologists point to a dramatic climate change during the latter part of Rameses II's reign. Rising temperatures and lower water levels caused the Nile to change from a swiftly moving river to a slow, muddy waterway. Some scientists look at the plagues in that context. The first of Egypt's plagues was the plague of blood. "And the fish that were in the river died and the water became foul and the Egyptians could not drink the water from the river, and the blood was throughout all the land of Egypt." The Egyptians tried to dig wells beside the Nile, in an attempt to reach potable water.

Biologist Dr. Stephen Plugmacher describes a bacterium, *Oscillatoris rubescens*, known to have existed 3,000 years ago, also known as Burgundy Blood Algae, which multiplies rapidly in slow-moving warm waters with high levels of nutrition. As it dies, it stains the water red. It would undoubtedly have been an impressive and awful sight – the waters of the life-sustaining Nile running red.

Drs. Marr and Malloy, two other scientists, blame a freshwater algal bloom called *Pfiesteria*, a single-celled organism that secretes neurotoxins and causes what is known today as a red tide. As that name suggests, some of these algae, which can stun fish and eat away their flesh, contain a red pigment. Along with blood from the dying fish, that could have accounted for the river turning red. In either event, the resulting environmental conditions would have tipped a delicate ecosystem into catastrophic imbalance, which could well have set in motion the next group of plagues.

Arrival of the toxic algae would have forced the frogs to leave the river. Toads of the genus *Bufo* seem to fit the Biblical description convincingly. They are common, hugely prolific, and drawn toward sources of light and heat. As the fish and frogs died, flies would have swarmed around their carcasses, and the insects that they usually eat would have flourished. The next step in the chain reaction would be insect-borne illnesses. The probable worst culprit, said the epidemiologists, was the stable fly: it can produce huge swarms and can give a mean bite, leaving open puncture wounds that expose the victim to the danger of secondary infections. Another insect culprit might be the *Culicoides* midge, which spread known viruses that affect animals but not people, causing African horse sickness and blue tongue, diseases that affect horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, sheep and goats. Interestingly, the *Culicoides* is a very weak flier, so

herds and flocks outside the insect's normal distribution range — such as in the land of Goshen, where the Hebrews lived — may well have escaped the plague we call cattle disease or murrain.

The scientists suggested that a bacterium known as *Pseudomonas mallei* was probably responsible for the sixth plague. It causes a nasty infection that can be spread through the air and by fly bites. Remember the stable fly? This highly contagious infection affects both animals and humans, causing the lymph nodes to swell and become filled with pus. Thus, the plague of boils.

Meanwhile, another natural disaster was occurring 400

miles away on the Mediterranean island of Santorini (which is now the Greek island of Thira, in the southern Aegean just north of Crete, several hundred miles northwest of the Nile delta). One of the biggest volcanic explosions in human history blew billions of tons of volcanic ash into the atmosphere. On the Volcanic Explosivity Index this historic event is rated a 7. To give you an idea of the size of this eruption, Mount St. Helens is classified a 5 and Krakatoa is a 6 on the scale. Scientists excavating Egyptian ruins have found pumice, and upon analyzing the stone, determined it to be from the Santorini volcano. Volcanic ash could have blocked out the sun, creating a thick darkness, and could have clashed with thunderstorms over Egypt to create dramatic

hailstorms. Dr. Trevisanato, a Canadian biologist, also pointed out that ash fall causes weather anomalies of the sort that foster the presence of locusts. The sudden heat would cause the dormant locusts to emerge early and en masse. And then there is the *khamsin* — a hot, southerly wind sweeping in from the Sahara to create fierce sandstorms that typically last two to three days. *Khamsins* can bury entire buildings with fine sand and blot

out the sun in a dark, dusty haze. Furthermore, the worst of these storms are known to take place in March — about the time of year when the ninth plague would have occurred.

The tenth and final plague may have begun in the damp



“the waters of the life-sustaining Nile running red.” Not as impressive in black and white, I know. For a better sense of the river running with blood, check out the online edition of Chai-Lights, which is in color.

and fetid conditions of the sand-covered grain stores, where locust feces contaminated the wet crops that the Egyptians rushed to save from the hail. The resulting mold could have bred a powerful mycotoxin, the ingestion of only a small amount of which causes massive internal bleeding, resulting in sudden death. In the land of Goshen, the Jews, eating only newborn lamb, herbs and unleavened bread — would have been safe from mycotoxin contamination.

The plagues were not metaphor. They were real. Their reality does not negate the role of G-d as ruler of the universe, nor lessen the power of the Angel of Death. I have simply explained the possible tools, for which we now have ample scientific evidence. ◇

“Avadim Hayinu . . . B’nei Chorin!”

Insecurity and Faith on the Road to Freedom

by Gloria Avner

In a matter of days, Jews all over the world will be sitting around a table, singing the words at the heart of the Passover seder. (They’re written in Hebrew in the title above; the translation is “Once we were slaves. Now we are free people.”) To celebrate our freedom, our “peopleness,” in intimate settings – our homes – we invite strangers to share our bounty, our pleasure, and the recollection of our pain. Even the poorest man on Passover is commanded to relish the symbols of freedom, to recline on pillows – a free man as he dines – and to partake of four cups of wine.

More important than the symbols, we are commanded to re-tell the story of our journey to freedom and to feel as if we are inside the story as we tell it. Why is it so important that we pass this story to our children, that we make it as real as we can? Simple truth: This is the ultimate story of us, how we became who we are, “a people” who would soon be ready to accept the Torah, its laws, and partnership with God.

We are encouraged, during the Passover seder, to look at our lives today and see in what ways we are still enslaved. We are being encouraged, in the lessons of the seder, to model our lives after our ancestors and take that same leap, fraught with fear of the unknown that they faced, and have faith that our lives will be the better for the leaping.

There is an understanding that not every Jew heeded God’s word through Moses. Some rabbis say that only twenty percent of the Jewish slaves in Egypt packed up and left. And if the understanding is that as many as 600,000 Jews did leave Egypt, it would mean that nearly as many Jews as were killed in the holocaust may have died in Egypt. Do we say, “Why didn’t they go when they had a chance?” No. We look within and understand the temptation of staying with the known, the

knowledge that you and your children will at least be fed, that you will be familiar with your abuse and abuser, rather than face the unknown perils of a harsh desert.

Could they have known God would provide manna? Only if they had faith and trust. Even among the Jews who fled and followed Moses, there were many, weak of mind and spirit, who time and again would complain, longing for that old secure life under Pharaoh. Such people would willingly revert – even while Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving Torah from the God of the Hebrews – to putting faith in a golden calf, the ultimate symbol of all things material.

A 360-year-old poem by Richard Lovelace says: “Stone walls do not a prison make. Nor iron bars a cage.” Forty-five years ago, Jim Morrison wrote: “We are caught in a prison of our own device.” We were enslaved in *Mitzrayim*, a place called Egypt in English but also a word that in Hebrew literally means a narrow, hemmed-in place. In English, when we are in a difficult situation, we say we’re in a “tight spot.” How do we get out of our tight spots? How do we break out of the iron bars we make for ourselves and enable ourselves to work not just for our own freedom, but for the freedom of others, for “tikkun olam,” repair of the world?

Today’s Jews are very blessed. We not only have access to the wisdom of our ancestors and the support of *HaShem*, we have the energy of the Passover season, the *Pesach* moment, to engage for our own redemption. It will support us in inner growth, in our resolve to change old habits, our commitment to let that which does not serve us drop away.

Looking inward more than outward, we take on new challenges, and go beyond our need for the known and the secure. We squirm through those tight places and reach for true freedom. We are grateful to those

who left Egypt. We tell their story dramatically to our children, honor their bravery in the face of the unknown by being brave our-

selves, and resolve to improve ourselves and the world. It is the great and continuing gift to us that comes from the Passover story. ◇

The Four Questions

מָה נִשְׁתַּנָּה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מִכָּל הַלַּיְלוֹת ?
שֶׁבְּכָל-הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חֲמִץ וּמַצָּה,
הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה כָּלוּ מַצָּה ?
שֶׁבְּכָל-הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׂאֵר יֵרָקוֹת,
הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מָרּוֹר ?
שֶׁבְּכָל הַלַּיְלוֹת אֵין אָנוּ מִטְבִּילִין אֶפְלוּ
פְּעַם אֶחָת, הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה שְׁתֵּי פְעָמִים ?

Ma nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?

Sheb'khol haleilot anu okhlin hametz umatzah; halailah hazeh, kuloh matzah.

Sheb'khol haleilot anu okhlin sh'ar y'rakot; halailah hazeh, maror.

Sheb'khol haleilot ein anu matbilin afilu pa'am ehat; halailah hazeh, shtei f'amim.

Sheb'khol haleilot anu okhlin bein yoshvin uvein m'subin; halailah hazeh, kulanu m'subin.

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat leavened products and matzah, and on this night only matzah.

On all other nights we eat all vegetables, and on this night only bitter herbs.

On all other nights, we don't dip our food even once, and on this night we dip twice.

On all other nights we eat sitting or reclining, and on this night we only recline.

"Shechinah" Among and Within Us

by Gloria Avner

Women's Seder time approaches, and my thoughts turn both to creativity – our play with clay – and divinity. Perhaps they are the same, the feminine aspect of divinity and the feminine spirit's place in Judaism.

Parsha *Vayakhel* speaks of the great care and amount of precious materials used by the homeless Jews to build the *Mishkan*, or Tabernacle, in the desert, creating an awe-inspiring place for *Shechinah* to dwell.

When we were herdsmen and farmers, living close to the land, *Shechinah* had always been seen as the source of all things in nature. In traditional Jewish writings, *Shechinah* is defined as the "female aspect of God" or the "presence" of the infinite God in the world. She shares in the exile of the Jewish people. Construction of the *Mishkan* was made necessary by exile. We needed a place to house "creator spirit" while we wandered in the desert. *Shechinah* wandered with us. She is introduced in the early rabbinical commentaries as the "immanence" or "indwelling" of the living God, whose role as the animating life force of the earth is to balance the transcendent deity. She does not appear by name in the five books of Moses, the Torah. Still, scholars of the Old Testament refer to her while interpreting the text. When Moses meets the burning bush, he is told to remove his shoes and prepare himself to receive the *Shechinah*.

Talmudists emphasize her association with humanity. They see her as suffering when human beings erred: "Acts of bloodshed, incest, perversion of justice and falsification of measures cause her to depart." They tell us: "Whoever is humble will ultimately cause the *Shechinah* to dwell upon Earth. Whoever is haughty brings about the defilement of the Earth and the departure of the *Shechinah*." In their view, actions harmful to other human beings or the Earth cause the *Shechinah* to flee, and she rises upward to the Heavens. On the other side of the scale are the positive actions of humanity, which attract her presence downward to the earth.

Shechinah also comes to earth when people need her comforting presence. She hovers, rabbis tell us, at the bed of all who are ill, and is seen by the dying as they exit the world into the great light. According to tradition, the *Shechinah* comes to the good and true at death, giving them the opportunity to go straight up the center of the heavenly ladder in a moment of pure consciousness, into the merger with the Divine.

We don't know if the *Shechinah* spoke to our matriarchs. Women did not write. But women did sing. And women drummed and danced. Not least among them was Moses' sister Miriam, as she led the ecstatic call and response at the shore of the just-parted sea, "*Shirat HaYam*."

The Talmud reports that the *Shechinah* is what caused prophets to prophesy and King David to compose his psalms. Creativity and inspiration. Appreciation and joy.

The *Shechinah* is intimately connected with expressions of human love, particularly romantic and marital bliss. It is she who blesses a happy couple; the glow of lovers is considered to be the reflection of her presence. Making love on Shabbat is said to be a *mitzvah*, blessed by *Shechinah*. Once again we come back to creativity and to joy, the joy associated with a *mitzvah*.

Early Jewish mystics emphasized the splendor of the *Shechinah*, often envisioning her as God's glory. In their conception, she is the jewel or precious stone represented by the Torah, as the crowned bride of God we welcome on Shabbat. She is the luminous presence of the Divine, the great light who shines on all creatures.

I believe she is also the light within us, made manifest by our creativity and joy in observing *mitzvot*. As we at KJCC get our hands "dirty" while creating clay teacups, or planting trees near our Meditation Garden on *Tu B'Shevat*, it occurs to me that we, as a congregation, male and female, young and old, are creating our own *Mishkan*, a place of joy and creativity where *Shechinah* will feel welcome and treasured. ◇

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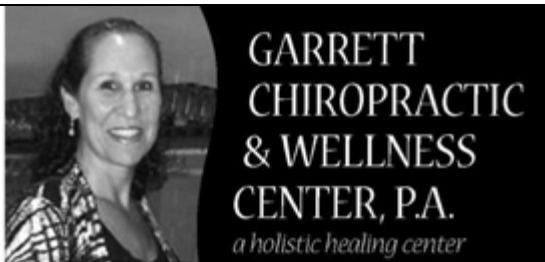
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Chai~Lights



April 2013

21 Nisan - 20 Iyar 5773

A Festive KJCC Purim - page 21

Jane and Richard Join the Tribe - page 27

The Tenth Annual Women's Seder - page 34

Keys Jewish Community Center

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Chai-Lights April 2013 | 1

April 2013

21 Nisan - 20 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8th (Last) Day of Passover	3	4	5 Richard, Barbara & Moira Knowles Yizkor Service Bernie Ginsberg <i>Barbara & Richard Knowles</i>	6
7 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Yom HaShoah/ Holocaust Program 7:00p.m.	8	9	10 Rosh Chodesh Iyar	11	12 Medina Roy & Yardena Kamely Yom Ha'atz- ma'ut Service & Oneg <i>Susan Ellner</i>	13 Rabbi Agler Service & Discussion 10:00 a.m.
14 Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	15	16 Yom Ha'atz- ma'ut	17	18	19 Steve Steinbock <i>Lauren & Stuart Sax</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Sunday School Students & Teachers 6:30 Service <i>Susan Gordon</i>	27 Chai-Yaking 1:00 p.m.
28 Lag B'Omer	29	30	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted.</div>			

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the

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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



By the time you are reading this, we shall have completed our March schedule of events. I thought we would have just the Women's Seder and our annual second-night family Seder. But there was also the interfaith Seder in Marathon, and all KJCC members were invited to a community Seder at the Ocean Reef Club. It seems that our community mirrors the American Jewish experience, that Passover is the most celebrated Jewish holiday. Many thanks to Stuart Sax for co-leading the KJCC seder along with Gloria. No one could more ably have filled the large void caused by the passing of Jim Boruszak.

We also celebrated the conversion of Jane Friedman and Richard Knowles to Judaism. They truly became full members of our congregation by leading a Shabbat service. Yardena concluded her fascinating four-part lecture series on the three Abrahamic religions. She will give a presentation on Yom HaShoah, The Holocaust, on Sunday, April 7th. The Purim play by the Hebrew school children, written and directed by the amazing Gloria Avner, was fun and will give the children lifelong memories of Judaism. I hope these pleasant memories will lead them to enter their own children into Jewish education and keep the faith alive, the real purpose of our synagogue.

Our March 8th Shabbat dinner honoring advertisers and new members was a resounding success, with almost 100 people attending; almost 70 attended the Shabbat service! There was an electric spirit (*ruach*) at the event. I hope it will be the beginning of well-attended Shabbat services from now on. My sincerest thanks to all who made it happen, especially Sam Vinicur, Medina Roy and Joyce Peckman.

Please remember that Yizkor service will be part of our regular Friday night service on April 5th. The weekend of April 12th will be another blockbuster of *Yiddishkeit*, with Friday services celebrating Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day). On Saturday we'll enjoy a Torah learning service by Rabbi Agler; his services are always an amazing display of scholarship and a Socratic investigation of what the Torah is trying to teach. Finally, that evening we will have a *Havdallah* led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of the Eckerd College Hillel. A month's Judaism in a weekend.

On a personal note, most of you know that I lost my long-term associate Dr. Joseph Goldberg (of Blessed Memory) in March. I want to thank all the members of the congregation who have expressed their support and comfort to Mrs. Susan Goldberg and myself. Shalom.

Nosh

Yom HaShoah at KJCC

This year, Yom Ha'shoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – is Monday, April 8, 2013. Our community is organizing observance of Yom Ha'shoah on Sunday, April 7th, 7:00 p.m. at the KJCC. "Never Again: Heeding the Warning Signs" has been designated as the theme for the 2013 observance. The KJCC Holocaust Committee will conduct a memorial service and present a documentary video about the historical events of 1938 in Europe.

We invite you all to join the KJCC in remembrance and participate in the international commemoration.

-Yardena

New Members

KJCC is delighted to welcome Tom and Renee Brodie of New York, New York as our newest members. Perhaps our warm and welcoming little Jewish outpost will be a siren song, luring you back to the Keys more often.

Oneg Sponsors for April 2013

April 5th - Barbara & Richard Knowles in honor of Moira & Richard's birthdays.

April 12th - Susan Ellner to celebrate her birthday.

April 19th - Lauren & Stuart Sax to mark Lauren's birthday.

April 26th - Susan Gordon to honor her birthday.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of

Kurt Kluger

December 2012

Skip and Rene Rose

What We Are Going to Do in Israel

You've seen the ads in Chai-Lights and the information in e-mails and on display at KJCC. We asked Rabbi Agler to reflect in a personal way what people will experience on his tour. Here's what he said. Perhaps it will help if you're still undecided about going:

- Ascend to Jerusalem. (Both meanings; it's high in the Judean hills.)
- Experience a dynamic country that has gone from agricultural to industrial to high tech in one generation.
- See the land, its history and its people participating in a 4,000-year-old saga that is still unfolding.
- Understand in a richer way the impact that the Land of Israel has had on Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- Celebrate the vibrant life of Tel Aviv, stay on a kibbutz, visit a *moshav*.
- Meet with scholars, teachers and everyday Israelis.
- Walk in the footsteps of the generation that dreamt and built modern Israel, and actually see a magnificent country largely begun by dreams.
- Walk in the footsteps of King David and Solomon, the Maccabees, Kabbalists and Rabbis.
- Learn how Israel cares for her needy.
- Better understand the relationship between Israel and her neighbors.
- Welcome Shabbat at the Western Wall; there is no way to adequately describe the feelings.
- Experience Jewish life and culture as never before.

And much more!

There is still time for YOU to join us. Contact Dave Mont (305-393-9883 or moogoodave@yahoo.com) or go to www.arzaworld.com/ and Search "Keys" to register.

This year in Jerusalem!

-Rabbi Rich Agler

April Birthdays

1st.....	Bennet Beinfest
3rd.....	Claire Cooper
3rd.....	Harvey Kay
4th.....	Larry Weber
4th.....	Lauren Lane
4th.....	Thomas Brodie
6th.....	Faychesca Graham
9th.....	David Feder
9th.....	Gene Silverman
10th.....	Abigail Everson
10th.....	Addison Greene-Barnett
10th.....	Ilese Vorcheimer
11th.....	Max Logan Gershowitz
11th.....	Miriam Gillespie
12th.....	Richard Knowles
13th.....	Moira Knowles
13th.....	Samantha Grossinger
13th.....	Shawn Borisoff
14th.....	Timothy J. O'Connor
15th.....	Rosie Biskar
16th.....	Dave VanArtsdalen
16th.....	Ella Gilderman
17th.....	Katie Greenman
17th.....	Susan Ellner
18th.....	Jennifer Garrett
18th.....	Lauren Sax
20th.....	Jonathan Nobil
20th.....	Larry Gilderman
22nd.....	Robin S. Denker
22nd.....	Susan Temkin
24th.....	Lynn Nobil
24th.....	Susan Gordon
24th.....	Tiffany McNew
25th.....	Jared Scott Gershowitz
25th.....	Samantha Schenker
25th.....	Shirley Stein
26th.....	Maryann Boruszak
27th.....	Beverly Robins
27th.....	Elinor Grossman
29th.....	David Goldfinger
29th.....	Jordan Neidenberg
29th.....	Linda Pollack
30th.....	Jason Sherman
30th.....	Rachel Barrett

April Anniversaries

		Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder.....	47
7th	Salomon & Mary Terner.....	20
18th	Rick & Roberta McNew.....	32
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder.....	17
30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz.....	6
30th	Morton & Gene Silverman.....	58

A Shabbat to Savor

Once again, KJCC ritual life will be enriched by rabbinic participation this month. On Saturday, April 13th, Rabbi Richard Agler will be leading a Shabbat morning Torah Service and discussion, starting at 10:00 am. Anyone who has attended his informal, warm, informative and stimulating services will tell you they are not to be missed. Later that day, when we say goodbye to Shabbat, we will gather at 7:30 p.m. in the Beth/Stanlake Gazebo in our Meditation Garden for a *Havdalah* Service led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. His Hillel Scubajew students, continuing their *Tikkun HaYam* work (repair of the sea), will be with us. We look forward to a talk and refreshments in our social hall after the service. (Here's a nugget not yet shared from Rabbi Ed's last *Havdalah* Service: At the end of Shabbat, just as the multi-wicked candle flame is doused in wine, try to get close and sniff. There is a *midrash*, according to Rabbi Ed, that for a brief moment you can smell the presence of the Garden of Eden.)

-Gloria

There's Always Something Extra at KJCC

On April 12th, during the service to be led by Medina Roy, Yardena will join in, adding commentary and song, as we all help celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israeli Independence Day. A special oneg that night will feature Israeli food, Israeli dancing and Israeli music.

Bernie has said that one of the hallmarks of his presidency will be a stress on activities involving our children. So please mark the date of April 26th. The early (6:30) service that night will be led by the KJCC religious school students, supported by their teachers Yardena and Gloria.

Art and Artists: the Women of KJCC

It was a good month for KJCC artists. First, Beth Kaminstein mounted a successful three-week, one-woman show, titled "Fluxations," at Matecumbe Gallery in Islamorada, showcasing both her large-scale charcoal drawings and her subtly colored free-form pottery serving pieces. (The common theme uniting the two media, for this viewer, is sensuality).

Then Rosie Biskar hosted a one-day, one-woman show in her own home, beautifully sponsored and facilitated by Jon and Joanna Dreaver of The Art Box in Key Largo. More than 60 people wandered through each room of Rosie's home and studio, marveling at the skill, diversity, humor, and thoughtfulness of her passionate lifetime's worth of work.

To polish off the month, at the Artists' Reception held before the Annual Show of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles (a 10-day show juried each March at the Key Largo Library), two more

Meditation Garden Brick
IN MEMORY OF
EVE L. GREENSTEIN
4/21/1962 - 2/13/2011

Barney Coltman

KJCC artists received honors. Natalie Dorf won Second Place and a red ribbon in Oil Painting, and Gloria Avner won Second Place and a red ribbon in Watercolors. Natalie also won First Place and a Blue Ribbon in the recent Joe Cella "Birds in Nature Competition."

If you missed these shows, we're sorry, but don't worry. The KJCC Art Committee has taken note and is planning a Four-Women Show in the near future to showcase these artists among us in our very own home. Stay tuned.

-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 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.

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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.

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BOOK PLATE

In honor of
Jane Friedman
3/22/2013
Mazel Tov!
Muriel & George Swartz

A New Shofar and Cover in Honor of Jim

The Keys Jewish Community Center is pleased to inform you that a shofar and cover case have been donated to the KJCC in memory of our own recently departed James Boruszak, may his memory be a blessing.

Those of you who were at the 2012 High Holyday Services know that Jim, a Kohane, loved the KJCC so much that under extreme duress he came, in a wheelchair with oxygen, to deliver the Kohanic blessings to the KJCC. It was one of the last and most memorable measures of his care for the KJCC and a measure of his gravity as a person and a Jew.

Every Rosh HaShanah, Jim would call the tropes for the shofar services – it was something he loved doing. It seemed appropriate, therefore, since the KJCC needed a new Shofar, to dedicate it to the memory of a person who did so much for all of us.

Bernie has vetted the new Shofar and it has a wonderful tone. It is a Yemenite Shofar, made from the horn of the African Kurdu. The Shofar traveled from Africa to Israel and from Israel to the Keys. Hopefully it will add a new, strong call to all of us on Rosh HaShanah and forever remind us of the very fine person who loved us all and did so much for all of us and the KJCC.

-Beth Hayden

BOOK PLATE

In honor of
Richard Knowles
3/22/2013
Mazel Tov!
Muriel & George Swartz

One Flame, Many Candles

On Sunday, February 24th, Lauren and I attended a very special and most thought provoking multi-denominational prayer service in Marathon. Those in attendance in the chapel at St. Columba Episcopal Church were treated to a presentation titled “One Flame; Many Candles” presented by the Rev. Betty Stookey and her husband Noel Paul Stookey who many of you may remember as part of the trio Peter, Paul and Mary. Betty spoke eloquently about our need to relate to each other no matter our religious beliefs and upbringing. She then sat back as Noel sang original songs focusing on peace, love and understanding. The evening concluded with the singing of “Blowin’ In The Wind” which both Noel and Betty agree is as relevant today as when it was first written (by Bob Dylan, née Zimmerman) and recorded nearly fifty years ago. The evening was dedicated to the Hammock House project at St. Columba which provides after school outreach programs for children.

-Stuart Sax

BOOK PLATE

Congratulations and
Welcome to
Richard Knowles
March 2013
Joel & Linda Pollack

BOOK PLATE

Congratulations and
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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 soon, 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:

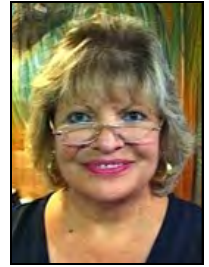
- 10 nights hotel accommodations;
- 18 meals: 10 Israeli buffet breakfasts, 2 lunches and 6 dinners;
- 9 days touring in a comfy motor coach;
- all program and entrance fees;
- tipping and all portage included.

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.

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



As I sit here writing, it's mid-March. By the time this column is published, and you're reading it, it will be April.

But sweet memories make time irrelevant. I'm looking back to the end of February to our Purim play. Anyone who missed it didn't get to see the strangest-looking Haman imaginable, (hopefully the pictures taken include Bernie in his Haman disguise). He was so scary-looking, a cute little four-year-old girl starting crying until her Dad and I explained it was funny and nothing to be afraid of. A huge "Thank You" goes out to Gloria, Bernie, Yarden, Susan and KJCC students and to everyone who helped with food and clean up for that great audition our new President put on. If I've left anyone out (it's not intentional), please know that I appreciate all the help I get when an event is taking place. Next time Bernie is the star performer in a play written and directed by Gloria (applause), I will be sure to set up a video camera for future enjoyment.

It wouldn't be politically correct to praise one without the other since I came from a big family of five kids: Stuart's baby-naming service for his adorable grandson Liam did not go unnoticed either. Rabbi Agler was awesome as always and held everyone's attention. Stuart somehow ended up the star of the evening; his closing song of the service, Old McDonaldvich, had a farm with a mezuzah here, there and everywhere. It sure wasn't boring and didn't sound anything like the *Adon Olam* we're all accustomed to.

We want to thank Bernie and Medina, Joyce, Sam, and many more who made the March 8th dinner such a wonderful success. Usually, everyone comments OMG, "there was so much food." There *was* a lot of food, but also almost 100 people in attendance. Kudos to Bernie and all who reached out to our com-

munity and advertisers to make the March Shabbat dinner such a happy experience.

The Women's Seder will be over and done with before this is published. It's always a great celebration of, again, lots of food and a fun social event that brings all the women together to make pottery, favorite foods, sing and enjoy our time together. This year the honoree will be showered for her years of accomplishments and appreciation from everyone at KJCC. I can't at this writing reveal who got nominated but it is so well deserved, and even she will be surprised. As I'm sure all the women know, we have a tablecloth that I got to sign for the first time last year that will again be taken out and signed by all newcomers. I look forward to hearing about the success of the Women's Seder, as I regretfully will not be attending, but know with the work of Erica, Beth and many other energetic ladies, this Seder will be as successful as all the others.

Another important highlight was the Tuesday, March 26th KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder at The Islamorada Fishing Club. It is always a great time of "eating," singing, and reading our Haggadah. The service was led for the first time by the team of Stuart Sax and Gloria Avner, and it was another great night.

It seems that every time I write, we're eating or talking about food, which is what happens a lot at KJCC.

We look forward to many wonderful events in the months to come and enjoy seeing new faces as well as many familiar ones.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be Sunday, April 7th at 9:30 a.m., where we will again be eating and talking. I hope you'll be there with us. ♦

Contributions to KJCC

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

Book Plates

Pollack, Joel & Linda

Swartz, George & Muriel

In Honor of

Jane Friedman and
Richard Knowles
Jane Friedman and
Richard Knowles

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Agler for
Liam Jacob Sax

In Honor of

thanks to Rabbi
assisting in the naming of

General Fund

Agler, Richard & Mindy

Barrick, Marcy

Begam, Delores

Congregation

Lewis, Phil & Arleen

Roth, Alice

Steinbock, Steve & Carol

In Honor of

Dave Mont's help!

Rabbi Agler

please pray for us

thank you for Kaskaset concert

Love to be here!

shabbat services and warm welcome

Liam Sax - baby naming

Ritual

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Honor of

conversion of Richard Knowles
& Jane Friedman

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Peckman, Joyce

Yahrzeits

Conklin, Wes & Rita

Conklin, Wes & Rita

Dorf, Barry & Natalie

Elson, Barry

Elson, Neil

Geller, Milton

Geller, Milton

Graham, Bea

Graham, Bea

Isenberg, Patricia

Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

Kluger, Nancy

Kluger, Nancy

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

Olsen, Gerald & Sheila

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Tallent, Lillian

Temkin, Robert

In Memory of

Sam Hitzig, Yetta Hitzig

Sandra Kanarek, Mark Hitzig

Hilda Dorf

Selma Elson Greenspan

Selma Elson Greenspan

Anna Shore

Morris Shore

Selma Greenspan

Marty Graham

Harry Phillips

Monroe Kaplan

Eliza Christensen, Fanny Kluger

Otto Kluger, Kurt Kluger

Sam Lieberman

Louis Weinstein

Peter Steinberg

Sara J. Cohen

Ida Tallent

Anne Temkin

General Fund

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin

In Memory of

Jerry Oshinsky,

Kurt Kluger

Joseph Goldberg

Jerry Oshinsky

Meditation Garden

Boruszak, Joan

brick in honor of Jane Friedman &

Richard Knowles

Schur, Lee

brick in honor of Jane Friedman &

Richard Knowles

Meditation Garden

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Memory of

Joseph Goldberg

Jerry Oshinsky

Sam Sax

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Yom Ha'Shoah

Seventy-five years ago, crucial changes were occurring in Central Europe. Few at the time understood the historic significance of the events during the years 1933-1938, and fewer still saw that those changes would lead to one of humanity's darkest hours. By 1938 the Nazis had been in power for five years, during which they systematically removed Jews from public life in Germany, taking their rights as citizens and limiting their possibilities to be employed. As the Museum notes: "In that pivotal year, the year before Germany invaded Poland and ignited World War II, the treatment of Jews took a dramatic turn for the worse." With the German Reich's annexation of Austria in March (an act of absorption known to history by a German word meaning unification, *The Anschluss*) and its seizure of the Czech Bohemian border areas known as the *Sudetenland*—which the nations of the world

failed to prevent at the Munich conference in September—an additional 200,000 Jews fell under Nazi rule and became targets of intense persecution, humiliation, and violence.

Many were desperate to flee, but no country would take them. Trying to resolve the worsening refugee crisis, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt proposed an international conference at Evian-les-Bains, France, in July 1938. Of the 32 nations represented, only one—the Dominican Republic—agreed to accept a large number of additional refugees. Then on November 9-10, 1938, came *Kristallnacht*, a wave of violence organized by the Nazis that resulted in the death of at least 91 Jews, the destruction of hundreds of synagogues and many more Jewish-owned businesses, and the arrest of some 30,000 Jewish men, most of whom were transferred from local prisons to the Dachau, Buchenwald, and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. Despite some protests, the overwhelming response by the world was...silence. The Nazis took careful note.

From then on, the Jews of Central Europe struggled to maintain their communities and their dignity, but the impact of these events was devastating. Again, from the Museum's literature: "Although newspa-

Newly arrived prisoners, with shaven heads, stand at attention in their civilian clothes during a roll call in the Buchenwald concentration camp. Some 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent there after Kristallnacht. (Photograph courtesy of U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.)



pers around the world reported on the escalating violence, very few nations, individuals, or groups chose to help. Those who did made a difference. Rufus Jones and Clarence Pickett, leaders of the American Friends Service Committee, a US-based Quaker aid society, were motivated to act and became ardent advocates for expanding refugee assistance for children. They worked closely with welfare agencies to help Jewish refugees in France, Spain, and Portugal.”

In Britain, Lola Hahn Warburg was one of several prominent British and German Jews who convinced the British government to allow Jewish children under 17 from Nazi Germany to immigrate to the United Kingdom through a special *Kindertransport* program. “The first group landed in Harwich on December 2, 1938, bringing some 200 children from a Jewish orphanage in Berlin that Nazi radicals had destroyed on *Kristallnacht*. Before it was ultimately halted by the outbreak of World War II, the rescue operation brought some 10,000 children, three-quarters of whom were Jewish, to relative safety in Great Britain.” Historians and researchers of the

Holocaust argue that looking back at the events of 1938, even more could have been done. “The signs of impending war and the Holocaust—territorial expansion, disregard for international law, persecution of people based on their identity—are undoubtedly clearer today than they were then. Nonetheless, opportunities for international intervention, such as at the Evian Conference, existed and could have saved many lives.” Today the questions to be asked are: Why did so many countries and individuals fail to respond to the warning signs? And what can we learn from the few who chose to act, despite widespread indifference? What might motivate us to respond to warning signs of genocide today? The historians tell us: “History teaches us that genocide can be prevented if enough people care enough to act. Our choices in response to hatred truly do matter, and together we can help fulfill the promise of ‘Never Again’.” ♦

Note: all the material in unattributed quotes is taken from 2013 USHMM literature. We thank them for being so generous with source material.



The Kindertransports

Between December 1938 and September 1939, close to 10,000 unaccompanied refugee children from central Europe were permitted entry into Great Britain. They arrived in a series of transports, which came to be known as the *Kindertransports*. The first group, which arrived in Harwich on December 2nd, 1938, consisted of 200 children between the ages of 12 and 17 from Berlin and Hamburg, the Berlin children from an orphanage that had been destroyed during *Kristallnacht*. The children

were divided into two categories: those guaranteed by private sponsors and those under the auspices of the Refugee Children's Movement (RCM). In addition to the RCM and its local committees, several Jewish organizations assisted the refugee children. Upon their arrival in Britain, the children were housed in temporary reception camps, such as the Dovercourt Bay, Pakefield, and Broadstairs holiday camps. After a few weeks they were taken to foster homes or hostels throughout the country. Others lived on agricultural training farms set up by the Youth Aliyah organization in Britain.

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



An "Accidental Hero"

Guy Preissler, an Israeli high-tech entrepreneur who lives in New York City, became the hero of the day when the driver of the bus he was traveling on suddenly lost consciousness. Preissler took over the wheel of the runaway vehicle, managing to bring it to a halt without serious injuries to any of the passengers or people on the street. New York's Metropolitan Transit Authority reported that the driver, who had 30 years' experience, regained consciousness after the incident. He and two passengers who sustained light injuries, were taken to the hospital and later released.

(www.timesofisrael.com, 2-1-13)

Black is Beautiful in Israel

At the end of February, 21-year-old model and former Israeli army officer Yityish "Titi" Aynaw was crowned "Miss Israel," the first Ethiopian-Israeli to win the national beauty pageant. Aynaw was born in a small town in northwest Ethiopia and orphaned by the time she was ten. Her mother's parents, who had come to Israel in 2000, arranged for her and her brother to join them. She had a tough time acclimating to Israeli society but picked up the language quickly. Aynaw has been working as a saleswoman at a clothing store since her army discharge. During the pageant competition, she cited American civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. as one of her heroes. (www.tabletmag.com, 3-13-13)

"Girl in the Red Coat"

Oliwia Dabrowska, the Polish actress who played the little girl in the red coat in Steven Spielberg's award-winning film "Schindler's List," said in an interview that the experience left her traumatized. Dabrowska, now 24, was only three years old when she appeared in the film, and although she promised Spiel-

berg she would not see the movie until she turned 18, she first watched it when she was 11. The brutality she saw horrified her, particularly the scene where SS officer Amon Goeth, played by Ralph Fiennes, arbitrarily shoots women and children from his window. The red coat is probably the most symbolic part of the movie. It is one of the rare instances in the almost exclusively black-and-white film where Spielberg uses color. It portrays the moment Oskar Schindler spots the girl during the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto and has a change of heart, making the decision to try to save as many Jews as he can. Dabrowska said it took her many years to overcome the trauma but she admitted that eventually she came to feel honored. "I realized I had been part of something I could be proud of," she said. "Spielberg was right: I had to grow up to watch the film." (www.guardian.co.uk, 3-4-13)

First Seder in 500 Years

On March 25th, Ribadavia, a town in northern Spain, held its first Passover seder since 1492, the year the Jews were expelled by Ferdinand and Isabella during the Spanish Inquisition. The seder was organized by the city's tourism department in partnership with the Center for Medieval Studies, a Ribadavia-based organization that researches the history of Iberian Jews prior to the Inquisition. Its purpose was to "breathe new life into its old Jewish quarter." Like many Spanish cities, Ribadavia had a sizeable Jewish population prior to the 1492 expulsion, when Jews were forced to either emigrate or convert. Since the 1990s, several cities and towns in Spain and Portugal have undertaken tourist projects that highlight their Jewish past. (www.jta.org, 3-11-13)

A “Day of Solidarity”

Oberlin College in northern Ohio is routinely listed as among the most liberal, activist and gay-friendly schools in the country. Following a series of racial, anti-Semitic and homophobic incidents, the school recently suspended classes to convene a “Day of Solidarity.” Swastikas and other anti-Semitic, racist and homophobic graffiti were discovered on the campus along with someone wearing a Ku Klux Klan-like robe and hood. “This event...has precipitated our decision to suspend formal classes and all non-essential activities...and gather for a series of discussions of the challenging issues that have faced our community in recent weeks,” read a statement by the president of the college, Marvin Krislov, who is Jewish. All students, faculty and staff were asked to participate in the day’s events. Oberlin was founded in 1833. It was a center of abolitionist activities in the 1800s and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. (www.clevelandjewishnews.com, 3-4-13)

World’s Richest Jew

Larry Ellison, co-founder and CEO of Oracle Corporation, is the world’s richest Jew, according to *Forbes* Magazine’s 2013 list of world billionaires. He came in at number five overall, with a net worth of \$43 billion. Ellison was among five Jews in the top 25 on the list. Seventeen Israelis were among the record 1,426 billionaires – 200 more than in 2012. Other notable members of the tribe listed are New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg (number 13 with \$27 billion), casino magnate and philanthropist Sheldon Adelson, and Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin. (Mexico’s non-Jewish Carlos Slim topped the list as the world’s richest person for the fourth year in a row). (www.jta.org, 3-4-13)

A Hollywood Record

Daniel Day-Lewis has been nominated five times in the Best Actor category of the Academy Awards. In three of those instances, he took home the Oscar, making him the only male actor in history to earn three Best Actor awards. He won for *My Left Foot* (1989),

There Will Be Blood (2007) and most recently *Lincoln* this year. Why bring this up? Day-Lewis was born in London, the son of Cecil Day-Lewis, the United Kingdom’s Poet Laureate. His mother, Jill Balcon, was Jewish. His maternal grandparents’ families immigrated to Britain from Latvia and Poland. (*The Forward*, 2-25-13)

A New Ruling

According to *halacha* (Jewish law), it is forbidden to suggest any type of activity to someone who might, through doing it, break the law. Therefore, “placing a stumbling block before the blind” (Leviticus 19:14) is the basis of the modern prohibition against inviting a non-religious person for a Shabbat meal, if it is known that they will travel by car. But a new ruling issued by the rabbis from the Orthodox *Beit Hillel* organization in Israel holds that if the invitation is for the purpose of positively impacting the Jewish identity of the non-religious person, then there is room to be more lenient. It seems that many secular Israelis are looking for spiritual experiences in their lives; the idea, then, is that the opportunity to expose someone to a traditional Shabbat atmosphere should be embraced in order to provide this positive experience. “Shabbat is one of the most unifying experiences and it is a real opportunity to create a connection between religious and secular Jews,” Rabbi Ronen Neuwirth, director of *Beit Hillel* said. Neuwirth insisted, however, that inviting a non-religious person for Shabbat for the purpose of business or general socializing would not be permitted according to *Beit Hillel*’s ruling. He also noted that it was preferable to invite someone to either stay for the entire Shabbat or to come before Shabbat begins. The ruling was designed to “help strengthen the bonds of Israeli society.” (*Jerusalem Post*, 2-27-13)

Top Mobile App

Waze, the Israeli navigation app, was named the best mobile app at the “2013 World Mobile Congress” held in Barcelona at the end of February. *Waze* competed against other apps, including *Dropbox*, *Flipboard*, *Sky*

Sports' F1 Companion and Square. According to the five-year-old company, drivers in 110 countries shared 90 million traffic reports using *Waze* during 2012. (www.jta.org, 2-27-13)

That's Gotta Hurt!

Actress and new mom Drew Barrymore is undergoing painful laser surgery to have her six tattoos removed. Barrymore is moving closer to converting to Judaism and is concerned that she won't be able to be buried in a Jewish cemetery if she doesn't remove the tattoos. (A note on tattooing: The prohibition is found in Leviticus 19:28: "You shall not make gashes in your flesh for the dead, or incise any marks on yourselves. I am the Lord." Maimonides sees the origin of this prohibition as an act of idolatry, stating that this was the custom among the pagans. More importantly, he concluded that we were created *b'tzelem elohim*, in the image of G-d. The human body is G-d's creation and it is therefore unbefitting to mutilate G-d's handiwork. Tattoos used by the Nazis and ink for medical purposes are excluded from the prohibition.) (*The Forward*, 2-16-13)

In Memoriam

· Joseph Friedenson, the founder and long-time editor of *Dos Yiddishe Vort*, died at the end of February. He was 90. Friedenson, a survivor of the Holocaust, founded the monthly Yiddish journal while he was in the displaced persons camps in Germany. He edited it continually in New York since 1953. Friedenson was born in Lodz, the son of Eliezer Gershon Friedenson, one of the leaders of the *Beis Yaakov* school movement in Poland. After the outbreak of World War II, the family fled to Warsaw where they were imprisoned in the infamous Ghetto. Joseph Friedenson was described as "an avid newspaperman" who read multiple publications daily in several languages. During its heyday in the 1970s and 80s, *Dos Yiddishe Vort* claimed a readership of up to 8,000 and published many highly regarded Yiddish writers, including Friedenson himself. (*The Forward*, 2-26-13)

Did You Know...

· A few months ago, Academy Award winner Natalie Portman ("Black Swan"), 31, was reportedly in a vegan deli in Los Angeles for lunch. Her son Aleph would not stop crying and after several failed attempts to calm the baby down, Portman did what every thoughtful mother should do – she paid the tab for all the surrounding tables and left the deli. (www.6nobacon.com, 11-6-12)

· The first Hebrew-language version of *Playboy* magazine was launched in Tel Aviv in early March. The magazine features Israeli women and Hebrew articles (the real reason men buy it, of course). The inaugural cover girl is Natali Dadon, a 29-year-old model and alumna of Israel's versions of "America's Next Top Model" and "Survivor." Attorney Daniel Pomerantz, an Israeli immigrant from Chicago, negotiated with Hugh Hefner, the magazine's founder, for the rights to the Israeli version of the men's magazine. (www.jta.org, 3-5-13)

· President Barak Obama received a special award from Israeli President Shimon Peres at a state dinner in Israel in March. Mr. Obama is the first sitting American president to receive Israel's Presidential Medal of Distinction. Previous recipients include former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and conductor Zubin Mehta. (www.nytimes.com, 2-18-13)

· The Israeli ice hockey team took home the winning title in the U-18 World Championship, which was hosted in Turkey in February. (www.hurriyetdailynews.com, 2-11-13)

· Later this year, Apple Computer will open its third research and development center in Israel, this one in Raanana's industrial zone. (www.jta.org, 2-11-13)

· New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera, 43, has been selected Man of the Year by the New York Board of Rabbis. He will also receive a guided tour of Israel. Rivera has been a key member of five World Series championships and is the record-holder for most career saves. He was chosen for the title because of his philanthropic work and extensive relief work he does in Panama through his church. Rivera is a strong supporter of Israel. (*The Forward*, 2-7-13) ◇

KJCC
SISTERHOOD SHABBAT
DINNER
FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2013

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH ~ FLEISHIG

Contact Barbara @ (305) 772-0503
iweddu@bellsouth.net to reserve your spot
and coordinate your covered dish.



DONATION @ \$10
PREPAYMENT WELCOME
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER @ NO CHARGE



Photo Gallery



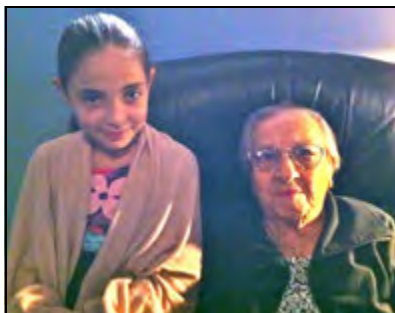
On February 22nd, Rabbi Agler officiated at the naming of Liam Sax, son of Stuart and Lauren's son Jeremy and his wife Kristin. The oneg afterwards commemorated both the naming and the 51st Anniversary of Linda and Joel Pollack.

(Naming ceremony photos by Barbara Knowles. Oneg photos by David Gitin.)



(Right) These photos were taken on February 23rd at the Silver Shores home of Rosie Biskar, at a house-gallery show for her work sponsored by Jon Dreaver's Art Box in Key Largo. Silver Shores allowed parking at their clubhouse, and all guests were driven to Rosie's house via golf cart.





(Left) Our youngest and oldest members, Michaela Bitton and Pauline Roller, were among the many offering comfort and respect to the family of Dr. Joe Goldberg, sitting Shivah on February 28th.



(Right) At the March 9th Voices luncheon, Rene Rose was honored with the “Above and Beyond” Award. (It was a rich month for Rene. Please see page 39 to see her awarded Woman of the Year at the Women’s Seder.)

Presenting Rene with the plaque is Kathy Laseter, Co-President of Voices. Also attending were Natalie Dorf, Maryon Gould and Mary Lee Singer. And yes, that’s Dave Feder on guitar, who so often donates his time to local charities.



This memorial was photographed at the March 10th celebration of life for Jerry Oshinsky which was held at the home of his friend, Sherry Zwerdling.



After a wonderful Shabbat morning service, Bernie interrupts Rabbi Agler's challah slicing to tell a quick story. The beautiful challah board and knife, he says, remind him of the time his father gave his mother a brand new board and knife to use on Shabbat: "Oh no," she cried. "This is too good. Let's save it for Pesach." The laughter was explosive. Photo and caption by Gloria Avner.



Representing the KJCC, JRFCresteds Ollie, Ollie Oxenfree, won his first title on Saturday, March 16th at the Fort Lauderdale (goyische) Dog Show in Davie - AND took first place in his class - Rally Novice. His new title is RN (rally novice). His mom and rally partner, Beth Hayden, hopes that since he is a Jewish Chinese Crested the KJCC will be as proud of him as she is. (You won't be surprised to learn that Beth wrote this caption herself.)



Our own Gloria Avner had her art talents showcased twice in March, first as artist, then as teacher. The photo at left shows Gloria with a watercolor that recently won a juried award. The group photo shows Gloria's batik class at The Art Box in Key Largo. Happy students = successful class. (Photos by David Gitin)



Keys Jewish Community Center

Arza World - Tour of Israel, June 11-23, 2013

**Led by the best tour guide possible - our own
Rabbi Richard Agler.**

DAY ONE: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 DEPARTURE	Depart U.S.A. Overnight: Flight
DAY TWO: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 ARRIVAL AND WELCOME	Overnight: Tel Aviv
DAY THREE: Thursday, June 13, 2013 FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE	Overnight: Tel Aviv
DAY FOUR: Friday, June 14, 2013 CONQUESTS AND CREATIVITY ALONG THE COAST	Overnight: Haifa
DAY FIVE: Saturday, June 15, 2013 SPIRITUALITY, PRACTICALITY AND IDENTITY	Overnight: Haifa
DAY SIX: Sunday, June 16, 2013 ROOTS, KABBALA AND ROOTS	Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee
DAY SEVEN: Monday, June 17, 2013 SERENITY AND SECURITY ON THE GOLAN	Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee
DAY EIGHT: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 NEW VISION AND OLD	Overnight: Jerusalem
DAY NINE: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM	Overnight: Jerusalem
DAY TEN: Thursday, June 20, 2013 INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA	Overnight: Jerusalem
DAY ELEVEN: Friday, June 21, 2013 MEMORY AND RENEWAL	Overnight: Jerusalem
DAY TWELVE: Saturday, June 22, 2013 SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM	Overnight: Flight
DAY THIRTEEN: Sunday, June 23, 2013 DEPARTURE	Arrival in the USA

**Complete tour information is available at arzaworld.com,
search word: keys, or call 888-811-2812. Tour cost \$3252.
A deposit (\$300) can be made now and full payment is due by April 11, 2013.**

**Please contact Dave Mont if you have any questions at moogoodave@yahoo.com
or call 305-393-9883.**

Purim at KJCC 2013

The three who put on KJCC's Purim celebration reflect on what it means to each of them. Plus lots of photos.

MY FEELINGS ABOUT PURIM

by Yardena Kamely

When I was a child growing up in Israel, I loved the celebration of Purim because it meant being able to wear a costume, a beautiful costume. I could be a queen, a princess, a French "Madame Rococo" or an Italian "Cinderella" or an exotic princess from India like the one in the movie "Around the World in 80 Days." Later, as a mother of three very attractive kids (of course), I felt a lot of joy and had fun dressing them in costumes, invented (of course) by their creative Israeli mother, making them look even more attractive (of course). The boys became the most gorgeous little Oriental pashas (both my boys have inherited the Persian look from their grandfather David); my daughter became a beautiful Ashkenazi princess (her Ashkenazi look comes from the other grandfather, Oscar, from Russia).

During that time, besides being the typical Jewish mother, I was also a teacher, teaching at the Hebrew High School in Chile. There I had the

opportunity to dress whole classes – students as well as teachers – with very artistic costumes for our Purim Carnival. We had the

help of an Israeli couple, both of them teachers and professional theater actors, he from Hungary and she from Polish parents. For us

teachers the traditional costume was "The Witches" (carrying our huge broom all around school). In the evening we, the adults, would gather at the house of the Israeli teachers and have a Purim party, behaving as silly as the *mitzvah* of Purim tells us to do. That's something teachers cannot do normally. But think about the amazing and

hilarious things teachers see and hear on a regular basis. If you didn't know, teachers can be funny.

Today, as teacher of our small KJCC Sunday School, I have the same fun organizing Purim with our little students, with costumes, songs and a funny *Purimspiel*. I wish my grandchildren could be celebrating with us. My granddaughter Naomi from Chile made a dozen beautiful masks; she is a very creative young

artist (of course), and sent them to our school here to be used during the *Megillah* reading. This Purim I enjoyed the participation of the adult KJCC *mishpoche* in the *Megillah* read-





ing, making
the noise with
the
raashanim

(Graggers), and the delicious *Oznei Hamman* (hamantaschen) the Sisterhood ladies provided, and all the wonderful food they prepared for our “feisty” luncheon (of course). Masks, costumes, playacting, laughter...what an intelligent idea of Jewish tradition, giving me the possibility to be someone else for a couple of days. I just love tradition.

PURIM: THE ULTIMATE IN JEWISH FAMILY FUN

by Joyce Peckman

When my kids were growing up, Purim stood out as a favorite holiday. In our mixed neighborhood, it was sort of the Jewish answer to Halloween – as much fun, with way better vibes. All of us, together, spent family time preparing goodie bags, sometimes even baking *hamentashen*. We customized the contents for each neighbor family; sometimes it would be fruit, cookies and grapejuice, or perhaps beer, halavah and *hamentashen*.

That evening all of the kids and most of the adults would dress in costumes. But no ghosts or skeletons. Plenty of Queen Esthers and Mordechais, but also all sorts of animals, soldiers, firemen, cowboys, superheroes and anything else you can imagine. We came to

synagogue with *groggers*, but also gourds, maracas, tambourines and trumpets to drown out Haman's name as the rabbi read the *Megillah*. (Tradition requires that we hear every word of the story – the palace intrigue, Mordechai's compelling story and Esther's overcoming her fear to stand up for our people.) The night always ended with a party. The next day, instead of going door-to-



door begging for candy, we delivered our homemade treats, greeting friends and dropping off our *mishloach manot*. We would come home to find decorated packages of food at our door.

When we moved to Key Largo and joined the KJCC in 2004, Purim was being commemorated by a cute, short children's performance. Period. It felt like a Classics comic book version of a great novel.

The next year, my spouse Leslie downloaded and ran off 25 copies of the *Megillah* in English. We packed goodie bags and put out the word that we would be meeting to read the Purim *Megillah* in its entirety, round-robin style. We were pleased to have about 15 people show up. We read every word (some of our fellow readers hearing it all for the first time), gave out the goody bags and col-





lected donations to give to charity, as the *Megillah* says to do. Everyone left smiling.

That summer Leslie passed away. The next year the KJCC purchased proper Purim books and 25 people came.

Sisterhood organized the festivities and the Sunday School got involved. Each succeeding year gets better, with larger crowds and more enthusiasm.



As I watch each of us, adults and children, taking turns reading a few paragraphs, involved in every detail of that ancient story, I know that we are hearing the same words as did the generations before us and also those who will come after us. My hope is that next year even more of us will get into the Purim spirit and come in costume!

Our great thanks for the Purim photographs to Richard Knowles, David Gitin, Gloria Avner and Jane Friedman.

THE SHPIEL...BOOS AND LAUGHTER...AND THE FOUR MITZVOT

by Gloria Avner

“Citizens of Shushan, Citizens of the World, listen well to our Story!” With these words, the incomparable, self-confident Moira Knowles leads off our mitzvah-fulfilling Purim morning, introducing an original “*purimshpiel*,” a play by Gloria Avner starring a Gorilla with a hearing problem.



Westley Silverman shines as the scary but sensitive Gonzo Gorilla who happily thought we were going to “treat” him. OK, so he got it a little wrong. As Natalie Werthamer (the beautiful Queen Esther) and Mikhaela Bitton (the angry Queen Vashti—before she became ill) point out: WE’RE READING, NOT TREATING! IT’S GANSSA, NOT GONZO! MEGILLAH, NOT GORILLA! IT’S A



prepares away. But not dis-against are differ-Cole



as the wise counselor Mordechai. And so, Gonzo gets to stay for the *Megillah* reading as we prepare to fulfill the first of this holiday’s four Mitzvahs.

MITZVAH TO READ THE GANSSA MEGILLAH!” “Ooops,” says poor, embarrassed Gonzo as he to slink wait! “We do criminate those who ent,” says Silverman as

The rest of the cast (Harry Friedman as Narrator, Noah Bitton as the regal King Ahashverosh, Susan Gordon as stand-in Queen Vashti, and ferocious, growling, bewigged and be-bearded President Bernie Ginsberg as Haman (cast wildly against type) finish their raucous rendition of the story, with Boos and Stomping Feet drowning out the hated name of our persecutor.

The audience joins in singing the last verse of "Once there was a Wicked, Wicked Man," the actors take their bows, and the audience becomes actor. We make a shift. All become equal participants fulfilling the *mitzvah* of reading and hearing as we take turns paying attention to *Megillat Esther*, *The Scroll of Esther*. We begin our annual round-robin reading. And this year, thanks to a gift from Boca Raton resident (and friend of Rabbi Rich and Mindy Agler) Marc Kravit, we are able to read from an actual sheepskin, a true, hand-calligraphied scroll. Not only does Bernie introduce us to the scroll and its elaborate hand-wrought "crowns" over words like "melech" (king), but we are told that a wooden cylindrical holder is on order from Israel thanks to a generous gift from members Barry and Natalie Dorf, in honor of their granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah.

Wouldn't Haman (boo, hiss, twirl *grogger*) be furious and disappointed to know that this pesky tribe of Jews continues not just to stay alive, but to thrive, generation after generation?

With the passing of a basket, we dig into



Cole Silverman as Mordechai, left, holds the new KJCC sheepskin Megillah Scroll, alongside Natalie Werthamer as his niece, the beautiful Queen Esther.



Playwright Gloria (a little incognito) flanked by Queen Vas....er, Mikhaela, and Moira.



Haman in full menace mode, above, beheld with awe by his boss, King Ahashverosh.

our pockets and observe the second *mitzvah*, the giving of *Tzedakah*, or charity, to the poor.

Paper bags decorated with hand-drawn symbols of Purim (masks, *groggers*, and *hamantaschen*), filled with treats and sweets by the ever-Sunday-School-supportive Nettie Seder, are passed out to our children and adults as "*Mishloach Manot*," the giving of food as presents to friends and

neighbors. We fulfill the third *mitzvah*.

Last and most appreciated, after a morning of laughter and reading, shouting and singing, we celebrate with gusto the fourth *mitzvah*, the Festive Feast, or *Seudah*. Under Joyce Peckman's leadership, with the help of Erica's strategizing and the wonderful women



Sylvie is surrounded by her children, King Ashverosh and Queen Vashti, otherwise known as Noah and Mikhaela.

resistance to terrific desserts, I wonder where the schnapps is. Surely some of our members were working hard to fulfill that extra commandment: "Drink until you can't tell the difference between Cursed be Haman and Blessed be Mordechai."

In President Bernie's words, "let there be children's plays and joyous celebrations like this every year." We look forward to more *mitzvah*-making.

(A teacher's note: After writing and producing KJCC Purimshpiels for the last ten years, I've learned this: it takes a village, or at the very least, a warm, committed *chevrah* of devoted volunteers. Fellow teacher Yardena Kamely always knows where scripts from prior years can be found, helps the students learn Hebrew blessings

and songs, and readily volunteers

Part of the appreciative Purimspiel audience of members and guests.

of Sisterhood bringing their classic favorite dishes to the table, we enjoy a wonderful dairy meal that truly is a feast.

Long after the children's play is over, drunk on sugar overload caused by lack of



Richard Knowles in costume beside The Narrator, daughter Moira.



Cole Silverman, at left, and Noah Bitton, right, surround the evil and despicable Haman, happily played against type by our decidedly non-evil and non-despicable president, Bernie Ginsberg.

to do "set décor."

Susan Gordon can be counted on to step in as costumer, comforter, script preparer, stand-in, or performer of whatever role remains unfilled due to last-minute illness or family crises. Parents do all that is asked of them. As for Joyce, bless her and her partner Leslie. They joined us ten years ago and said, "What? You don't read the *Megillah* on Purim?" With a gift of "*Megillat Esther*" booklets, they started us off on conscious Purim *mitzvah*-making. That first year there were six people sitting around the table and reading; the second year, there may have been a dozen. Now we can regularly count on a quadruple *minyan*. Bravo. Is it easy? No. Unless you think taking a drove of kittens for a walk is easy. But if happy memories are made that make our students fond of and familiar with their heritage, fond enough to continue participation as adults who will share the stories and celebrations with future progeny, it is worth the effort.) ♦



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Mazel Tov and Welcome, Jane and Richard, from all of KJCC.

The Conversion of Jane and Richard

by Yarden Kamely

We were all very excited. The formal Conversion ceremonies of Jane Friedman and Richard Knowles began on Sunday, March 3 with the *Mikveh* ritual; they will continue with



two Shabbat services – March 15th and March 22nd, both Friday eve-

nings, and their first aliyah at the KJCC, on Saturday morning, March 16th. According to rabbinic law there

are three requirements for *Giyur* (conversion): *milah* (circumcision, for men), *tevilah* (immersion in the *mikveh*, the ritual bath) and *kabbalat ol ha'mitzvot* (accepting the yoke of the commandments).

On Sunday, March 3, on a wonderful but chilly (by Florida Keys standards) afternoon, a little troop of the KJCC made our way to the small beach at the back of the Library in Islamorada. Our current KJCC president, Dr. Bernie Ginsberg, past president Stuart Sax, Rabbi Agler, our Sisterhood president Barbara Knowles, and teacher Yarden Kamely were the witnesses in the *tevilah* ceremony con-

ducted by Rabbi Agler. Everybody was in such a good mood, happy, cheerful and excited. For some of us – other than Jane and Richard – it was the first time we were participating in a *giyur* ceremony. Before Jane and Richard entered into the *mikveh*, in this occasion the open water of the ocean, Rabbi Agler explained the meaning of *tevilah*: by immersing in natural, living water you change your



status, symbolically, spiritually. For the *ger/ giyoret* (converts), it is a spiritual

change; they enter the water as gentiles and after three complete immersions emerge as a Jewish person.

The *tevilah* started with Rabbi



Agler reciting: "*Adonai makor mayim chayim*, God is the fountain of living waters. You are here to immerse yourself in the *mikveh* as a sign that you have immersed yourself in the fate and faith of the People of Israel." Jane

and Richard then proclaimed together: “may this *tevilah* strengthen my commitment to the Jewish people and to the Jewish way of life. Amen.”

The following blessings were recited by Jane and Richard after the immersion: *Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kideshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al ha'tevilah*. We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has hallowed us by *mitzvot* and commanded us concerning the immersion of *gerim*.

And we, all witnesses and *ger* (Richard) and *giyoret* (Jane) concluded the beautiful ceremony with a joyous: *Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, vekiyemanu, vehigianu lazman hazeh*. We praise You Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this joyous time. ◇

Conversion night at Bet Breira

Jane, Richard, Rabbi Aklepi and supporters from KJCC

by Joyce Peckman

On March 15th, thirteen of us showed up for Friday night dinner at Bet Breira in Miami. Rabbi Jaime Aklepi welcomed everyone warmly and brought us to the social hall. We felt like an extended family gathering around the large, circular table: Moira and Harry with their parents, Yardena, me, Susan Ellner, Lee Schur, Jules and Nettie and of course “grandma” Pauline. Our table, the biggest, held a substantial percentage of those in the room. On each table were a pair of candlesticks, bottles of wine and grape juice and a challah. Shabbat began with our own Jane Friedman kindling the Sabbath candles. As she spoke the prayer in her clear, sweet voice, we were all aware of the significance of that act for her. The light of the candles was mirrored by the glow of her face and shining eyes. Then

Richard Knowles poured the wine, joined in singing the Cantor’s magnificent Kiddush and led our motze. The Rabbi and Cantor then asked all children to stand next to their parents, and led as Steve and Jane Friedman, and Richard and Barbara Knowles, joined the other parents in the traditional blessing of their children. We truly felt the spirit of a family Shabbat. We could see Jane’s and Richard’s nervousness melt away as they absorbed our support. It seemed that we could see their confidence grow before our eyes. This was their moment.

We were joined by the Steinbocks and Polacks as we entered the lovely synagogue. There was a full house, because, to our surprise, the third-grade Hebrew class was leading the service. Mid-service, Rabbi Aklepi called Jane and Richard up to the Bimah, introduced them and Yardena to the congregation, welcomed all of us, and explained what was about to occur. She asked Jane and Richard several questions affirming their commitment to Judaism, to which they answered firmly, “Yes.” Together they opened the ark and recited the Shema. Then Rabbi Aklepi



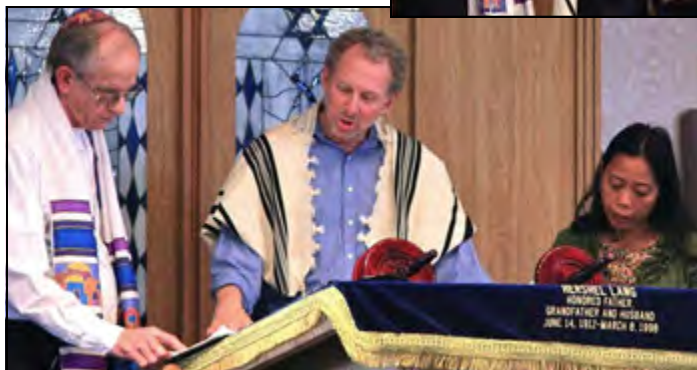
Friday evening, March 15th saw the formal introduction of Richard and Jane – by the rabbi who converted them, Rabbi Jaime Klein Aklepi (seated at left in the photo) – as new and full-fledged members of the Jewish community. As the photo shows, a number of KJCC members made the trip to Beit Breira in Miami to offer their support. Yardena Kamely, seated *kveling* next to Rabbi Aklepi, was teacher and guide for both throughout the long and difficult process.

blessed them. For Richard, that was the most powerful moment. (Barbara, sitting next to me, was beaming.) For Yarden, it was seeing them in front of the open ark, honoring the Torah. As Jane said later, "Now I belong." The feeling that she had experienced after the mikvah was reinforced. "It wasn't cold. It was warm and right. I finally found what I have searched for, for so many years."

The rabbi handed them their certificates and introduced their new Hebrew names. Jane is *Bina* (which means understanding) and Richard is *Avichai Yisrael* (taken from "the Lord is my strength"). Then each gave a statement describing their journey to the Jewish faith. These two reserved, soft-spoken people addressed the large audience clearly and eloquently. (They will have repeated those speeches at the KJCC by the time you read this.)

Rabbi Aklepi then addressed the students and congregation. It is a privilege to welcome these two into our faith, she said. There are now two more who will carry on our heritage, a heritage that too many take for granted, that for these two is a living tradition. The children there to lead the service could now see Judaism in a new light, through the eyes of two adults who *chose* the faith that they were born into.

We were honored to be part of it. ◇



After their conversion ceremony on Friday, March 15th in Miami, Richard & Jane were called to the Torah for an *aliyah* at KJCC for the very first time on Saturday morning, March 16th, by Rabbi Richard Agler, during his Torah Learning Service. For the first time as fully committed Jews, both read directly from the Torah. Their new congregation listened, smiled and then applauded.

The March 3rd mikveh photos and March 16th Shabbat service photos were all shot by Barbara Knowles.

A Resounding Success of a Shabbat Dinner on March 8th.

It had been a year since we'd last invited our advertisers to join us for a sumptuous dinner. We had a rash of new members who hadn't yet gotten the full sense of KJCC, that we're a community as much as we are a synagogue. Bernie had just become president, so it was time to celebrate that plus thank Stuart for two years of hard work. What to do? The solution, as you see, was to have one of our potluck dinners. As it turned out, possibly the largest one we've ever had. Over 100 people sent back a "yes" R.S.V.P. You'll get a sense of the energy in the photos. We even had about 70 stay for services after dinner, a crowd we almost never see here except for High Holy Days. The food was amazing (possibly a record number of members brought dishes) and Bernie wowed the crowd as host and emcee. It was truly a special and nourishing night at KJCC.



It might have been the best-attended Kiddush ever at KJCC. Everyone, members and guests, waited and listened while our matriarch Pauline Roller and Marcie Orenstein lit the candles and said the prayers. It was officially Shabbat. Bernie then warmed up the crowd before dinner.







Our great appreciation to Carol Steinbock, Luzviminda Levine and Gloria Avner for the photos of our March 8th dinner.

Some highlights of our

March 8th Shabbat dinner

Perfectly catching the *zeitgeist*, David & Toby Goldfinger brought a large sheet cake that read: "Mazel Tov, Bernie and Todah raba, Stuart."

A retired couple from New York showed up at 7:45, looking for Friday night services. They walked in to find a huge crowd having dinner. After being warmly welcomed, they were led to the buffet table and urged to fill their plates. They looked at the food, and then the large crowd having a wonderful time, and asked innocently: "are all your Friday nights like this?"

There was so much food that this is the only dinner I can remember where even those at the end of the line could get a full helping of Linda's corn casserole pudding. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly, even as people waited on line with their plates. After enjoying that dinner and camaraderie, I felt more confident about leading the service. – *Joyce*

We realized quickly when setting up the room that our typical serving pattern, three tables lengthwise with duplicate dishes on both sides so we could have two self-serve lines, wouldn't suffice. More than 30 people were bringing covered dishes. To use our typical system we'd have had to begin the tables out the social hall door and half-way up the hall. So we devised a system where we'd put dishes on both sides of the table and direct the line to go down one side of the tables – with signs, even – and then weave around the other side and back up. Neat and logical, right? Well, that lasted until Bernie announced that it was time to

eat. People immediately converged on both sides of the table and started filling their plates. Medina and I looked at each other and just shrugged. –*Sam*

I liked the moment when our oldest member and our youngest (age as well as membership longevity) lit the candles together. I liked the emblematic quality of the moment so much that I jumped out of my seat and snapped a photo of it. Past, present, future, and Bernie in the middle. We will go on.

I sat with an advertiser and know she loved it. The best thing? The best part of the evening was the *whole* of it, the abundance of food and participants, everyone relaxed and

smiling, appreciation all around, Bernie being Bernie and being loved for it, over 70 people staying for services. – *Gloria*

As we were setting up the KJCC social hall a few days before our March 8 dinner,

Medina decided that she didn't want to just put out the plastic utensils as we typically do. This dinner was to be special, so she decided that everyone would get utensils wrapped in napkins with a bow, like they'd get at catered affairs. (We were expecting over 100 people.) So she took all the plasticware home. She had guests, Tom and Jaye Shelby, who've been their friends for 40 years, since with two other couples they all shared a communal (one-bathroom) house in college. Carl and Tom and Jaye were forced to sit at Medina's table and wrap 120 sets of plastic forks, spoons and knives into a napkin and then tie each with a bow. The photo gives you a sense of the activity. If it's a little shaky it's because Medina couldn't stop laughing. ♦



The Tenth Annual Women's Seder at KJCC

by Gloria Avner

Our KJCC women and friends love the annual Women's Seder. And we love Rene Rose. So here we are – 56 women, all bringing the best cooking we can create, eager to raise money for a cause, and have a different, relevant Seder experience. The affair was a perfect match of new ritual slants on old ceremonies, created for a modern world in which women share equally in responsibility and honor. It is a creative task, straddling old and new worlds. This year we coupled our unique yet traditional Seder, focusing on the feminine aspect of God, *Shechina* or *Yah*, with an outpouring of affection and respect for a soft-spoken but powerful hero of our own.

Beth presented 2013 Honoree Rene with a handmade pottery cup. Linda Pollack introduced Rene beautifully, and Rene told us

about herself in her usual warm, modest, and gracious way. Her tribute to her husband of 58 years, Skip, was touching. Joyce made a lovely presentation about our other honoree, long-gone but a heroic worker and advocate for the rights and needs of women less fortunate than herself, Rebecca Gratz. (Known for her intellect and beauty and tireless work on behalf of Jewish indigents, Rebecca Gratz was descended from one of the Grandee families, the first 24 accidentally deposited on New Amsterdam in 1624. She founded the very first Jewish day school, in Philadelphia. She so captivated Sir Walter Scott that he modeled

Rebecca, the "jewess" in *Ivanhoe*, after her.)

Kudos to Beth Kaminstein for hosting us once again at her pottery studio, making mugs relating to our mothers.

For co-ordination of all things to do with food, many thanks to Erica Lieberman-Garrett; the rooms were gorgeous, food presentation effective, and the seating arrange-





the receiver of services. After "grace" and the fourth cup of wine, the only child present, Rachel Levine, found the *afikomen*. The Seder



was complete and Erica allowed the eager hordes to partake of a vast array of desserts (the perennial favorite: Suzi Feder's dark chocolate Matzoh bark

ments perfect. Marcia Kreitman did an excellent job continuing the name-project tablecloth, and Joyce and I led a meaningful Seder, enjoyed by old hands and newcomers alike. As a leader, one of my favorite parts happens when we read a beautiful passage or poem together and the voices blend perfectly, as if one person were speaking, an independent organism. We are one and many at the same time.



- and its new peppermint-candy-flavored cousin). We left full



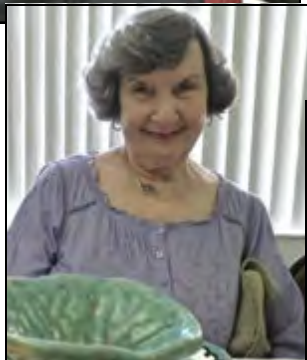
Our *Tikkun Olam* project this year, money raised for "world repair," will be divided among KJCC's Sara Cohen Tzedakah Fund, the Keys Cancer Foundation, and Take Stock in Children. Each of the organizations operates locally and donates every penny contributed to



and happy. Many thanks to the timely arrival of Rabbi Ed's visiting Hillel Scuba group, who used their youthful spring break energy to help us put back the tables and chairs. They even vacuumed the floors, cheerfully. *Dayenu!* ♦



Our great appreciation to Holly Padgett, Luzviminda Levine and Mary Lee Singer for the fabulous Women's Sender photography.







Woman Of The Year, the Wonderful Rene Rose

*The Text of Linda Pollack's Introduction
to the Women's Seder Honoree for 2013.*

Our own Rene Rose. Our very own Sunshine Lady. Tonight we are honoring Rene by naming her Woman of the Year for the 2013 Women's Seder. Just last week, Voices for Florida Children awarded Rene

their Above and Beyond Award. And three years ago, at the KJCC's 30th Anniversary Gala Event, we awarded Rene the Joel S. Cohen Award, which is a tremendous honor given to those who have dedicated themselves to the wellbeing of the KJCC. It was presented to her in recognition of the tireless, often undisclosed and unheralded work

that she does for the KJCC. Those who have received Rene's flowers, cards, baskets and goodies know that

the Sunshine Committee has that name for a very good reason.

Rene does more than make wonderful baskets. She and Skip personally deliver whatever they can to anyone within as much as a 75-mile radius of the Florida Keys. They have been known to appear in hospitals up and down the southeastern coast of Florida, bringing bright gifts and bright eyes every

where they visit.

Rene would be described as a quiet person, but I will tell you personally that if you need something done, she will be there in a flash to help. And so she has worked tirelessly as Financial Secretary on the KJCC Board for several years, stepping in wherever and whenever needed. She has worked tire-

lessly on the Board of the Voices for Florida Keys Children organization for many years, and she has worked side-by-side with Skip at Rotary Club functions, helping to raise moneys for the many scholarships which Rotary provides to our children.

And shall I add that she is an Ace Mah Jongg Player!

Rene was born in Bradley, Illinois, a very small



town south of Chicago. She had two brothers and two sisters, and was the baby of the family. After

finishing school, Rene and a friend went to the Big Apple, New York, and enrolled in flight attendant school. During that time, Rene supported herself by working at FAO Schwartz and Schraft's. Upon graduation she was promised a job with Eastern Airlines when she turned 21. Being only 19, she returned to Illinois and took up once again with Skip, who she had dated before moving away.





Rene and husband Skip at the KJCC Family Seder in April of 2010.



At age 19, Rene eloped with Skip to Buffalo, where they lived for seven years. She will tell you that the most important person in her life is her husband, Skip, who has been there for her always.

They will be

married 58 years come June. They have three children: Della, who is the best daughter ever, boys Steve and Jonathan, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

They then moved to Oak Forest, a Chicago suburb, to raise their children. When they were grown, the boys were in the Keys; Skip and Rene came to visit, loved it



Rene receives the 2010 Joel S. Cohen Award at the KJCC 30th Gala from then-President Alan Beth and Joel Cohen Award Chairman Bea Graham.

Beth Kaminstein honors Rene as Woman Of The Year with a piece of Beth's prized pottery. A more conventional form of congrats takes place at right.



here, and this was their next move.

Rene tells the story of coming here alone, seeing a house she liked, and calling Skip to say she wanted to buy it and move here. Skip okayed it and a new phase in their life opened up. They settled in and Rene went to work at Ocean Reef, Skip at Holiday Inn. Upon retirement, Rene joined the KJCC mah jongg group and KJCC Board, and Voices, and became a volunteer in every aspect of the word.

Everyone who has been fortunate enough to cross paths, or shall I say join paths, with

Rene, knows her as the bright and dedicated, trustworthy, kind and caring friend, wife, mother and great-grand-mother to her family. And to all of us. ◇

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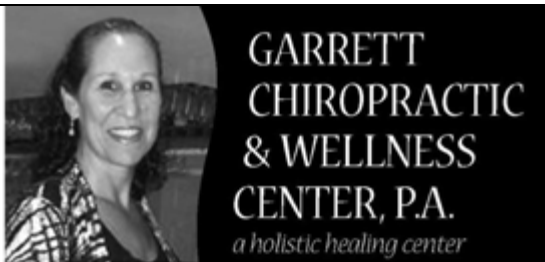
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May 2013

21 Iyar - 22 Sivan 5773

March Seders in photos - page 21

Watching the KJCC Library Grow - page 31

Gloria on a Special Tikkun Leil Shavuot - page 35

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted. </div>			1	2	3 Beth Hayden & Gloria Avner <i>Anonymous</i>	4 Havdalah KJCC Gazebo, sundown
5 Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	6	7	8 Yom Yerusha- layim	9	10 Rosh Chodesh Sivan Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg <i>Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg</i>	11 Rabbi Mitch Chefitz KJCC 7:00 p.m.
12 Mother's Day	13	14 Erev Shavuot	15 First Day of Shavuot	16 Second Day of Shavuot Megillat Ruth is read	17 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely Yizkor Service <i>Yardena Kamely</i>	18 Rabbi Agler Service and Discussion 10:00 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24 Stuart Sax <i>Medina Roy</i>	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31 Harry Friedman, Gloria Avner & Yardena Kamely 6:30 service <i>Linda Pincus</i>	1 Harry Friedman's Bar Mitzvah

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



As summer is coming and the months grow hotter, the pace at our little synagogue slows a little (and so, thank G-d, does my practice). We will miss our snowbirds, who add so much vitality to all our programs. The Seders, the Solases, the Janowitzes, and the Grossmans have said their farewells until winter. Others will leave soon, and more empty chairs will be seen at services and programs.

We have to make up for the emptiness with more intimate and fun summer activities. We can turn the KJCC into a big *chavurah* instead of a small shul. More than ever, every member counts and every member should bring another with him or her. Invite your friends to join you for shul activities. Your call could provide them just the incentive they need to participate in a rewarding program.

We appreciated the excellent series of lectures on the Abrahamic faiths by morah Yardena, who immediately followed them with preparations for her programs about the Holocaust and Yom Ha'atzma'ut. Unfortunately, illness kept her from the Yom HaShoah lecture, but in true "can-do" KJCC style, Muriel Swartz and Medina Roy expanded their roles and gave a fantastic presentation of the material. It was a tour-de-force. No one in atten-

dance left with a dry eye.

Our wonderful students (and their teachers) led the early service of Friday, April 26th. Please make it a point to attend the children's programs. Compliment the ones who attend services. Make a "big deal" out of them. If you are in KJCC on Sundays and see our children, ask them what they are studying and if they are enjoying it. If we treat them as important and mature members of the congregation, we reinforce a child's innate desire to *assume* a role as important members of the congregation! Play is preparation for life.

I want ideas from everyone about how we can make the KJCC better than ever. We are exploring everything from more computer-internet activity in our Sunday School to a "Shabark Shalom" (dog-park day in the parking lot, a cool suggestion by Mindy Agler.) We had a Men's Club picnic and swim some years back. Is it time for another one?

My very sincere thanks to Sam Vinicur, Stuart Sax, Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman, Medina Roy, Steve Hartz, Linda Pollack and all the KJCC officers and hard-working members who have given me the support and help that have enabled me to continue as president despite trying personal circumstances.

B'ahava (with love), Bernie

Nosh

A Sax Kvell-a-thon, Sort Of

Jeremy Sax, son of multiple past-presidents Stuart and Lauren, has been promoted to director of Allied Products Sales for Daltile, where he has worked for twelve years moving up the corporate chain, most recently in West Palm Beach. Stu and Lauren say they are a combination of proud and sad, the latter because the promotion means that Jeremy, wife Kristin and three-year-old son Liam (who finally got named in a recent ceremony at KJCC), will have to relocate to Dallas in early summer. Good thing they have Skype.

You Don't Have to Reply in Triplicate

I would like to request that all members of the congregation that served in the military, please contact me by phone or email (sljjsax@aol.com or 305-586-8729). I would like to use the information in the service I will be leading on May 24th in honor of Memorial Day. Thanks.

-Stuart Sax

Warm Thanks to Carl and Steve

The hallway in the KJCC foyer has a new look, and we all thank Steve Steinbock and Carl Roy for their hard work in making it happen. First they had to move the heavy Gift Shop cabinet to its new (and much better and more visible) location right at the end of the hall leading from the outside door. (It was very heavy and Carl had to lift it to put sliders under the four corners.) They then did a truly professional job installing brackets and hanging the new shelves. (Note to Treasurer Linda: no bill is forthcoming for this great work. Nothing beats a gift of love. To our dear readers, please see photos of this handyman wizardry in Medina's library article on page 31.) As you'll see, Medina has already filled the shelves, and now our hallway truly looks and feels like one appropriate for the People of the Book.

Final Call to Join the Israel Tour

Dave Mont writes that on May 1st we will be but 42 days from departure on the Rabbi Agler-led KJCC Israel Tour, which begins June 11th. There is still time to register and join the tour. But don't delay. Please call Arza World directly at 888-811-2812. For those already signed up, there will be a group meeting with Rabbi Agler to discuss details of the trip on Sunday, May 5, 2013 at KJCC (after the Board meeting), around 11:30 a.m. Immediately after our meeting, Yardená has kindly offered to give us all a lesson in essential Israeli Hebrew. If you cannot attend in person, we can arrange for you to call in on speakerphone. Also, notes will be taken and made available. Please call Dave at 305-393-9883 if you have any questions.

Harry's Bar Mitzvah is June 1st

My wife Jane and I are proud to announce the Bar Mitzvah of our son Harry, on Saturday, June 1st, 2013 at Keys Jewish Community Center in



Tavernier. Harry will conduct services both on Friday night, May 31st and Saturday morning, June 1st.

The Friedman family cordially invites our entire KJCC *mish-pocha* to attend this important milestone in Harry's Jewish life. Rabbi Agler will officiate at the ceremony. An Oneg in honor of Harry will be offered in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall immediately after Saturday morning's service.

Jane and I would also like to acknowledge in advance the outstanding education and preparation Harry received for this event by his teachers, Yardená Kamely and Gloria Avner.

-Steve Friedman

May Birthdays

1st.....	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.....	Reid Schur
9th.....	Rhett Curtis
11th.....	Richard Agler
11th.....	Sheila R. Steinberg
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th.....	Nyan Feder
12th.....	Robert Silk
13th.....	Rose Marie Gordon
14th.....	Bernie Ginsberg
14th.....	Eva Ban
14th.....	John Temkin
14th.....	Medina Roy
15th.....	Paul R. Schur
17th.....	Alex Shatz
18th.....	Andrea P. Silverman
18th.....	Jaime Boruszak
19th.....	Jonathon Hodgson
19th.....	Sylvie Coeurjoly
21st.....	Tracey Greenberg
22nd.....	Christian Strasser
22nd.....	Sharon Repka
23rd.....	Bianka Kirschenbaum
23rd.....	Jenny Margulies
23rd.....	Jules Seder
23rd.....	Nettie Seder
23rd.....	Rita Williams
25th.....	Matthew Birnbaum
26th.....	Randy Robins
27th.....	Alan Beth
27th.....	Jeffrey Pollack
27th.....	Joan Boruszak
29th.....	Liat Mayk
29th.....	Nancy Zinner
29th.....	Robin Forman
31st.....	Mark E. Silverman
31st.....	Robert Sherman
31st.....	Ves Conklin

May Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Bennett & Deborah Beinfest.....	23
4th	Alan & Susan Cooper.....	27
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz.....	22
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....	41
24th	Alfred & Sue Ann Wehl.....	54
30th	Harold & Shelley Schenker.....	20

Learning Opportunities in May: Three Saturday Nights

Anyone who thought our learning and ceremonial "season" would be over after Pesach is mistaken. May will be a trifecta month, with three well-respected (and entertaining) rabbis sharing their wisdom and experience with us. Each event will be unique and uplifting.

- May 4th, 7:30 p.m. – Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, who will be visiting us with his Eckerd College students, the reef-repairing Scuba Jews, will conduct a Havdalah Service and discussion on "Spirituality of the Sea."

- May 11th, 7:00 p.m. – Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz, respected author, teacher, and authority on Jewish Meditation will lead an early "Tikkun Leil Shavuot" program for us. "PREPARING TO RECEIVE TORAH: JEWISH LEARNING, MEDITATION, AND MYSTICISM" Do not miss this opportunity. The learning will be experiential (see article on Shavuot on page 35). The teacher is exceptional. Dairy refreshments will be served (yes, blintz soufflé and cheesecake) and the evening will conclude with a Havdalah Service in the Meditation Garden Gazebo.

- May 18th, 10:00 a.m. – Rabbi Rich Agler will lead a morning Shabbat service and discussion. Shabbat learning with Rabbi Agler has become a highlight of the month for many of us. He is a warm, informal teacher as well as leader. His services are enriching and inspiring.

—Gloria

Thank You to Book Donors

KJCC Librarian Medina Roy would like to thank the following members for their recent book donations:

Three from Roberta and Rick McNew: *Cultures in Conflict: Christians, Muslims and Jews in the Age of Discovery* by Bernard Lewis. Location: History (HIS). Also *Choices in Modern Jewish Thought: A Partisan Guide*. Second edition, by Eugene B. Borowitz. Location: Philosophy (PHI). And *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, edited by Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz. Location: Reference (REF).

From Steve Steinbock: *The 10-Second Diet: A Technique You Can Master in Less Time Than it Takes to Read the Cover of the Book*, by Merna Lyn. Location: Miscellaneous (MIS).

All the books in our wonderful KJCC library come from donations by our members. These are just the latest.

About That Joel Cohen Award...

Thank you is just not enough to express our gratitude for the prestigious honor of receiving the Joel Cohen Award. It is an honor that we share with each and every person that supported us over the years.

— Stuart & Lauren

Oneg Sponsors for May 2013

May 3rd - Anonymous

May 10th - Medina Roy and Bernie Ginsberg to celebrate their shared birthday (May 14th).

May 17th - Yardena Kamely to honor Michal's birthday.

May 24th - Medina Roy in honor of mom Bianka's 98th birthday.

May 31st - Linda Pincus to honor her daughters' birthdays.

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.

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A Legal Merger and Mitzvah

Sabrina Gillespie (daughter of Miriam Gillespie) and Dave Damast were engaged on December 14, 2012. Sabrina is an attorney with the U.S. Department

of Justice, and Dave is an attorney with the U.S. Department of Defense. The couple met at a potluck Shabbat lunch in Los Angeles, California, where they currently reside. Dave's parents, Robert and Marilyn Damast, reside in New Rochelle, New York, where they are members of Young Israel of Scarsdale Congregation.

A New Contact for Mishebeyrach

One of the many appealing things about KJCC is our concern for each other. Toward the end of every service, we read aloud the names of those for whom we join together in prayer for their return to health. If you can't be here, and wish to add the name of a loved one to our list, contact Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665 or e-mail her, joycepeckman@gmail.com.

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Last Call: if your goal was to wait until the last minute to sign up for the June 11-23 KJCC trip to Israel being led by Rabbi Agler, congratulations. It's now the last minute.

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Dead Sea Scrolls



The Jewish Quarter

A wonderful opportunity is available to all members of KJCC. Join together with fellow congregants and with Rabbi Richard Agler (who has led such trips dozens of times) for a ten-day adventure in Israel beginning on June 11-23, 2013.

But now you need to hurry, because final preparations are being made. The cost is \$3,252 per person, not including airfare. What's included? The full trip itinerary and details are posted on the KJCC web site, keysjewishcenter.com; click on the "Misc." section. If you need a final push, contact Dave Mont, 305-393-9883. But Dave recommends that at this point you call Arza World Travel directly at 888-811-2812. They can answer any and all questions. (Are non-KJCC members or family welcome to join us? Absolutely.) Operators are standing by.

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.

In Memoriam May 2013

In Memory Of

Sam Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

Phillip Temkin

By Robert Temkin

In Memory Of

Benjamin Weber

By Judith Weber

In Memory Of

Norma Cutler

By Donald Zinner

In Memory Of

Robert Schur

By Lee Schur

In Memory Of

Robert W. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

In Memory Of

Susan Cimkowski

By Stephen & Carol Steinbock

In Memory Of

Etia Turner

By Salomon & Mary Turner

In Memory Of

Ida S. Reider

By George & Muriel Swartz

In Memory Of

Itka Raij

By Salomon & Mary Turner

KJCC
SISTERHOOD SHABBAT
DINNER
FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2013
6:30 PM

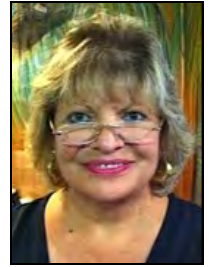
COVERED DISH ~ FLEISHIG

Contact Barbara @ (305) 772-0503
iweddu@bellsouth.net to reserve your spot
and coordinate your covered dish.

DONATION @ \$10
PREPAYMENT WELCOME
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER @ NO CHARGE



Sisterhood Barbara Knowles



Sisterhood has started winding down for this year. Our Final meeting was on April 7th, 2013. The next time the Sisterhood meets as a group, it will be for our Annual Sisterhood Luncheon to be held on Sunday, May 5th at 12:30 p.m. at The Pilot House. For those of you who don't know where the Pilot House is, it's at 13 Seagate Boulevard, Key Largo. All women who are members are invited to come. We're looking forward to a big turnout, so hope everyone will be there, even those who don't come to monthly meetings. We'd be delighted to have all the women of KJCC attend this wonderful luncheon. Separate checks will be given, so whether you like big lunches or small lunches, you will have the perfect lunch for you. Please contact me at 305-772-0503 to let me know that you will be attending. I look forward to seeing everyone there. Anyone needing directions or, even if you need a ride, please feel free to give me a call.

We had some great things happen in March and April. The Women's Seder as always was a great success. All *Tikkun Olam* donations that were collected are being distributed to three separate charities. KJCC's Tzedakah Fund, The Keys Cancer Foundation, and Take Stock In Children will each be sent an equal check, together with a beautiful letter from Gloria Avner.

The KJCC Family Second Seder went off without any problems at all. We were very lucky to have Stuart and Gloria (along with her surprise guest Susan Gordon) all leading us through the Haggadah. The Seder had a very good turnout and was the first I had ever been in charge of. My thanks and appreciation to Joan Boruszak for all her help. It's always satisfying to see your hard work pay off, when you put so many hours into planning and organizing an event. The Islamorada Fishing Club, by the way, has a new chef.

Chef Joseph is French-trained and comes from a great culinary background. His experience certainly shined through on Passover. We've always had well-prepared, good dinners there. But this Passover dinner was spectacular. There wasn't a thing that was missed. We had *charoset* prepared by our hardworking women Pauline Roller and Joan Boruszak. (Forgive me if I left anyone out). Chef Joseph prepared chicken that tasted better than any other I've ever had. He made *tsimmes* that we thought only our grandmothers were capable of making, matzo ball soup, and finished up with a delicious sorbet. I get hungry talking and thinking about it. Not only was the food delicious, the service was also great.

Sisterhood's next and last fundraiser will be a Friday night "fleishig" (meat) dinner on May 3rd at 6:30. Donations are \$10.00. We are asking for more volunteers to bring a covered dish of some kind, either meat or vegetable. Mimi Gillespie will be the chairperson and can be reached at 561-601-7888 to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dishes. You can also reach me at 305-772-0503. I'm looking forward to a great turnout along with Dr. Bernie's surprise entrée.

Sunday, April 14th saw another heartwarming celebration, with the blessing of Rabbi and Mindy Agler's new home. They installed a beautiful white mezuzah on their door, which was blessed by Rabbi Agler. The second celebration was "A Renewal Of Their Marital Vows" performed by a friend, Rabbi Mark Mahler. We all ate, as we do in all of my columns, and celebrated the day with them. We wish them much luck and *mazel tov* on their new home and renewed marriage.

Until next month. Make it a great month. ◇

Contributions to KJCC

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

General Fund
Calev, Barbara
Friedman, Steve and Jane
Gould, Maryon
Toback, Fred & Phyllis

In Honor of
Dr. Bernie Ginsberg
Jane's conversion
Congratulations to Dr.
Bernie on KJCC Presidency
Great Shabbos on
3/8/13 - Thanks!

General Fund
Calev, Barbara
Buchholtz, Anita

In Memory of
Dr. Joe Goldberg
Richard J. Koch

Meditation Garden
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Benjamin Friedman (grandson)

In Honor of
Bar Mitzvah of
Benjamin Friedman (grandson)

Meditation Garden
Coltman, Barney

In Memory of
brick - Eve L. Greenstein

JNF Trees In Israel
Gillespie, Miriam

In Honor of
daughter's engagement -
Sabrina and Dave

JNF Trees In Israel
Gillespie, Miriam

In Memory of
mother, Ellen Sklar

Sisterhood Oneg Fund
Ellner, Susan
Knowles, Barbara
Schur, Lee

Tree of Life
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Steinbock, Steve & Carol

In Honor of
Richard Knowles
Jane Friedman

Yahrzeits
Boruszak, Joan
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra
Sheinker, Miltra

In Memory of
Baruch Epstein
Gertrude F. Kaplan
Warren Sheinker

YEDA VE'TORASHA Yardena Kamely



Tel Aviv, the First Hebrew City in Israel

Tel Aviv was founded on April 11, 1909. On that day, 60 families gathered on the sand dunes on the beach outside Yaffo to allocate plots of land for a new neighborhood they called *Ahuzat Bayit* (Homestead). As the families could not decide how to allocate the land, they held a lottery to ensure a fair division. Akiva Arie Weiss, chairman of the lottery committee and one of the prominent figures in the city's founding, gathered 66 grey seashells and 66 white seashells. Weiss wrote the names of the participants on the white shells and the plot numbers on the grey shells. He paired a white and grey shell, assigning each family a plot, and thus Tel Aviv's founding families began building the first modern, Hebrew city.

The time was at a peak wave of Jewish immigration – the Second Aliya. Neighborhoods in the ancient port city of Yaffo were becoming overpopulated and crowded. Many of the newcomers were Europeans of middle-class origin who wanted to build surroundings that would give them a sense of what they had

left behind. They wanted to build a modern suburb of Yaffo. They were willing to invest 100,000 francs from their own money for the building of the houses. They turned to Dr. Arthur Rupin, the representative of the Zionist Organization in Israel (1907), asking for a loan. Impressed by the motivation of these families to build a Hebrew town, he convinced the *Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael* (Jewish National Fund) to give a loan of 250,000 francs for the building of the first sixty houses.

The first street of the new town was *Rehov Herzl*. Within a year, *Ahad Ha'am*, *Yehuda Halevi*, *Lilienblum*, and *Rothschild* streets

were built; a water system was installed; and 66 houses were completed. As the Jewish population of *Ahuzat Bayit* was growing, the founders decided to call the town Tel Aviv. The now-familiar name is from Sokolow's translation of the title of Theodor Herzl's *Altneuland* ("Old New Land"), based on the name of a Mesopotamian site mentioned in Ezekiel 3:15: "Then I came to them of the captivity at Tel



Walking along one of the first streets of Tel Aviv, leafy Rothschild Boulevard (the street was originally named *Rehov Ha'am*, the Nation Street), is like visiting a historical museum that lines both sides of the street.

Aviv, that lived by the river Chebar.” It embraced the idea of a renaissance in the ancient Jewish homeland. Aviv is Hebrew for “spring,” symbolizing renewal, and Tel is a mound made up of the accumulation of layers of civilization built one over the other, symbolizing the ancient.

The true development of Tel Aviv took off with the arrival of Scottish urban planner Sir Patrick Geddes. In response to the unplanned expansion of the city, Geddes was invited by the municipality in 1925 to present a comprehensive master plan for Tel Aviv. In his vision, Tel Aviv was to be a garden city, as foreseen by its founders. In his plan he created main streets, residential streets and pedestrian boulevards filled with vegetation. An important element of his plan, reflecting the social climate of the time, was the creation of shared public spaces in the form of parks and squares, as well as green areas within residential blocks.

The city was again transformed starting in 1932 by a massive wave of immigration of Jews fleeing persecution in Europe, whose arrival rapidly expanded a small town of 42,000 people into a flourishing city of 130,000 by 1936. The housing needs of this wave of immigration brought the rise of the Bauhaus, or Modern Movement, style of architecture. (An import, ironically, from Germany, which was also the source of most of the Jews necessitating a building boom of in Tel Aviv in the first place. Architects trained in the Modern style were among the refugees from Europe.) Influenced by the clean, functional lines of the Bauhaus School, the immigrant architects adapted the Modern style to suit Tel Aviv’s culture and climate, giving the city its special look, what today is called “The



An example of the modern architecture in the Bauhaus style, which has given Tel Aviv its nickname of “The White City.”

White City.” This section of Tel Aviv, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004, includes over 4,000 buildings in the Modern style.

In the 1930s, Tel Aviv became the country’s largest economic center and also the center of the pre-Israel emergence of Hebrew culture – and remains so to this very day. Tel Aviv became known for its modern cafes, hotels, concert halls and nightclubs. The city enjoyed a sense of international chic, which was rare for the region, especially at the time.

At the start of the 1948 War of Independence, the city and its periphery became the focal point of the conflict between Jews and Arabs. The fight over Yaffo’s

future started immediately after the UN decision for partition. As in other areas where Jewish and Arab forces clashed in close quarters, civilian populations both in Tel Aviv and Yaffo suffered, and ultimately many fled. In April 1950, Yaffo was formally merged with the Tel Aviv municipality and a unified city was established – Tel Aviv-Yaffo.

For the next several decades Tel Aviv maintained the status as Israel’s cultural and economic center, yet Tel Aviv-Yaffo was losing its vibrancy and its population was growing older. This trend changed in the 1980s, as a gradual migration from all over the country back to Tel Aviv began. Over the next decades, there was massive renovation and development throughout Tel Aviv-Yaffo, giving the city a makeover that beautified it. Tel Avivis today are passionate about their city and are proud to live in a center of commerce, culture, style and entertainment.

With boulevards filled with people at all hours, a thriving business sector, countless charming cafes and restaurants, a beautiful beachfront and rich cultural offerings, the vision of the city’s founders has come alive. ♦

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



“They Were Everywhere”

According to a group of academics from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., it is very likely that the scale of the Nazis’ attempt to eradicate Europe’s Jewish population could far exceed what historians have long believed to be the case. As part of a 13-year project to catalog the sites of Nazi atrocities and build a comprehensive map of the Holocaust, the researchers have found evidence of 42,000 Nazi “killing centers,” ghettos, forced labor camps and other sites of persecution and murder for the period covering 1933 to 1945. It includes camps where women were forced into prostitution, as well as places where prisoners were forced to manufacture war supplies. Previously unknown Nazi sites are included, detailing 980 concentration camps and 1,150 Jewish ghettos. The researchers anticipated finding evidence of approximately 7,000 Nazi sites; they were not prepared to come across and identify six times that number. In an interview with the New York Times, Martin Dean, one of the project leaders, said that their findings suggested that ordinary Germans had to have known what the Nazis were doing. “You literally could not go anywhere in Germany without running into forced labor camps, POW camps, concentration camps,” he said. “They were everywhere.” The Museum has already published the first two volumes of the planned seven-volume encyclopedia of the project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2025. (www.nytimes.com, 3-3-13)

Unlikely Jewish Roots

The Texas county where a district attorney and his wife, along with another county prosecutor, were recently shot and killed, has roots that are surprisingly Jewish. Kaufman

County, just twenty miles southeast of Dallas, is named for David Spangler Kaufman (1813-1851). Kaufman was a lawmaker in the Republic of Texas and was the only Jewish Texan to serve in the U.S. Congress for over a hundred years, until the 1970s. According to the Texas State Historical Association, Kaufman was a “lawyer, Indian fighter, and politician.” He was born in Pennsylvania and graduated with high honors from Princeton College in 1830. He began his legal career in Natchitoches, Louisiana in 1835. Texas president Anson Jones named him *chargé d’affaires* to the United States in 1845. After Texas became a state, Mr. Kaufman served in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 29th, 30th and 31st Congresses. (*The Forward*, 4-2-13)

A Step Closer

At the end of March, the State of Israel moved a step closer to its goal of energy independence. Natural gas from the *Tamar* reservoir in the Mediterranean Sea began flowing to a terminal in the port of Ashdod, benefiting the country both strategically and economically. A partnership of Noble Energy, based in Houston, Texas, and two Israeli companies, Delek Group and Dor Gas Explorations, discovered large gas reserves at the *Tamar* site (about 56 miles west of Haifa) in 2009. Israel’s Ministry of Energy and Water Resources said that the *Tamar* field will supply 50 to 80 percent of Israel’s natural gas needs over the next 10 years. A subsequent discovery in 2010 of another major natural gas field off Israel’s northern coast, known as *Leviathan*, has even positioned Israel as a future energy exporter. *Leviathan* was said to have been one of the world’s largest offshore gas finds in a decade. (www.cnn.com, 4-1-13)

She's a First

Captain Sarah Schechter, the Jewish chaplain of the 11th Wing at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, is the first-ever female U.S. Air Force rabbi in the forty years that women have served as military chaplains. Schechter grew up in Greenwich Village, New York, the daughter of a rabbi. Her father was an Air Force chaplain in 1960. She never dreamed of becoming a "teacher of Torah" until her mother suggested it in 1999. Outside of Orthodox Judaism, the number of women rabbis is growing, but few ever join the military. She decided to enlist after the September 11th attacks on America, when she was in her fourth year of rabbinical school. Schechter said she could not remain on the sidelines and that a sense of duty as both a New Yorker and an American motivated her to enlist. (www.military.com/daily-news, 3-26-13)

History Preserved

As the aging Holocaust survivor population dwindles, the fear is that their stories – some written down, others recorded – will have less of an impact on future generations. But now, the University of Southern California has teamed up with the *Shoah Foundation Institute* and design firm *Conscience Display* to create a new technology project where future generations can witness individual testimonies of the survivors giving their personalized testimony via holograms. This digitized hologram technology enables viewers to witness, face-to-face, life-size projections of individuals telling their stories. Viewers can even ask questions and the holograms respond, thanks to *Siri*-style natural language technology. (www.tabletmag.com, 2-11-13)

The Talmud: A Diet Book?

Every week we read of another study warning of the prevalence of obesity in America. It has been well documented that close to 70 percent of American adults are either overweight or obese. And the statistics for children are discouraging. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity has more than doubled in children and *tripled* in adolescents over the past thirty years. In

2010, more than one-third of children and adolescents were overweight or obese. And some solutions to the problem have met with strong resistance. New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg, for example, has tried outlawing the sale of sugary beverages over 16 ounces. (The statute, which the Mayor convinced the New York City Council to pass, was overturned by a judge in March. Bloomberg is planning to appeal the judge's decision). The state of Mississippi recently passed a bill essentially forbidding federal restrictions on what its people may eat or drink. It seems that most Americans do not want the government to tell them what they may eat or drink.

Perhaps an unusual "diet book" might be the Talmud, where Jews are counseled to "remove your hand from a meal that pleases you." In other words, eat until you are satisfied, not till you are full. The Talmud teaches that people should eat enough to fill a third of their stomachs, drink enough to fill another third and leave a third empty. (Interestingly, it's not only Judaism that teaches personal restraint. Christianity identifies gluttony as a mortal sin; the Koran teaches that improper and wasteful eating incurs God's wrath.) Rashi interpreted the Talmud to mean that the final empty third is necessary so that the body can metabolize emotions. In those days, emotions, like food and drink, were thought to be metabolized by the body. Maimonides similarly agreed that people should eat and drink less than what filled their bellies. He, too, thought the stomach should be no more than three-quarters full and that people should eat slowly. (Modern science corroborates Maimonides' thinking: it takes about twenty minutes for the brain to receive messages from the stomach that it has had enough.) (www.nytimes.com, 3-26-13)

Taxed in Absentia

While conducting research on Jewish homeowners in the Netherlands during World War II, a 23-year-old university student discovered documents indicating that the city of Amsterdam issued fines to hundreds of Jewish Holocaust survivors for failing to pay city

taxes while they were in hiding or in concentration camps. The story broke in a local Dutch newspaper, which claimed that many of the houses in question were confiscated and used by members of the NSB (the Dutch Nazi party), while the Jewish owners were either in hiding or in concentration camps. The city went after survivors as late as 1947. Some Dutch municipalities waived the debts, and the following year Amsterdam agreed to reimburse half of what it charged to some Jews who were taxed in absentia. Amsterdam's city archives contain 342 requests for reimbursement. About 75 percent of Holland's pre-World War II Jewish population of 140,000 was murdered in the Holocaust. (*The Forward*, 4-2-13)

In Memoriam

- Rabbi Herschel Schacter, one of the most prominent Modern Orthodox rabbis in the United States, has died at the age of 95. He enlisted in the army as a chaplain in 1942. On April 11th, 1945, after learning that General George S. Patton's Third Army had liberated Buchenwald, he commandeered a jeep and a driver and rode through the gates of Buchenwald, the first Jewish chaplain to enter the camp. When he saw men in filthy barracks lying on raw wooden planks stacked from floor to ceiling, he shouted in Yiddish, "Shalom Aleichem, Yidden. Ihr zint frei!" (You are free!) Schacter discovered nearly a thousand orphaned children in Buchenwald; along with Rabbi Robert Marcus, he helped arrange for their transport to France, Switzerland and Palestine. The convoy to France included a seven-year-old child nicknamed Lulek and a teenager named Elie Wiesel. Schacter would remain at Buchenwald for months, tending to survivors and eventually helping to resettle thousands of Jews. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, the youngest of ten children to parents who had come from Poland. His father, Pincus, was a seventh-generation *shochet* (ritual slaughterer). Schacter received ordination from Yeshiva University in 1941 from Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, the founder of the Modern Orthodox movement. He was an outspoken advocate for the rights of

Soviet Jews and an adviser on the subject to President Richard Nixon. (Lulek grew up to become Yisrael Meir Lau, the former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel from 1993 to 2003. He is now the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv.) (www.nytimes.com, 3-26-13)

Did You Know...

- Former Arizona congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords will receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award on May 5th. Giffords, who survived a 2011 shooting that killed six people, was recognized for the "political, personal, and physical courage she has demonstrated in her fearless public advocacy for policy reforms aimed at reducing gun violence." Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly launched a gun control initiative following the shootings in December at the elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Caroline Kennedy announced the award, given annually by the J.F.K. Presidential Library and Museum "to public servants who have made courageous decisions of conscience without regard for the personal or professional consequences." Giffords was the first Jewish woman elected to Congress in Arizona. (www.jta.org, 3-10-13)

- The historic, 2,000-year-old Jobar Synagogue in Damascus, Syria was recently looted and burned to the ground. The Syrian army loyal to President Bashar Assad and rebel forces are blaming each other for the synagogue's destruction. Jobar Synagogue was said to have been built on the site where the prophet Elijah anointed his successor, Elisha, as a prophet. (www.jta.org, 3-31-13)

- Ed Koch, the feisty, proudly Jewish former mayor of New York City who died on February 1st at the age of 88, designed and chose his own tombstone years before his death. The marker bears the Star of David and the *shema* prayer along with the last words uttered by journalist Daniel Pearl before he was tortured and murdered by terrorists in 2002: "My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I am Jewish." Koch had often said that he was moved by Pearl's affirmation of his Jewish faith and heritage in his last tragic moments. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 2-4-13) ♦

Keys Jewish Community Center

Sisterhood Luncheon

Sunday, May 5, 2013

12:30 pm

Pilot House -- Key Largo



Last Get Together of the Season

Contact Barbara to reserve
your seat

iweddu@bellsouth.net
(305) 772-0503

Separate Checks

Photo Gallery

At top right, Susan Ellner enjoys the car-washing service she bought from Joyce Peckman on Deli Nite. But Susan delivered the car, then took Joyce to lunch. As Joyce said...not bad! At right, Joyce prepares to burn chometz before Pesach with grandchildren Eliana (next to Joyce), Michal and Yosef, in snowy Denver.



Susan Gordon sent along these photos of Commodore Dave Mont's monthly chai-yaking expedition, this one on March 23rd. It was one of those days with a gentle breeze and the water a rich, deep cerulean blue.

At right and bottom are two photos of KJCC's beautiful Meditation Garden, now beginning to bloom into spring after a very dry winter. Engraved bricks honoring friends and loved ones now stretch almost to the Beth/Stanlake gazebo. When it's full we'll begin a new path. We now have five living memorials planted, each with a descriptive plaque. The one at bottom honors the memory of Steve Steinbock's sister Karen; it was her favorite tree.





The three photos at top are all from Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning Service on Saturday, April 13th. His friend (all the way back to Rabbinical school) Rabbi Mark Mahler brought his traveling guitar, and acted as troubadour/cantor.

The four photos at center and bottom were taken on Friday, April 12th at Yardena's Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) celebration. There was also a display in the lobby. There were Israeli songs, and, as you can see, Israeli dancing. Our thanks to David Gitin for the photos.



The main reason Rabbi Mahler was here, it turns out, was to officiate at the housewarming for and renewal of vows between Rich and Mindy Agler at their new digs by the bay on April 14th. Many fellow KJCC members joined in. In case that chuppah looks vaguely familiar, it should: it's Rabbi Agler's talit.





Marc and Ellen Bloom are now officially grandparents. Daughter Rachael recently gave birth to her own daughter, Madison Rose. That's dad Chris and Aunt Molly to the right.



Richard and Sheila Steinberg embrace grandson Ben, below and center,

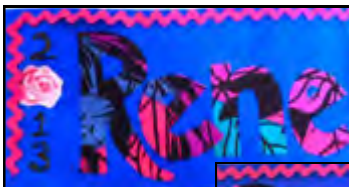


at his Bar Mitzvah. Let's let Sheila tell her own story about the

Below is the custom-designed (by Gloria) embroidery enshrining Rene Rose as this year's Seder honoree. Rene will soon join the others on the Quilt of Honorees hanging in the KJCC hall.



photos: "Benjamin Friedman, our grandson, Joel and Sara Cohen's great-grandson, was called to the Torah on January 19th of this year. Ben chanted his Haftorah superbly; all prayers in harmony with the cantor! We are grateful to Hashem to have come to this life mitzvah...Sara and Joel are smiling."



Bernie took the shot at right of Rabbi Zucker conducting his Jewish mysticism course on March 6th. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of Hillel, with student Elliot in tow, was here to again work on their reef-repair program. Bernie loved that maximum Jewish use is being made of our facility.



A March of Seders

by Gloria Avner

March was the month of Seders, filled with “extras,” the special occasions that have become integral to our Passover season.

The Womens’ Seder came first, and while still basking in its afterglow we moved on to celebrating with children at our Sunday School Family Seder. Nettie and Jules Seder played the roles of *Zadie* and *Nana*. We had a bonus this year. It turns out that when you open the door for Elijah, you don’t know who will appear. This special morning, two strangers appeared

who quickly became *mish-pocha*. A young mother from Homestead, Christal, and her four-year-old daughter, Jamie, found us online and made the trip to see our Sunday School. We were captivated by Jamie,

who knew the *brachas* by heart, sang us “the song of baby Moses,” and was instantly adopted by students Mikhaela Bitton and Natalie Werthamer. A good, meaningful and delicious

time was had by all. *Todah rabah* to all the parents for preparing our ceremonial foods.

Just a few hours later (yes, the same day), four of us were bound for another seder, this one at the Epis-



copal Church, Saint Columba, in Marathon. It was a privilege to support the organizers of this now-annual inter-faith event – our



Appreciation and photo credits for the Children's Seder go to David Gitin, Gloria Avner and Richard & Barbara Knowles.



asked not just to attend, but also to help plan their seder next year.

Most of us attended private seders the next night, Monday, March 25th. Twenty-four hours later we were gathered again, for the KJCC

own Judy Greenman and Jessica Hernstadt. Together, along with (recent KJCC Bar Mitzvah boy and Jessica's son) Aidan Kahn and others, they graciously served chicken soup to all 80 guests. Among the attendees were two Holocaust survivors, one of whom is a founding member of KJCC, Stephen Ban, Judy Green-

man's father; the other was the sweet and delightful Howard Tischauer. Both spoke about their own

imprisonment and freedom, to a suddenly very quiet hall. Pauline quickly became the reigning matriarch of the event. Our participation was much appreciated and we've been



In the photo above, we assembled all the KJCC members in attendance at the Interfaith

Seder at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Marathon (plus Howard Tischauer). Our sincere thanks to Larry Benvenuti of Marathon, who shot all the photos you see and graciously shared them with us.

Community Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Though we missed Jim Boruszak after so many years of his leadership, we



at our helm. The food this year was delicious. We sang, we drank, we blessed, we told our story. Next year in Jerusalem — and Tavernier, Marathon, and Islamorada as well. *(Photos of the KJCC Family Seder begin on page 25.)* ◇



enjoyed our ceremony, begun with a meaningful talk on what makes a good seder, by Rabbi Rich Agler, and very well led by Stuart Sax and Gloria Avner with the added voice of Susan Gordon and the participation of many children. A highlight of the evening was Carol and Steve Steinbock's



At the seder in Marathon, founding KJCC member Stephan Ban, below, spoke of his Holocaust experiences. That's him as a young man, yellow star sewn onto his clothes, shortly



before he was separated from his family.



presentation of the Joel Cohen Award. This year we had two winners. Both of our im-

mediate past-presidents, Stuart Sax and Lauren Sax, were honored for their magnificent contributions to KJCC during their two years



Keys Jewish Community Center

Arza World - Tour of Israel, June 11-23, 2013

**Led by the best tour guide possible - our own
Rabbi Richard Agler.**

DAY ONE: Tuesday, June 11, 2013

DEPARTURE Depart U.S.A. Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Wednesday, June 12, 2013

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Thursday, June 13, 2013

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Friday, June 14, 2013

CONQUESTS AND CREATIVITY ALONG THE COAST Overnight: Haifa

DAY FIVE: Saturday, June 15, 2013

SPIRITUALITY, PRACTICALITY AND IDENTITY Overnight: Haifa

DAY SIX: Sunday, June 16, 2013

ROOTS, KABBALA AND ROOTS Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY SEVEN: Monday, June 17, 2013

SERENITY AND SECURITY ON THE GOLAN Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY EIGHT: Tuesday, June 18, 2013

NEW VISION AND OLD Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Wednesday, June 19, 2013

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Thursday, June 20, 2013

INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Friday, June 21, 2013

MEMORY AND RENEWAL Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TWELVE: Saturday, June 22, 2013

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM Overnight: Flight

DAY THIRTEEN: Sunday, June 23, 2013

DEPARTURE Arrival in the USA

**Complete tour information is available at arzaworld.com,
search word: *keys*, or call 888-811-2812. Tour cost \$3252.
A deposit (\$300) can be made now and full payment is due by April 11, 2013.**

**Please contact Dave Mont if you have any questions at moogoodave@yahoo.com
or call 305-393-9883.**

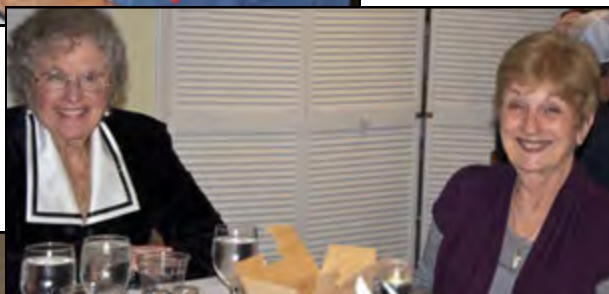
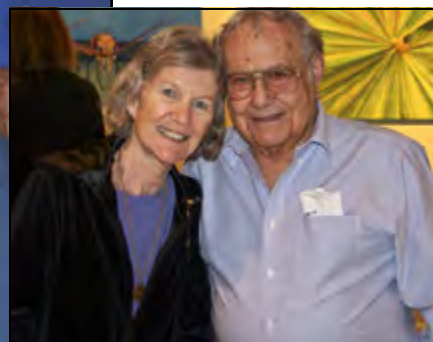
The KJCC Family Seder

It was Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Barbara Knowles had helped plan her first annual seder. Gloria had a new and polished co-leader in Stuart Sax. Rabbi Richard Agler talked, in his easy and engaging way, about what seders mean and why they're so important. Stuart and Lauren Sax won the Joel Cohen Award.

Everything hummed. Jim would have loved it all.







Our warm appreciation for the photographic efforts of Gloria Avner, Barbara Knowles, and especially Carol Steinbock (who worked all evening to shoot most of the KJCC Seder photos you see here).



MISHEBERACH – A PRAYER FOR HEALING

by Joyce Peckman

My extended family sat around the seder table, but one person was missing. My sister-in-law was in the hospital, already a week, battling pneumonia and not getting any better. Before opening the Haggadah, we joined hands and prayed for her recovery. The next morning we heard the good news. Her fever had broken...on the night of the seder. Many families can give anecdotal evidence of the power of prayer. Although scientific research on the efficacy of prayer to help the sick has produced mixed results, it has a long history in Jewish tradition, as early as Moses crying out on behalf of his sister, "Oh God, Please heal her."

In Kings I we find King Solomon's Prayer for the People, beseeching divine protection for them at the dedication of the first Temple in Jerusalem. As time went on it changed from a prayer that blessed a whole community, in imitation of Solomon's prayer for the people, to an occasional prayer that mentioned specific issues in the lives of particular communities. Research indicates that our *Misheberach* prayer seems to have evolved from its origins as a prayer for rain during times of draught, citing God's Providence in previous circumstances as justification for hoping that such Providence would reappear: "The One who caused rain will surely be able to bring rain upon...." (Mishnah Ta'anit). It is now a prayer recited in synagogues throughout Europe and the Middle East. *Misheberach*, meaning "He who blessed," has been used in various *nuscha'ot* (versions) and was chanted for a variety of occasions. There are *Misheberach* prayers for every kind of illness, and almost every kind of relationship; there are *Misheber-*

ach prayers for the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces, for people who refrain from gossip, and for people who maintain responsible business ethics.

When the Torah is read, we are granted an especially opportune moment to invoke blessing for those in need of divine intervention. So for hundreds of years it has been a tradition, before the Torah is returned to the ark, to recite the names of those who are ill, asking that Hashem, who blessed our founding ancestors, also bless those in need of healing. The person is not called by the standard Hebrew name (ex: *Moshe ben* {son of} *Amram*). Instead the mother's name is invoked (*Moshe ben Jochebed*.)

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often

in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

The KJCC is non-denominational, but we too have incorporated the *Misheberach* prayer into our Friday evening service, after the *dvar Torah* (Torah talk.) We maintain a list of long-term and short-term names, as well as inviting names to be called from the congregation. There are even post cards at the back of the room to be used by anyone who wants to inform a friend or family member that they have been the subject of our community's prayer.

If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's *Misheberach* list, please contact me by email at joycepeckman@gmail.com, or by phone at 305-451-0665. ♦

The 18th Century Jewish Mystic
Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, wrote:

*God of wholeness,
God of healing,
Hear our words,
Accept our prayers; Send a special blessing
Of healing
To (name) son/daughter of
(mother's name),
among all those of Your children
who are in need of
Your healing blessing.*

**OUR ANCESTORS NEARLY SLEPT THROUGH THE GIVING OF THE TORAH,
AFTER FORTY-NINE DAYS OF WALKING TOWARDS MT. SINAI !**
*The Kabbalists of Safed in the 16th century began the practice of all-night study on
Erev Shavuot, to make sure Jews would never again be asleep when, each year, they
would once more celebrate the Gift of Torah. The evening has come to be called*

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

“Tikkun” means “repair,” or “improve,” or “period of study.”
“Leil Shavuot” means Night of Shavuot. (Okay, so we’ll be a few days early.)

On Saturday evening, May 11th, at 7 p.m. at KJCC

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL EVENT, AS WE WELCOME
SCHOLAR, AUTHOR, AND FAMED TEACHER OF JEWISH MEDITATION

RABBI MITCHELL CHEFITZ

Rabbi Chefitz was the founding rabbi of the Chavurah of South Florida, serving for 22 years in that capacity. He has authored two highly praised novels, one an L.A. Times bestseller, plus a book of stories. He has written extensively on Jewish mysticism.



Rabbi Lawrence Kushner has described Rabbi Chefitz as “one of the finest of a new generation of American Kabbalists. He brings an intuitive grasp of the mystical to everyday life. His teaching is disturbing, profound and inspiring.”

As he guides us on a unique Jewish journey:

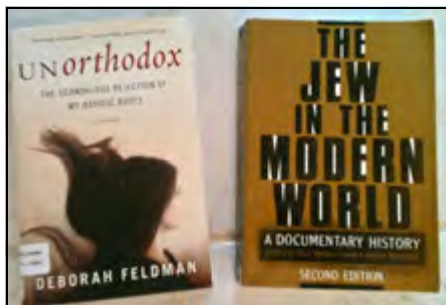
PREPARING TO RECEIVE TORAH:

JEWISH LEARNING, MEDITATION, AND MYSTICISM

We will learn how to be still enough to receive. (“Kabbalah” has the same root as the Hebrew verb “to receive.”) We will practice techniques of Jewish meditation and chant “niggunim” (ancient mystical melodies), aids to meditation developed over 500 years ago. The evening is free to all KJCC members.(Non-members \$18.)

Take the word of four KJCC members who drove to FIU to learn from Rabbi Chefitz. This will be a night to remember. Invite interested friends. And yes, there will be wonderful dairy refreshments afterwards (called for by tradition), including Muriel’s blintz soufflé and two homemade cheesecakes. Don’t miss this.

Take Another Look...



At the KJCC Library

by Medina Roy

It's no longer tucked away in the corner by the office, thanks to Steve Steinbock and, in some roundabout way, to David Gitin and Gloria Avner.

At a board meeting a few months ago, Gloria mentioned how much she and David valued our KJCC library and noticed that the shelves were quite full, leaving little room for expansion. They jokingly mentioned how nice it would be to construct a self-contained, small building outside to house a library. We all laughed, but I started imagining a mini-version of the New York Public Library's main reading room, complete with comfy chairs, huge tables and old, antique-like reading lamps. The only sounds heard would be those associated with the turning of pages. The discussion went on for a brief time, and I could see that Steve Hartz, chair of the Capital Improvements Committee, had a look on his face that read, "what about the leaky roof?" The discussion continued.

Again, I glanced at Steve, now holding his head in his hands and clearly suffering from a bad case of *shpilkes*, not knowing for sure if we were serious. He had to be thinking, "are

these people nuts?"

It was then that Steve Steinbock came up with a great idea. Why not move the Gift Shop to the left of its current position, where it would be the first thing one saw when entering the synagogue (possibly generating more sales for Sisterhood), and then use the area vacated by the gift shop to expand the library? The current library, surrounding the office, could be used as the library continued to grow. What an inspired and wonderful suggestion!

So, on a Friday early in April, Steve Steinbock and my husband Carl went to work installing brackets and shelves to form our new and improved library. They did a beautiful, professional job. Come and see for yourself.

Here's a brief look at some of the types of reading material you'll find in the library. I've also indicated the location in parenthesis for each title described:

Souls on Fire: Portraits and Legends of Hasidic Masters, by Elie Wiesel. Would you like to

know just a bit more about the great Rebbe and founder of Hasidism Israel Baal Shem Tov, or perhaps Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav? Or maybe you just really don't get the whole

I started imagining a mini-version of the New York Public Library's main reading room, complete with comfy chairs, huge tables and old, antique-like reading lamps.



It took Carl Roy and Steve Steinbock most of a Sunday to install the new Library shelves. But they did find the time to laugh a little. And the shelves are perfect.

"Hasidic" thing at all. In this book, Wiesel, one of the great Jewish thinkers of our time, has captured the essence of Hasidism through tales, legends, parables, sayings and personal reflections. He gives us portraits of the leaders of the movement that changed the Jewish world. Wiesel brings to the reader his profound knowledge of the Torah, the Talmud, and the Kabbalah. Location: Biography (BIO).

The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels, by Thomas Cahill. The author of the bestseller *How the Irish Saved Civilization* takes us on another journey into history, once again recreating a time when the actions of a small band of people had repercussions that are still felt today. Cahill reveals the critical change that made western civilization possible. In early cultures, life was seen as part of an endless cycle of birth and death. Somehow, the ancient Jews began to see time differently. For them, time had a beginning and an end. From this insight came a new conception of men and women as individuals with unique destinies – a concept that would, several thousand years later, inform the American Declaration of Independence. Cahill also explains the real significance of such Biblical figures as Abraham and Sarah, Moses

and the Pharaoh, Joshua, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Location: History (HIS).

Code of Jewish Law (Kitzur Shulchan Aruch), by Rabbi Solomon Ganzfried. This is a one-volume, English translation of Ganzfried's four-volume compilation of Jewish laws and customs, the cornerstone of Jewish life. It is an abridgment of Rabbi Joseph ben Ephraim Caro's (1488-1575) *Shulchan Aruch*, which made Jewish law (*halacha*) available to the masses. The *Shulchan Aruch* is considered by many to be the ultimate authority when it comes to *halacha*. (The word "kitzur" in the Ganzfried edition is Hebrew for "shortening" or "abridgment.") Everything you want to know about any Jewish practice, you'll find in this book. Location: Law (LAW).

Peninim on the Torah: An Anthology of Thought-Provoking Ideas and Practical Insights on the Weekly Parsha, by Rabbi A.L. Scheinbaum. Okay, now there's no excuse. This book, donated to our library by Rabbi Rich Agler, presents ideas to help you prepare a *dvar Torah* for Friday night services. Rabbi Scheinbaum selects Torah thoughts from a host of commentaries, ranging from the classic to the contemporary. The book is geared to beginner and scholar alike. Location: Judaic Studies (JUD).

In ***Have a Little Faith***, Mitch Albom, the author of

Tuesdays With Morrie, brings together the elderly rabbi from his childhood synagogue

and an African-American ex-convict, now an inner-city Detroit pastor leading a ministry for



that city's homeless population. The rabbi, anticipating his own death, asks Albom to write and deliver his eulogy. The request takes Albom back to his Jewish roots on a journey that contrasts differing faiths, ethnicities, races, and social classes. Location: Biography (BIO).

Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots, by Deborah Feldman. As a member of the strictly religious *Satmar* sect of Hasidic Judaism, Deborah Feldman grew up under a code of customs governing everything from what she could wear and to whom she could speak to what she was allowed to read. It was stolen moments spent with the empowered literary characters of Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott that helped her to imagine an alternative way of life. As a teenager, she was trapped in a sexually and emotionally dysfunctional marriage to a man she barely knew. This memoir tells of her determination to live her own life at any cost. Location: Biography (BIO).



It didn't take Medina long to fill the new shelves. Donations have been pouring in. Both the librarian and the idea man have reason to smile.



Excavating the City of David: Where Jerusalem's History Began, by Ronny Reich. This book summarizes, in a language accessible to all, the history of the excavation of the City of David, the small area in the south of today's Jerusalem, and the role the City played in Jerusalem's history. Location: Israel (ISR).

The Messenger, by Daniel Silva. This is one of Silva's numerous novels involving his protagonist, Gabriel Allon, Israeli art restorer and spy. Ahmed bin Shafiq, a former chief of a clandestine Saudi intelligence unit, targets the Vatican for attack, in particular Pope Paul VII and his private secretary, Monsignor Luigi Donati, an old friend of Allon. This time, Allon rushes to Rome to help his friend and assist in security. What they don't know, however, is that the Vatican has already been breached by the enemy. Silva has often been compared to spy novelist John Le Carre. Location: Fiction (FIC).

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin, by Erik Larson. The best-selling author of *Devil in the White City* gives us a remarkable true story set during Hitler's rise to power. The results speak volumes about why the world did not recognize the serious threat posed by Hitler until Berlin and Europe were "awash in blood and terror." This portrait of Berlin during the first years

of Hitler's reign is told through the stories of William E. Dodd, who in 1933 became America's first ambassador to Hitler's regime, and his carefree daughter, Martha. Dodd's growing misgivings about Hitler's ambitions fall on deaf ears among his peers, who are content to "give Hitler everything he wants." Martha, on the other hand, is mesmerized by the glamorous parties and has scandalous affairs with the head of the Gestapo and a Soviet spy. Location: History (HIS).

From Time Immemorial: The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict Over Palestine, by Joan Peters. The result of seven years of research, this book has often been referred to as one of the definitive works analyzing the origins of and debunking the myths of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Peters dispels much of the misinformation and ignorance surrounding the conflict. She started out to write a book sympathetic to Palestinian Arabs, but her honest scholar's eye finally saw clearly that the claim that Arabs had been on the land the Romans named Palestine "since time immemorial" was not true, that there was, in fact, no such thing as a distinct Palestinian people (prior to 1948, the term "Palestinian" was typically used to refer to Zionist Jews), and that Arab claims to sovereignty were, in a word, fraudulent. This is not a book of polemics or impassioned argument; it is a book of painstaking scholarship, heavily annotated and fearlessly written. Published in 1984, it remains, thirty years later, riveting, topical and controversial. Location: Israel (ISR).

The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History. Second Edition, compiled and edited by Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz. This book, donated by Roberta and Rick McNew, is a comprehensive collection of primary source material on modern Jewish history. The materials range from legal codes to memoirs and come from documents that were originally written in a number of languages – French, German, Russian, Yiddish, and Hebrew, to name a few. Some topics covered include the Jewish experience in Eastern Europe, women in Jewish history, American Jewish life, and Zionism and the early Jewish community in Palestine on the eve of the es-

tablishment of the State of Israel. Location: Reference (REF). *Note: Because of the comprehensiveness of this volume and the value it holds having primary source material, we would like this volume to be accessible at all times. We ask users who wish to borrow this book to return it promptly.*

In ***Harriet Roth's Deliciously Healthy Jewish Cooking***, the author includes 350 low-fat, low-cholesterol, low-sodium recipes for holidays and every day. Location: Cookbooks (COO).

Some book titles are self-explanatory:

- *Rogov's Guide to Israeli Wines*, by Daniel Rogov. Location: Jewish World (JW).
- *The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Book: Joyful Ceremonies and Celebrations for Today's Families*, by Linda Burghardt. Location: Rituals, Traditions and Customs (RTC).
- *Jewish Museums of North America: A Guide to Collections, Artifacts and Memorabilia*, by Nancy Frazier. Location: Reference (REF).
- *Favorite Tales of Sholom Aleichem*, by Sholom Aleichem. Location: Stories in Collections (SC).
- *My Life*, by Golda Meir. Location: Biography (BIO).
- *The Jewish Traveler: Hadassah Magazine's Guide to the World's Jewish Communities and Sites*, edited by Alan M. Tigay. Location: Jewish World (JW).

There are several other categories, not reflected in the titles described above, including children's books (JUV), books for young adults (YA), audio-visual material (AV), Fine Arts (ART), Holocaust (HOL), Festivals (FES), Humor (HUM) and Kabbalah (KAB).

The KJCC library operates on the "honor" system. Procedures for borrowing library material are printed out. All you need to do is leave a written record of what you're borrowing and return the material when you're done. It's that simple. And remember: you don't have to worry about late fee charges.

So come and check it out. Bet you'll find something that interests you. And by the way, donations of books are always welcome. It's one of the reasons we're expanding our shelves.

See you at the library! ◇

THE WALK FROM PESACH TO MOUNT SINAI: PREPARING TO RECEIVE TORAH

by Gloria Avner

First comes the party. Then we take the long walk home.

It was Torah study time at Rabbi Agler's April 13th Shabbat morning service and we were discussing laws relating to bodily functions. So many laws. So much...detail. *Mitzvot* after *mitzvot* about skin sores, oozing fluids, and loose tongues. There are even more laws for ancient rabbis, needing to act as more than physician, to create rituals making a person fit to participate in community sacred pursuits, not "pure" exactly, but fit to be declared "healed" and "whole."

This is when we started talking about which *mitzvot* are most observed, which are easy and which are hardest. It turns out that the *mitzvah* (accent on the second syllable) most observed by Jews of all description is attending a Passover seder. Why not? Freedom from slavery is a huge event, worthy of celebration. We love a good story, especially when it is our story, and – when we hold the celebration around a big dining room table with friends and family, great food, singing, and, um, lots of wine – the combination is irresistible. Most of us have childhood memories surrounding the event, too, and we want our children to share the experience. The popularity is easy to understand. But is Passover the end of the story? Of course not.

Nothing in Judaism stands independently,

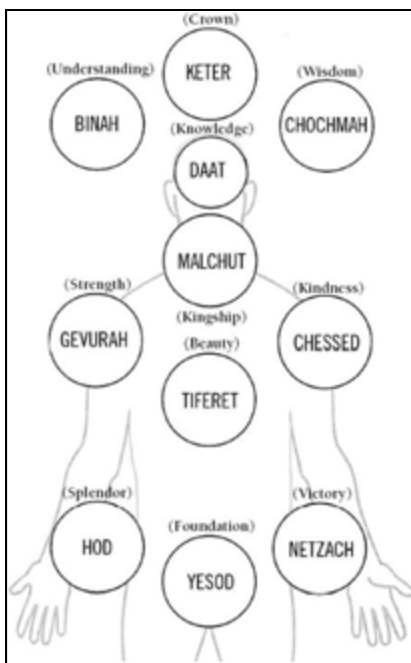
not even independence. Our holidays and holy days are always part of a year's ritual cycle. We move from moon to moon and season to season. *Pesach* gives us the initial taste (both delicious and scary) of freedom. But *Pesach* is the appetizer course to *Shavuot*, a starting gate, the first step on a forty-nine day journey of preparation.

Once *Pesach* is over, we have to uplift ourselves from slave state mentality to worthiness of freedom, of receiving the document that will instruct us on how to be a people, a user's manual, which, if followed, will help us be "a light unto the nations."

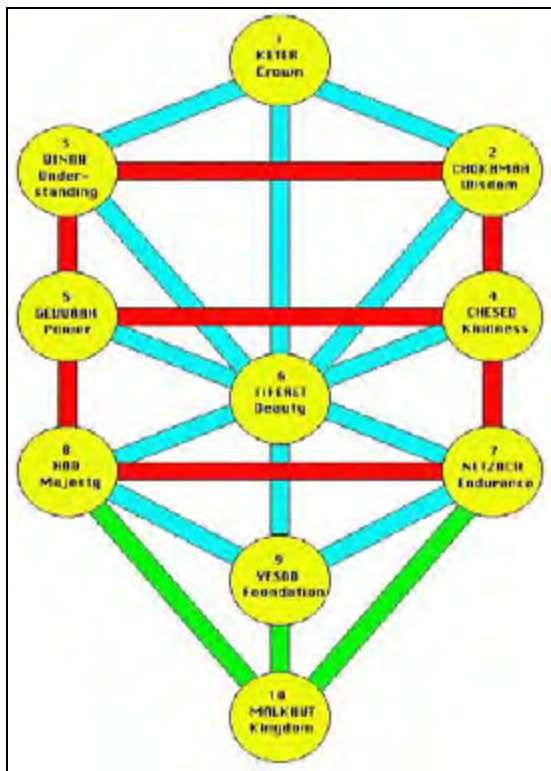
What will our 49 days wandering in the desert be like? How will we refine (and redefine) ourselves during the seven weeks from the second day of Passover until the first evening of *Shavuot*? Will we, unlike our ancestors, forego making golden calves, a salve to our insecurity? Will we, also unlike our ancestors, wake up on time, eager and ready to receive, to the accompaniment of blinding thunder, lightning and ear-splitting shofar blast, the gift of Torah?

How many families who celebrate *Pesach* do something, anything, to celebrate

Shavuot? If we are in *shul*, we may participate in counting the *omer*, the grain offerings brought to the original Temple. Our own congregation just started celebrating *Shavuot*



This particular depiction of the Kabbalah's sefirot, the ten creative forces of our world, shows them superimposed over a human figure.



This is the more conventional illustration of the ten sefirot, showing them interlocked and interdependent. Kabbalah says that it is through these forces that God interacts with the created world.

four years ago, creating our own “*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*,” a night of learning with intent (*kavanah*) to honor, to study and to stay awake for the gift of *Torah*. During those four years we’ve watched movies, discussed the Book of Ruth, printed out all 613 *mitzvot*, eaten delicious dairy meals, and talked about the Kabbalistic use of focus on “*sefirot*,” to help us look within and develop habits of loving-kindness over the seven-week period of preparation. (Be sure to check out KJCC’s ever-expanding library on the subject).

This year we will have a new, remarkable and experiential learning opportunity. Save the evening of Saturday, May 11th for a program on preparing to receive *Torah* with re-

nowned scholar, author, and Jewish Meditation teacher Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz. Thanks to a forward-looking Board of Directors, an energetic President committed to Jewish enrichment, and volunteers from both Ritual and Education Committees, KJCC will make this program available to our community. Rabbi Mitch’s style is warm, informal, serious, humorous, and fascinating.

Spend a special evening, three nights before *Shavuot* begins, focusing on Jewish learning, practicing meditation, and chanting *niggunim*, ancient mystical melodies. The program will start at 7 p.m., and will conclude some hours later with refreshments and a Havdalah service. Enjoy home-made dairy treats in honor of the land “flowing with milk and honey,” featuring some of our favorite *Shavuot* specialties, including Muriel Swartz’s blintz soufflé and Linda Perloff’s cheesecake. When the learning and eating and talking are done, we will assemble in the Meditation Garden’s Beth-Stanlake gazebo to light the multi-wicked candle, pour the wine, smell the spices, sing the blessings, and say an especially meaningful goodbye to that second soul that visits us each Shabbat. We will be in an elevated state as we sing to Elijah and welcome in a new week, prepared to receive *Torah* on *Shavuot* in a way we may never have experienced before.

The five of us who went to hear Mitch Chefitz speak on Jewish Meditation several months ago (re-read the article in March’s Chai-Lights) were all moved by the experience. That was merely a sampler presentation for college students and staff. This evening’s program will go deeper. We are eager to share time with him again. He has tools that will help us be still in order to receive. We will be fellow travelers, grateful to be taking this journey together. ◇

Rabbi Chefitz’s vertical yud-hay-vov-hay (Adonai), suggesting a human figure.



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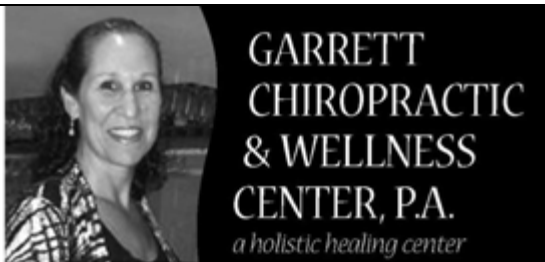
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Chai~Lights



June/July/August 2013

23 Sivan - 25 Elul 5773

YEDA—Last in the Israel Series - page 17

An Evening with Rabbi Mitch Chefitz - page 30

Gloria on Summer Judaism - page 38

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June 2013

23 Sivan - 21 Tammuz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Ser- vices every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted.</div>						1 Harry Friedman Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7 Potluck Dinner 6:30 Joyce Peckman <i>Carol & Steve</i> <i>Steinbock</i>	8
9 Board Meeting 9 a.m.	10	11 KJCC Israel Trip Departs	12	13	14 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely <i>Amelia & Steve</i> <i>Kasinof</i> <i>Sisterhood</i>	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21 Steve Steinbock <i>Lauren & Stuart</i> <i>Sax</i>	22
23 30	24	25 Fast of the 17th Day of Tammuz	26	27	28 Gloria Avner 6:30 Service	29

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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Keys Jewish Community Center
P.O. Box 1332

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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



I'm sitting here writing for June – although it's still May – still aglow with the pleasures of Rabbi Mitch Chefitz's pre-*Shavuot* presentation on preparing spiritually for *Shavuot*, and full of thoughts and questions from preparing *Erev Shavuot* services I co-led with Gloria.

I want to thank Gloria Avner, Medina Roy and Sam Vinicur as well as all the ladies who prepared the wonderful desserts for making the evening with Rabbi Chefitz a success. By the time you read this, we will have completed not only the pre-*Shavuot* services, but also a regular *Shavuot* Friday service (with Yizkor) as well as a special Saturday Torah service with Rabbi Agler. More weeks packed with Judaism.

We will soon be sending off our KJCC Israel Trip contingent. We wish them a wonderful trip and I can hardly wait for the wonderful stories they will bring back.

I'm thinking of Harry Friedman's Bar Mitzvah, to take place on May 31st and June 1st. The entire congregation wishes Jane and Steve Friedman a hearty *mazel tov*. I am personally gratified to see the influence on Harry's development fostered by our religious school. Harry personifies what our congregation is about – the production of worthy young people to insure the survival of Jewish tradition. We can all justifi-

ably take pride in his achievements.

Please remember that we are having a potluck dinner before Friday services on June 7th. Dinner begins at 6:30. It will be a very simple affair. Just bring a dairy dish and make twice your usual amount so all can share. Please notify Barbara Knowles what you intend to bring. (We don't want everyone bringing cucumber salad!)

The Men's Club Shabbarbeque and celebration of Pauline Roller's birthday will be Friday, July 5th. I want to thank Steve Friedman and Marc Bloom for stepping up to lead this delightful KJCC tradition. (We'll be cooking on the grill Steve and Jane donated a few years ago.)

Please check out our library. Medina is working hard to make it accessible and beautiful to look at. I just finished a quick read of "Sacred Trash," the story of the treasures discovered at the Cairo, Egypt *Genizah*. (Only the Dead Sea Scrolls are considered its equal in importance. Most of what we know about the writings of Maimonides comes from this discovery.) Improve your own Jewish education and find some treasures of your own in our KJCC library.

Have a joyous and safe summer, everyone, and remember that High Holidays begin *very* early next fall, on September 4th.

Nosh

Chai-Lights Heads Into Summer Hiatus

As we head into the hotter, slower days of summer, Chai-Lights will take a two-month break. This issue is a special “triple” issue for June, July and August. But we will still be accepting (and encouraging) submissions of photos and info for our next print issue in September. The calendar of events on the website will still be updated regularly.

Oneg Sponsors for the Summer of 2013

June 7th - Carol and Steve Steinbock in honor of their Anniversary.

June 14th - Amelia and Steve Kasinof to mark Amelia's Birthday. Sisterhood to honor Joan Boruszak.

June 21st - Lauren and Stuart Sax in honor of their Anniversary.

July 5th - Joyce Peckman to honor Joyce and Pauline's birthdays.

Absolute Last Call for the Israel Trip

Dave Mont tells us that Arza, the company planning and organizing our tour, has not totally closed the door to new participants, but that anyone wishing to sign up now (you know, the Dagwood Bumstead wannabes) would likely run into accommodation problems in Israel. But you can call Arza, at 888-811-2812, to discuss it. As of now, there is a solid group of fifteen.

BOOK PLATES

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Jane Friedman

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Steve & Carol Steinbock

In Honor of
Richard Knowles

May your Conversion Bring You A
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A Special Oneg June 14 in honor of Joan B.

As most of you now know, Joan Boruszak will be leaving the Keys at the end of June, moving to be near family in Plano, Texas. Sisterhood will be sponsoring the Oneg after the Friday, June 14th service in Joan's honor. Joan was president of Sisterhood, a long-time Board Member and long among the core group of KJCC. Please be there if you can. (See the ad on page 14.)

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to

Skip Rose

and his family on the death of

Rene Rose

June Birthdays

2nd.....	Barbara Osder
2nd.....	Myra Kaplan
3rd.....	Abraham Rakov
3rd.....	Elanor Forbes
4th.....	Alfred Weihl
4th.....	Scott Kay
5th.....	Dorothy Wolfe
5th.....	Joseph Sachs
6th.....	Donna Bolton
6th.....	Nancy Kluger
6th.....	Suzanne Gilson
7th.....	Carrie Smith
7th.....	Jim Nobil
7th.....	Joan Wohl
8th.....	Bunny Lohmann
8th.....	Elaine Solas
9th.....	Renee Brodie
12th.....	Kevin M. Silverman
12th.....	Michal Kamely
13th.....	Israel Mayk
13th.....	Jeff Miller
13th.....	Justin Greenbaum
14th.....	Jennifer Nobil
15th.....	Haley Mayclin
15th.....	William Bolton
16th.....	Marvin Blumenfeld
16th.....	Peter Kantor
17th.....	Anita Krieger
17th.....	Leo Haviv
18th.....	Amelia Kasinof
18th.....	Kim Haviv
20th.....	Harvey Klein
20th.....	Judy Schmidt
21st.....	Sam Janowitz
21st.....	Taryn Nobil
23rd.....	Dale Chasteen
23rd.....	Steve Levine
24th.....	Delaney Rohde
24th.....	Rita Bromwich
27th.....	Frank Emkey
27th.....	Maxwell Schrader-Grace
28th.....	Alan Cooper
29th.....	Arthur Feinberg
29th.....	Robert N. Kwalick
30th.....	Bob Friedman

July Birthdays

1st.....	Alex Hudson
1st.....	Chely Markowitz
1st.....	Jennifer Gilson
1st.....	Patti Gross
2nd.....	Elissa A. Denker
3rd.....	Max Finkelstein
4th.....	Pauline Roller
5th.....	Ron Levy
8th.....	Erica Morgan Shatz
9th.....	Joyce Peckman
10th.....	Lindsay Gould
11th.....	Steven Hartz
12th.....	Rebecca M. Schur
12th.....	Richard Steinberg
13th.....	Dot Brooking
14th.....	David Gross
14th.....	Paul Eric Bernstein
15th.....	Danna Levy
17th.....	Foster Davidson
17th.....	Robert Werthamer
17th.....	Shira Listman
18th.....	Luzviminda Levine
18th.....	Zachary G Kwalick
20th.....	Carol Laskin
20th.....	Roosmary Benowitz
21st.....	Arlington Garrett
21st.....	Brian Smith
21st.....	Joshua Samuel Bernstein
21st.....	Linda Perloff
23rd.....	Carrie Temkin
25th.....	Alan Markowitz
26th.....	Carol Field
27th.....	Marc Bloom
27th.....	Rachael Bloom
27th.....	Stephanie LaMarche
28th.....	Lila E. Juenger
29th.....	Bruce Boruszak
29th.....	Candy Stanlake
29th.....	Mary Lee Singer
30th.....	Molly Bloom
31st.....	Drew Nobil

New Donations to the KJCC Library

In my article in last month's issue of Chai-Lights showing how the library had grown, I made specific mention of a book titled *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*, by Erik Larson. What I neglected to mention was that the book had been donated by Jim Williams. My sincere apologies.

The following books were recently donated by Joan Boruszak. Thanks, Joan!

- *Every Tallit Tells A Tale*, edited by Debra W. Smith. Location: Spirituality (SPI).

- *Transformations: From Ethiopia to Israel*, photographs by Ricki Rosen, essay by Micha Odenheimer. Location: Jewish World (JW).

- *Skyline Jerusalem*, by Duby Tal and Moni Haramati. Location: Israel (ISR).

Also, many thanks to Candy Stanlake and Alan Beth for donating a large box of books and assorted audio-visual material to our library. (For anyone interested, also in the box was one of Alan's old pay stubs, five rusty allen wrenches, one black sock, a no-longer-moist towelette, one ziplock baggie with assorted audio-visual plugs, a small clipboard made in China, a bungee cord, and one penny.) Although we are sad to see them leave the Keys, we are grateful for their thoughtful donation. (Well, most of it, anyway.)

-Medina

Potluck Dinner on June 7th

Following Bernie's dictum to get us together as often as possible, we're having a dairy dinner at KJCC at 6:30 on June 7th, prior to services. There's no charge. Contact Barbara Knowles to reserve your place or contribute a dish. Please see the ad on page 8.)

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN HONOR OF
Ellen Coltman
Barney Coltman**

June Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Jim & Rita Williams.....29
1st	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark.....27
5th	Stephen & Carol Steinbock.....30
7th	Richard & Sheila Steinberg.....54
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman.....17
10th	Mark & Sofy Wasser.....18
12th	Steven & Jan Hartz.....37
12th	Harvey & Beverly Robins.....56
12th	William & Donna Bolton.....20
14th	Harvey & Joan Kay.....43
18th	Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grace.....19
19th	Richard & Mindy Agler.....37
20th	Milton & Joan Wohl.....62
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake.....26
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax.....39
24th	Robert & Heide Werthamer.....18
25th	Herbert & Elinor Grossman.....56
28th	Lloyd & Rae Susan Wruble.....44
28th	Wes & Rita Conklin.....43

July Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Douglas & Rozi Graham.....9
9th	Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly.....3
12th	Jason & Debbie Madnick.....18
24th	Dick & Rita Bromwich.....39
29th	Bernard & Elaine Solas.....57

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN HONOR OF
Lilyan "Babe" Sax
Stuart & Lauren Sax**

Finally Seeing Janis

Often times we have a favorite singer that we have listened to for many years but never had the opportunity to see in concert. For Stuart & Lauren and David & Gloria those wishes became reality recently when we all traveled to Davie to see Jewish singer/songwriter and folk icon Janis Ian in concert.

The venue was small and it was more like a living room performance than a concert hall. Janis pleased the audience with her iconic hits “Society’s Child” and “At Seventeen,” along with new material of a serious or comedic nature. Her voice is as angelic and pure as ever and she maintains her infectious smile.

While her career started for self-benefit, over the last twenty years her performances raise funds for The Pearl Foundation, founded to award scholarships to “returning students” to continue their education. The foundation is in honor and memory of Janis’s mother, Pearl, who fought multiple sclerosis for many years. To date, Janis’s concerts have raised more than \$650,000 in scholarships, a real tribute and mitzvah to her mother. It was an honor for us to have been in her audience.



note: text by Stuart Sax, photo by David Gitin

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 Gene Silverman at 305-664-3316.

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.

Yahrzeits Fully Explained

Yiddish for “a year’s time,” a yahrzeit is the anniversary of the death of a loved one. One benefit of being a member of KJCC is that the secretary (that’s me) will send you a reminder of the dates. But in Judaism, nothing is simple. Since Talmudic times, families have lit candles (no prayer necessary) on the eve of the Hebrew date of the yahrzeit and recited *kaddish* in the presence of a *minyan*. For them, the Hebrew date was significant because of the belief that on the anniversary of the death the soul could ascend to a higher level, helped by the prayers and good deeds of those who remember them. Thus the custom of donating to charity or sponsoring onegs in someone’s memory.

“The soul of man is the candle of G-d.” (Proverbs, Ch. 20.) Like a human soul, flames breathe, change, and strive against the darkness. The flickering flame of the candle reminds us of the fragility of life and of the light we bring to each other’s lives. Because of this rabbinic teaching, candles, both traditional and electric, are available in the KJCC Sisterhood Gift Shop.

The KJCC has a wonderful and flexible database, created and tended to by Alan Beth. When you receive your dues packet during the summer, look for the appropriate page to add or delete yahrzeits for the names of family members important to you. There is a place to list the relationship, and - a great service not available from even some large synagogues - a place to indicate if you prefer to be reminded annually of the secular English (or, more accurately, the Gregorian) date rather than the Hebrew date, which is based on a lunar calendar. Please note that the date you select, from either the Jewish or secular calendar, determines when your loved one’s name will be read aloud from the *bemah* during services. Choosing the secular date will cause the name to be read the same week each year. Choosing the Jewish date is more traditional, but will translate to a different announcement date from year to year.

-Joyce Peckman

August Birthdays

1st.....	Nicholas Rivera
2nd.....	Marc S. Field
4th.....	Jessica Forman
5th.....	Nissan Mayk
7th.....	Emma Feig
8th.....	Ilana Gilderman
9th.....	Delia Grace Smith
9th.....	Eric Freundlich
10th.....	Barbara Smith
10th.....	Rozi Graham
13th.....	Brian Gilderman
13th.....	Gina Moritz
13th.....	Stephan L. Friedman
14th.....	Heide Werthamer
15th.....	Danielle Zinner
15th.....	Patricia Isenberg
16th.....	Alan Lindenbaum
16th.....	Alison Thompson
16th.....	Tom Brennan
18th.....	Zachary Schrader-Grace
19th.....	Pamela Friedman
20th.....	Amanda Nobil
21st.....	Rachel Zinner
23rd.....	Dave Mont
24th.....	Carl McNew
26th.....	Mikhaela Bitton
27th.....	Jaimee Marshall
27th.....	Judy Greenman
28th.....	Evan Stuart
30th.....	Robert Temkin
30th.....	Sue Ann Weihl
31st.....	Ivy Blumenfeld

August Anniversaries

	Years
7th	Larry & Dorothy Wolfe.....56
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts.....45
15th	Richard & Barbara Knowles.....14
16th	Ira & Shirley Stein.....55
21st	Jeff & Lisa Miller.....36
22nd	Franklin & Judy Greenman.....31
27th	Israel & Nissan Mayk.....41

Sisterhood Seder Steering Committee

May 5, 2013

Dear KJCC President and Board Members,

The Women's Seder Steering Committee is happy to announce this year's recipients of Tikkun Olam awards, money raised by Seder participants to help make the world a better, freer, more equitable place in which to live:

KJCC's Sara Cohen Tzedakah Fund will receive \$482.00. She would have loved the event and been gratified to see the values she stood for carried on by today's woman members.

Another \$482.00 will go to Take Stock in Children, an organization that provides mentors to at-risk low-income schoolchildren. Those who take part are given scholarships and services to support their success in higher education. No donated money goes to administrative costs. Every dollar donated generates a matching dollar. It is good to be "people of the book" for others as well as ourselves.

The third grant, also \$482.00, goes to the Keys Cancer Foundation, a locally run organization that helps people stricken with cancer pay their bills while undergoing treatment. Every penny goes to the people who need it. Administration is provided by volunteers.

It is a pleasure to be able to contribute to the health, education, and welfare of our community, large and small. We trust the tradition will continue for years to come.

Women's Seder Committee,

Beth Kaminstein, Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman, Erica Lieberman-Garrett,
Lee Schur



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2013

6:30 PM

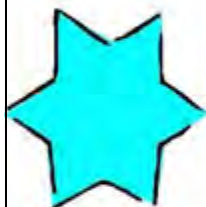
COVERED DISH DINNER

~DAIRY~

**WISHING A BON VOYAGE
TO OUR ISRAEL GROUP**



Contact Barbara @ (305) 772-0503
iweddu@bellsouth.net to reserve your
spot and coordinate your covered dish.
No charge for this event.



PARTY TIME

Best Wishes Joan On Your Move!

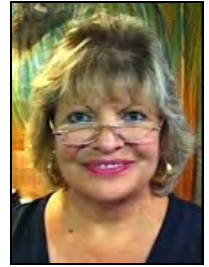
Join us for Services and and Special Oneg in honor of Joan Boruszak.

Friday, June 14, 2013, 8:00 pm

**We will gather to wish good speed to a long time member of our
mishpocha and past president of Sisterhood.**

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



As the summer is arriving and it seems our days are getting longer (certainly hotter), the Sisterhood seems as though we're taking a break. In actuality, we are still quietly in action at every Oneg, dinner and most functions taking place.

The Sisterhood will be having a special planning meeting on Monday, July 8th, 2013 at 6 p.m. Our meeting will be to discuss upcoming Shabbat dinners along with other fundraising ideas. Please mark your calendars and bring your best ideas as always. Part of the planning will be to kick off our 2013/2014 season, starting with our High Holiday services. The first holiday will be *Erev Rosh Hashanah* (Eve Of The New Year), celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. *Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre* happens on the evening of Friday, September 13, 2013. Saturday, September 14th will be the actual Yom Kippur Service (Day of Atonement), after which Sisterhood will be hosting a break-the-fast dinner as has always been done in past years. Please check our website for more details on this and other events.

This year's holiday season holds a special treat, as our services will be led by Rabbi Richard Agler along with Cantor Mark Halpern. We are very lucky to have both of them to lead our holidays this year and long forward to all those special days will offer. I hope everyone will honor us with your attendance and warm welcomes for both leaders. While Rabbi Agler has led several inspirational Torah studies and educated us, this will be his first time leading the High Holy Days as a rabbi at KJCC.

This time of year hits me with a lot of mixed emotions. We lost a long-time congregant recently, Rene Rose, who touched everyone's heart she contacted. She led the Sunshine Committee for several years without ever batting an eye, and was always there for

everyone needing a warm greeting, a smile, a get-well card, fruit baskets or a bouquet of flowers from their friends at KJCC. I was thrilled when she was awarded this year's "Woman Of The Year" at the Women's Seder in March. No one was more deserving. (I don't want to slight anyone, as there are many, many other women who are also deserving of recognition for their hard work.) We all will miss Rene. By the time you are reading this, hopefully, we will have had an opportunity to have "A Celebration of Life" for her being planned by her husband, Skip.

We will also soon be bidding a bittersweet farewell to our very own Joan Boruszak, who will be leaving the Keys at the end of June to live near her kids in Texas. Sisterhood will be sponsoring an Oneg in Joan's honor on Friday, June 14th as our way of saying "Keep In Touch and Forget us Not." Joan will be missed but will be as close as an e-mail, text or phone call. Please mark your calendars and join us in honoring Joan and wishing her the very best.

With this being my last column for a while, I have to say I miss all our wonderful snowbirds and can't wait till the fall for them to return. It will be quiet for a while, but before we know it they will be back at our Friday night services, Shabbat dinners and all our many other activities.

The next regularly scheduled Sisterhood meeting is Sunday, August 4th, at 9:30 a.m. I look forward to a lot of positive, informative input. All of you have so much to contribute, and I'm excited to hear your thoughts.

So, until next September, make it a great summer. ◇

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

Shabathai, Joe & Kathy

In Memory of

Sally Shabathai (10 plates)

Yartzeits

Dorf, Barry & Natalie

Emkey, Gerri

Grossman, Stuart

Kwalick, Teresa

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

Steinbock, Steve & Carol

Temkin, Robert

Emanuel Schafer

Gertrude Weisberg

Morris Grossman

Stephen Kwalick

Morris Kornbloom

Susan Cimkowski

Philip Temkin

General Fund

Begam, Delores

Begam, Delores

Bolton, William & Donna

Davidson, Foster & Laskin, Carol

Green, Alan

tku for

warm welcome and

enabling me to say kaddish

Sisterhood

In Honor of

pray for us, please

please pray for us

General Fund

Gilson, Michael &

Suzanne

In Memory of

Shirley Burnett

Meditation Garden

In Memory of

Coltman, Barney

brick - for Ellen

Coltman

Sax, Stuart & Lauren - brick for

Lilyan "Babe" Sax

Rabbi and Cantor Fund

Bolton, William & Donna

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Sarah Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund

Sisterhood - Women's Seder

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

In Honor of

Agler, Tovah

Rabbi Agler's new house

Ginsberg, Bernie

birthday

Peckman, Joyce

b'days - J & Pauline

Roy, Medina

anniversary

Roy, Medina

birthday

Sunshine Fund

Sax, Stuart & Lauren, wishing Jeremy

& Kristin Sax a happy anniversary

Hold the Date for Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

to be held on Wednesday, September 4th at 5:00 pm before evening service. We will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of soup, brisket, chicken, kasha and tzimnis, 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 1st 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.



YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Yerushalayim – Jerusalem

During the past year, in my lecture series at KJCC, we have studied extensively the fascinating history of Jerusalem in our lecture series at the KJCC, from Biblical times to Modern times, in Biblical *Eretz Yisrael* and in the modern State of Israel. When you come to Jerusalem, you go through an intense experience; it is an emotional experience. And it doesn't matter how much you have studied about Jerusalem or how many times you have visited the city; once there, deep emotions are triggered and you feel an inexplicable connection to the place. But maybe these emotions can be explained by our collective *Ahavat Zion*, the Love for Jerusalem. Maybe these emotions have a lot to do with the importance of Jerusalem throughout history as the enduring spiritual center for the Jewish people, despite being scattered throughout the rest of the world. Teddy Kollek, Jerusalem's long-time mayor, said: "The spiritual attachment of Jews to Jerusalem has remained unbroken – it is a unique attachment. If you doubt that statement, try to find another relationship in history where a people, whether in possession of their capital

city, or in temporary exile from it, have remained passionately attached to it, for 3,000 years." How did the Jews do it?

In Biblical times, during the First and Second *Beit Hamikdash* (Holy Temple), Jerusalem was considered to be the center of the world; according to Isaiah's vision of peace at the End of Days, Jerusalem would be the center for all the nations of the world. After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E., the center of religious activity moved first from Jerusalem to *Yavneh*, where Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakkai re-established the *San-*



The Hurvah Synagogue served as the center of the Ashkenazic yishuv for over 200 years. It was destroyed in the 1948 war and later rebuilt.

hedrin and the places of learning, and then to other cities in Israel. Nevertheless, Jerusalem remained within the memory and longing of the Jewish people as the spiritual center of their existence. In law and custom the rabbis preserved this centrality of Jerusalem in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people everywhere in the world.

In legend and tradition the rabbis described the beauty

and singularity of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem is eternity" (B'rachot); "The splendor of the world is Israel; and the splendor of Israel is Jerusalem" (Ramban). Our rabbis taught: "He

who has not seen Jerusalem in her splendor, has never seen a desirable city in his life. He who has not seen the Temple in its full construction has never seen a glorious building in his life" (Sukkah 51b). "Whoever prays in Jerusalem is like one praying before the seat of glory for the gate of Heaven is there and a portal opening for harkening unto prayer, as it is written: And this is the gate of Heaven" (Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer).

Jerusalem remained a spiritual center after the Talmudic period until modern times. As mentioned, in many different ways, the *Halachah* – Jewish law – kept the memory of Jerusalem alive in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people wherever in the Diaspora they lived: "Whenever Jews prayed to the Almighty, they turned toward Jerusalem" (B'rachot 30a). Synagogues were always oriented toward the city, and when a Jew built himself a house, he always left a small portion of the wall unfinished to symbolize that it was only a temporary dwelling until he could return to his real and permanent home – Jerusalem.

On the Fast of *Tisha B'Av*, and during the three-week period preceding it, Jews mourn the destruction of the Holy Temple (*Beit Ha'mikdash*). They pray for its restoration, and for the redemption of the Jewish people. Even at the wedding ceremony, one of the most joyful events in a Jew's life, the groom stomps on and breaks a glass as a way to symbolize and to remember the destruction



The Kotel c.1903, under Turkish rule.

of Jerusalem. Two of the blessings said at a wedding ceremony specifically mention the return to *Zion* (another name for *Yerushalayim*), and the hope that joy and happiness would be heard in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. Even in death, Jerusalem has not been forgotten. Jews throughout the ages longed to be buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. My grandfather made *aliyah* to Israel (then Palestine) in the 1920s and built his house in Jerusalem outside the Old City. His greatest longing came true: he would go to the *Kotel* (Western Wall) to pray during the High Holidays (with special permits given by the government of the British Mandate), and he was buried on *Har Ha'zeitim* (the Hebrew name for the Mount of Olives). Orthodox Jews that could not be buried in Israel requested that a small bag of soil from Israel be placed under their heads in the grave. Every day throughout the Diaspora, the following words of comfort are extended to a bereaved person: "May the Lord comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

The longing for Zion and Jerusalem has been expressed not only in prayer and legend, but also through pilgrimage. From virtually the beginning of the common era, Jews have sought to return to Jerusalem to mourn at its ruins, to rebuild the city and to worship in it. Rabbi Judah Halevi, born in Toledo, Spain about 1075, was one of the greatest poets and philosophers since the time of the



The large open plaza at the Kotel today.

Bible. He realized the dream of his life by coming to Israel around 1142. It is said that when he came to Jerusalem, after a dangerous journey, he bowed down in its dust chanting the famous prayer, "O Zion, will you not ask if peace be with your captives." At that moment, legend tells, an Arab horseman trampled him to death. Rabbi Judah Halevi left us with beautiful prayers and poems that express the love of the Jewish people for Jerusalem. In his famous book the *Kuzari*, he also stressed the importance of making *aliyah*, immigrating to Israel.

Rabbi Moses Ben Nachman (Ramban), the great Spanish Bible commentator, legalist and mystic, in 1267, at the age of 70, left Spain for Jerusalem. He had been exiled from Spain after having a dispute over passages in the Talmud with a Jew who had converted to Christianity. When the Ramban proved to be right, he was forced to flee. He arrived in Jerusalem only to find it in ruins from the Turkish invasion. Few Jews remained and it was difficult to find a *minyan* on Shabbat. The Ramban bought a ruined house, turned it into a synagogue, and had the Torah scrolls that had been taken to *Shechem* (Nablus) returned to Jerusalem. He also reopened the yeshiva that had been founded about fifty years before by 300 rabbis from England and France.

Rabbi Judah Hasid led a large number of Jews on *aliyah* in 1701. Unfortunately, Rabbi Judah died almost immediately after arriving in Jerusalem. His followers had to ask for financial help from communities in the Diaspora. In memory of Rabbi Judah, the Ashkenazi residents of Jerusalem later named the

most impressive synagogue, the *Hurvah* (the ruins of) Rabbi Judah Hasid. This large synagogue was built on top of the rooms of the synagogue that Rabbi Judah had attempted to reconstruct when he came to Jerusalem. The *Hurvah* and the surrounding courtyard served as the center of the Ashkenazic *Yishuv* for more than 200 years. Before WWII, when Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook was the Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Israel, he used to pray in this synagogue on the High Holidays. During the battle for the Old City during the War of Independence in 1948, the *Hurvah* was

bombed and destroyed. Today it has been rebuilt and serves as a synagogue again.

The largest religious community in Israel today resides in Jerusalem. Thousands of traditional Jews, Ashkenazic and Sephardic, from dozens of different countries, have come to Jerusalem. Since the reunification of the city in June 1967, the dream of the ingathering of the Jewish people from the four corners of



The Ramban Synagogue, built by Rabbi Moses ben Nachman in the 13th century C.E.

the earth has become a reality. On *Shabbat* and the holidays, Jews stream to the *Kotel* to pray. Many different *minyanim* are held before the Wall, the sounds of different melodies and evidence of different customs showing the many different places of origin of those who have returned to *Yerushalayim*. Many famous *yeshivot* have been established in Jerusalem so that truly the words of the Torah may be fulfilled: "*Ki m'Tzion tetze Torah* (for out of Zion shall go forth the Torah and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.)"

For all the travelers to Israel, a blessing for a safe trip and *aliyah* to *Yerushalayim*. ◇

Ending One Era, Starting a New One

by Stuart Sax

When one mentions the name Boruszak, the vision of pillars comes to

mind. Jim and Joan Boruszak became active members of the KJCC shortly after moving to the Keys in 1993. As our luck would have it, they were on their way to San Salvador just after Hurricane Andrew and decided to take a day trip to the Keys before departing. They stayed in a rental at the then-newly-built Ocean Pointe and decided to put down a deposit on a unit being built. On their way back to the mainland they passed the KJCC sign and instantly felt that they had made the right decision.

Strong supporters of the congregation, the Board and Sisterhood, the Boruszaks were equally involved in organizations outside of the synagogue. Jim served on the Board of Mariners Hospital and both did volunteer work there for many years. Joan served as president of Sisterhood and only this year decided to step down from the KJCC Board. Jim is one of only two people – Bea Graham being the other – who served as KJCC president for more than the typical two years. (He had also been president of their old synagogue in Chicago.) Perhaps the greatest joy they shared was the visits by their extended

family throughout the years. (And their many visits to Israel to visit other family members

living there.) Jim had a passion for fishing and Joan, who never really cared for it because she got seasick, turned her attention to bridge and mah jongg. Both enjoyed scuba diving through the years; name an important dive site throughout the world – the Red Sea, the Caymans, Cozumel – and they've traveled there to dive.

With the passing of Jim nearly a year ago, Joan faced decisions about her future. Stay or go? Part time or full time? After much consideration, she decided to put her home on the market and explore relocating to Texas to be near her daughter

and family. The home sold quickly and she is in the process of closing the Keys chapter of her life later this month. While Joan will deeply miss the KJCC, her many friends, and the weather, she is looking forward to exploring new adventures and not having to travel for two hours after getting off an airplane!

So, will Joan trade her scuba gear for a Stetson hat and boots? The jury is still out on that one. To help say “Adios” to Joan there will be a special oneg in her honor on Friday, June 14th following services, sponsored by Sisterhood. Y'all come, heah? ◇



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



The Courage of One Woman

For a few Jewish families in a small Ukrainian village in 1941, the courage of one woman, Esther Stermer, was the difference between life and death. Esther and her six children lived in that village until Nazi forces came and rounded up more than a thousand Jews and sent them to concentration camps, where most of them perished. But Esther had a plan. She and her children, including her sons Saul and Sam (now 92 and 86), spent more than 500 days underground, living in total darkness in two caves along with five other Jewish families. This amazing story is now an 83-minute documentary film entitled "No Place on Earth." The film is directed by Janet Tobias and was released on April 5th. Foraging for food at night, they built showers and latrines deep underground until April 1944, when the Russian Army liberated the area and the five families (38 Jews in all) came back into light. After the war Saul and Sam made their way to Canada and founded a successful contracting business, where they still go to work each day. Today these 38 survivors have more than 125 descendants. (www.abcnews.go.com, 4-4-13)

A \$5 Million Investment

Intel, the American semiconductor chip maker, is investing five million dollars in Israeli public education with the intention of doubling the number of Israeli students with bachelor's degrees in science and technology. During a recent trip to Israel, Intel CEO Paul Otellini announced that his company will be collaborating with the Ministry of Education to encourage 25 specially selected schools to steer students into the science and technology sectors. Intel will also dispatch company representatives to do active mentor

ing in the schools to encourage students to enter these fields. (*World Jewry Digest*, March 2013)

"Holy War"

Rorie Weisberg, an Orthodox woman from upstate New York, is suing makeup giant Lancome, claiming that its 24-hour foundation makeup doesn't really last that long, which means it doesn't stay on long enough to get her through the Sabbath. Weisberg accuses the French cosmetics maker of false advertising when it claimed that its new *Teint Idole 24H* provides a full day and night of "lasting perfection." Because of the product's failure, she says, she can't look good and stay holy at the same time. Court papers say Weisberg "abides by Jewish law by not applying makeup from sundown on Friday until nighttime on Saturday." She claims the makeup is crucial, especially at major family occasions. (www.nypost.com, 5-1-13)

Buffett's Biggest Bet

Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett's multinational conglomerate holding company, recently paid \$2.05 billion cash to buy the 20 percent it did not already own of the Israeli company *Iscar* (The formal name of the company is IMC International Metalworking Companies). In 2006, Berkshire bought an 80 percent stake in *Iscar*, a company that makes metal cutting tools, for 4 billion dollars. At that time, that was one of the largest acquisitions involving an Israeli company and Buffett's biggest purchase outside the United States. The recent acquisition suggests that *Iscar's* value has since more than doubled. In his annual letter to shareholders, Buffett de-

scribed *Iscar* as one of Berkshire's "five most profitable companies outside its insurance businesses." (www.reuters.com, 5-1-13)

Israel's Connection to the Boston Bombing

In April, just minutes after the bombings at the Boston Marathon, Boston doctors and nurses faced an unprecedented challenge. Many of the city's hospitals have doctors with actual battlefield experience or trauma preparation from deployments to humanitarian missions, like the one following the earthquake in Haiti. But what really mattered that day was the expertise of Israeli physicians. Eight years ago, four Israeli doctors and a staff of nurses spent two days at Massachusetts General Hospital training the hospital's first-response team, preparing them to deal with mass-casualty incidents. The techniques they were taught were pioneered in Israel. On the day of the attack, when speaking to reporters, Alastair Conn, chief of emergency services at Mass General, acknowledged the help provided by the Israeli experts. According to Avi Rivkind, director of surgery at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center, Israeli doctors "rewrote the bible of blast trauma." Rivkind is an internationally recognized expert in terror medicine and widely considered one of the great brains behind Israeli innovations that have been adopted around the world. (www.jta.org, 4-22-13)

"A Slap in the Face"

Students at the Parsons New School for Design in New York have launched a petition against disgraced fashion designer John Galliano, who was invited to teach a master class there. The petition asks that the design college refuse to accept Galliano who, in 2011 was fired from Christian Dior. He was seen in a bar in Paris, ranting at a Jewish couple saying, "I love Hitler...People like you would be dead. Your mothers, your forefathers, would all be f***** gassed." The petition says that "hiring someone who has made such horrific comments shows that the school values Galliano over their entire Jewish student body." The petitioner further states that "we do not want money from our tuition going to this

kind of person. We feel like we've been slapped in the face by our school." The Jewish student union at Parsons is the oldest and largest club on campus. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 4-29-13)

Violins of Hope

The Philharmonic Orchestra of Monte Carlo recently performed a concert in Monaco featuring instruments that at one time belonged to Jewish Holocaust victims. The concert, named the "Violins of Hope," took place at the Grimaldi Forum and included stories of the owners of the instruments. Included in the biographies of musicians was that of Alma Rose (she survived the Holocaust), a conductor of the Auschwitz women's orchestra and niece of composer Gustav Mahler. Homage was also paid to Hans Krasa and Gideon Klein, Jewish musicians who continued to compose until their deaths in the Nazis' gas chambers. The instruments came from the workshop of Amnon Weinstein, an Israeli violin maker who for years has been collecting and restoring musical instruments that once belonged to Holocaust victims. Proceeds from the concert are earmarked for the Hebrew University's neurology research center. (www.jta.org, 4-30-13)

Robert Frost and The Rabbi

A rare collection of letters, audio-files, photographs and other materials involving American poet Robert Frost (1874-1963) is being made available to the public for the first time. The collection chronicles a 24-year relationship between Frost and Victor E. Reichert, a Cincinnati rabbi who often summered with Frost in Vermont. All these years, the collection has been held by the rabbi's son, Jonathan Reichert, professor emeritus of physics at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The younger Reichert has now given this unique collection to the University. Scholars say the materials could "provide an important, missing link between Frost's poetry and his view of religion, which has been the subject of debate for decades." Victor Reichert (1897-1990) was among a dozen or so people in Frost's inner circle. The two met in

1939, when Victor's wife Louise insisted they attend a Frost reading in Cincinnati. Jonathan Reichert said, "I wanted the friendship of my father with Frost to be part of his-story." (*University of Buffalo Alumni Newsletter*, April, 2013)

In His Memory...

An Israeli college opened a journalism institute named in honor of the late Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. The Daniel Pearl International Journalism Institute, part of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications, opened in mid-April at the interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. One of the institute's goals is to promote balanced reporting from the Middle East. Daniel Pearl was researching a story about Islamist militants when he was kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan in January 2002. He was murdered a month later. His final words before he was killed, simple and proud and with full awareness of the consequences, were, "My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I am Jewish." (www.jta.org, 4-18-13)

Shame on Them

An Israeli government official has, for the first time, admitted that Ethiopian immigrant women were injected with Depo-Provera, a long-acting contraceptive, very likely without their fully comprehending the ramifications of the treatment. Professor Ron Gamzu, the Health Ministry Director General, and other state agencies had previously denied knowledge or responsibility for the practice, which was first reported five years ago. Sharona Eliahu-Chai of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) represents several women's rights and Ethiopian immigrants' groups and has demanded that the injections cease immediately and that an investigation be launched into the practice. In a letter to Gamzu, ACRI said, "the sweeping use of Depo-Provera among Ethiopian women raises heavy suspicions that we are talking about a deliberate policy to control and monitor fertility among this community. The data...point to a paternalistic, haughty and racist attitude..." Statistics from a major Israeli health

provider showed that it had administered Depo-Provera injections to 5,000 women in 2008, 57 percent of whom were Ethiopian. Journalist Gail Gabbay interviewed 35 Ethiopian immigrants. The women's testimony could help to explain the almost 50 percent decline over the past ten years in the birth rate of Israel's Ethiopian community, attributing this decline to the drug. According to Gabbay, while the women were still in transit camps in Ethiopia they were sometimes intimidated or threatened into taking the injections. One hundred thousand Ethiopian Jews have moved to Israel since chief rabbis determined in 1973 that the community had biblical roots. (www.reuters, 1-28-13)

Did You Know....

- According to a report by the *Los Angeles Times*, Jewish delis across the country are dwindling. The report cites the closings of famous landmarks such as New York's *Stage Deli*, Chicago's *Ashkenaz Delicatessen* and L.A.'s *Junior's Deli*. Changing demographics, high rents, soaring food prices and unlimited restaurant fare including fast foods account for younger crowds avoiding the deli. (*World Jewry Digest*, April 2013)

- A new Israeli invention allows nursing mothers to measure how much breast milk their babies drink during feedings and how much milk is left in the breast. Developed by Israeli start-up MilkSense, the device uses electromagnetic signals to measure the amount of milk in the breast before and after a feeding. The product is planned to be marketed around the world. (www.jta.org, 4-28-13)

- On June 18th, Barbra Streisand is scheduled to sing at the opening ceremony of Israeli President Shimon Peres' annual Presidential Conference, which this year will honor the president's 90th birthday. Streisand has visited Israel several times, but this will be her first official public appearance there. Streisand, 70, is not known for performing in front of large audiences. She has only gone on five world tours in her 50-year career. She has sold some 72.5 million records in the United States. (*The Forward*, 3-11-13) ♦

Photo Gallery



On May 24th, KJCC president **Bernie Ginsberg**, along with **Rev. Kerry Foote** from our neighbor **Burton Memorial Methodist Church** and host **Rev. Pam Feeser**, discussed religious perspectives on the environment as part of the Interfaith series sponsored by **Baptist Health**.



On Sunday, May 5th, in a now-annual tradition, **Sisterhood** gathered at **Pilot House Restaurant** for their end-of-season luncheon. It's a chance for a final get-together before many migrate north for the summer. Of course, they'll all be back at work for **KJCC** earlier than usual this year, since **High Holidays** begin on September 4th.



It was one of those delicious but unplanned moments at a recent **Oneg**, with **Pauline Roller** (soon to be 98) passing along a little girl talk wisdom to **Rachael Bloom's** newborn daughter **Madison Rose**.



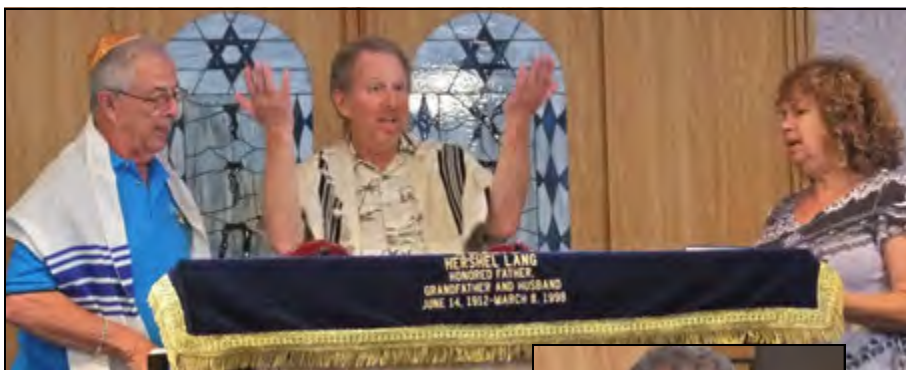
The four photos at top are all from Gene Silverman's "girls get-away" to Ojai Spa & Resort in Ojai, California in celebration of everyone's April birthday. The photo top left is daughter Robin plus daughter-in-law Andrea; top center is granddaughters Elissa and Michelle.



The three center photos are all from a little late-April birthday lunch celebrating Linda Pollack. Yes, that's Rene in two of the photos, along with daughter Della.



The picture at left is a stunning portrait Gloria Avner just finished painting for Joel and Linda Pollack of their grandchildren, Will and Maddy.



All the photos on this page were taken during Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning service on Saturday morning, May 18th. (For those who love the traditions, and the trappings of full Shabbat services, these mornings are among the rare times we wear tallit at KJCC.) Fluent in Hebrew, Rabbi Agler often opens up rich nuances of meaning in the poetic Biblical text as the weekly parshah is discussed. (He and Yardena usually agree.) Barney Coltman chanted the weekly aliyahs and assisted with the Torah.

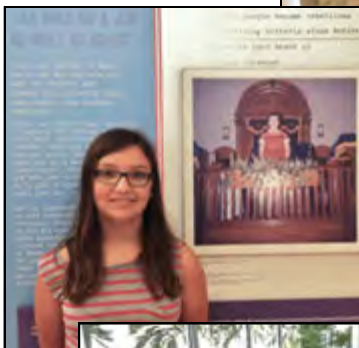


KJCC students and their parents and teachers made the last day of class this year a field trip, to the Jewish Museum of Florida on Miami Beach. Yardenah had arranged for her colleague Chaim, in the center photo, to address the group. In the “but they were good to their mothers” category, note the donor listed on the stained-glass window.



Photos courtesy of Gloria Avner and Richard Knowles.

Moir stands next to a display about the earliest Bat Mitzvahs, titled “can girls do a Job as well as boys?” Gloria’s answer was a resounding yes, as we’ll all see next spring when Moira takes her turn on the bemah.



On Monday, May 20, the Mah Jongg group feted Joan Boruszak with a going-away (but don’t stay away) luncheon. (photo by Mary Lee’s camera.)

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For Pauline

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2013

PLACE: KJCC

TIME: 6:30 BARBECUE DINNER

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Indian Key: Chayaking and More

by Joyce Peckman

I have lived in the Keys for almost ten years, and owned my kayak for almost that long, but I had never visited Indian Key State Park. I had read about its fascinating history as a town built around the lucrative business of salvaging wrecks, then being destroyed in 1840 by Indians during the Seminole Wars. Indian Key was the destination of our April chayaking trip.

Dave Mont, as usual, was totally organized. He managed to cram five kayaks into the back of his pickup truck, then strapped one more to the top of my CRV, with all of the seats, life preservers and paddles loaded into my minivan's trunk. He drove Georgia and two Lindas, Kaplan and Pincus, while I brought along Joshua Bernstein. I drove to the little oceanside beach across from Indian Key, where we were met by Stuart and Lauren, Medina, Mimi Gillespie, Bernie and three of Dave's friends:

Sheila, Mark and Erica. Meanwhile, Dave picked up Yardena and her son Eitan (visiting from Chile) and piled two more kayaks onto his truck. We all lined up on the beach and a sunbather snapped a picture of us with my iPhone.

The island is less than a mile away, an easy paddle, unless you happen to be battling twenty-knot gusts. I think Joshua got there first, along with Eitan and the double kayaks of Medina with Linda Pincus, and Lauren and Stuart. Bernie, Mimi and I were taking up the rear, and I was fading fast, blowing around in my light little craft until Dave threw me a line.

As the last of us pulled onshore, we saw a small catamaran approaching. Manning it were Steve and Carol Steinbock, with passenger Linda Pollack, who all disembarked to join our stroll on the island's paths. We had a

delightful hour visiting the ruins, now cordoned off and clean, with Joshua recounting how he and his friends used to climb the low foundation walls to find bits of glass and pottery in the former warehouse. We tasted tamarind, examined the cistern and climbed the tower, then prepared to go for a swim before returning. Linda got back on the boat.

It was then that Steve realized the tide had gone out and his catamaran was stuck in the sand.

The call went out, and the KJCC team, joking about pushing stones to build pyramids, got in there and pushed. The boat moved, so we shoved some more. I snapped photos of that, too. We gave it our best for about half an hour until it became obvious that there was no deep water to push it into. Carol and Steve would have to wait until the tide rolled back in, and navigate home in the dark.

Meanwhile it was 4:30 p.m.; the tide was still receding, and even kayaks need a little water

under them. Bernie and Mimi made room for Linda in their double kayak and we headed back, sometimes poling where it became too shallow. (Bernie reported later that he now knows his heart is in excellent shape, because he had a stress test on the water.) Thirty yards from the beach I ran into a sand bar, and had to get out and pull. Just after that was a deeper stretch with swift southerly current. It was there, getting back into the kayak, that I overturned. Except for a scratch, which was treated by Bernie (yes, he does carry a doctor's bag in his trunk), I was fine....but I learned that waterproof bags are effective only if you close them, and while 24 hours in rice can revive a car remote, it doesn't necessarily work on an iPhone retrieved from the Atlantic Ocean. Which is why there are no photos accompanying this article.

So Dave, where are we chayaking next? ◇



Leader Dave, at the helm of a different chayaking expedition on a different day.

Mitzvah, Mysticism and Meditation - An Evening with Rabbi Mitch Chefitz

by Gloria Avner

The David Kamely Schoolroom is filled to capacity. More than 50 people, KJCC members and friends, are gathered to listen to teacher and author Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz. They are eager to participate in Jewish medi-

tation, to chant sacred melodies, and learn about the mystics' way into the Torah. We are anticipating the gift of Shavuot's covenant between God and the Jewish people.

Along the way we are told stories, some of them four times, each one addressing a different level, slowly and quietly, progressively deeper. The vertical portrayal of the secret unpronounceable name of God is described as a device to help us see ourselves in God's image, to remind us to stand a little straighter. We are encouraged to use the graphic as a gateway to understanding on four different levels, the physical, metaphorical, spiritual, and unexplainable. In semi-circular rows we sit, eyes closed. We breathe as one. Later, we place our hands on our shoulders and arms with each syllable of the *Sh'ma*, to reinforce its meaning. The evening is a potpourri and each one of us takes away a different experience. Some would have



On Saturday night, May 11th, a few days before Erev Shavuot, Rabbi Mitch Chefitz took KJCC on a journey into the depths and possibilities of the Torah.

liked to go deeper into meditation.

Many buy copies of Rabbi Chefitz's books (which are now available in our KJCC library). I heard at our follow-up Shavuot celebration a tale of one congregant who

has subsequently placed the "yud hey vav hey" diagram in every room of his house and brought out his Jewish books to re-read. Others are retelling the stories, especially moved to share "The Curse of Blessings." Still others, as a result of the Rabbi's praise for it, have new respect for our own *Siddur*. Like the "tevas," or arks, that Rabbi Chefitz spoke of in the

"The vertical portrayal of the secret, unpronounceable name of God is described as a device to help us see ourselves in God's image, to remind us to stand a little straighter."





beginning of the evening, Noah's boat and baby Moses' basket, our own prayer book has no means of propulsion, but is a vehicle to carry us safely on potentially dangerous waters. It is good to hear about spiritual life rafts. And now we know there seems to be a consensus that people want more and deeper experience of Jewish meditation.

Many thanks to Rabbi Chofitz for sharing so much knowledge in a short time, whetting our appetites. Let's hope we can bring him back again, perhaps in a round table, or day-long *Shabbatone* together with some of our other favorite rabbis. ♦



Gloria and Bernie have a plan. The idea is for KJCC to become a destination, that — being situated in, well, paradise — we could become a center of learning and a place of welcome for great Jewish scholars and

thinkers and spiritual leaders. As head of the Ritual Committee, Gloria had begun by persuading famed teacher, author and Kabbalist Mitchell Chofitz to come to KJCC, so it was fitting that she should warm up the crowd and introduce him. Afterwards, she and Bernie led Havdalah. The aroma of spices was the perfect bridge from the spiritual back to the everyday.

Rene

It's so hard to say goodbye, especially to someone like Rene, who always made everyone smile, and always had a smile for everyone. There will be a Celebration of Life at KJCC soon, with lots of tears, laughter and

memories. But visual memories matter, too. All the photos here have appeared previously in Chai-Lights. Thank you to the photographers. And thank you for sunshine, Rene the Rose.



King Solomon is credited with writing the poem *Eshet Chavil, A Woman of Valor*. Its 22 verses conclude the *Book of Proverbs*. Here are some of the verses, in tribute to Rene:

An accomplished woman, who can find? Her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband's heart relies on her and he shall lack no fortune.

She does him good and not evil, all the days of her life.

She extends her hands to the poor, and reaches out her hand to the needy.

She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the lesson of kindness is on her tongue.



Linda and Joel Pollack sent us the poem "She Walks in Beauty," by Lord Byron, in honor of Rene. Here are two of the stanzas:

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

The photographs, from top: Rene being elegant at a Ladies Tea at the Shabathai home two years ago. Skip and Rene at the KJCC Seder in 2009. Rene reacting to being awarded the Joel S. Cohen Fellowship Award in April of 2010 from then-president Alan Beth. Alongside Muriel Swartz, Rene as she was voted Woman of the Year at the 2013 Women's Seder. At bottom, Rene and Linda Pollack, fast friends forever.



YOM HA'ATZMAUT – ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

by Yardena Kamely

This year *Yom Ha'atzmaut* was on April 16th. (It is always the 6th of Iyar on the Jewish calendar.) Israel is 65. In Miami, the Israeli Consulate and the Jewish Communities organized a whole week of festivities filled with programs, including ceremonies, encounters with young Israeli soldiers, Israeli music, films, songs, shows, food, and presentations by the congregational schools in Hebrew. In Israel *Yom Ha'atzmaut* is a holiday, and I thought a lot, as always, about how much I would have loved to be present at the ceremonies and celebrations all over the country, and especially in my home city, Haifa. The day before *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, on *Yom HaZikaron* (Israel's Memorial Day), Israelis light memorial candles on public buildings and in synagogues, visit military cemeteries, and there are State Memorial ceremonies. The *Yizkor* for the fallen soldiers is recited:

Yizkor am Israel et banav u'bnotav...

May the people of Israel remember
their sons and daughters
who endangered their lives in the
days of struggle prior to the
establishment of the State of Israel,
and may He remember
the soldiers of *Tzahal* (Israel Defense
Forces) who fell in the wars of Israel.

May the people of Israel keep them in
their heart
And may their memory be a blessing.
May they commemorate their lost
youth, their bravery and valor, their
devotion and self-sacrifice, which
ended on the battlefield.

May the memory of the loyal and valiant
heroes of
freedom and victory be sealed forever
within the hearts of Israel.

The first time I was present at a memorial ceremony where I remembered fallen soldiers who were my fellow students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was *Yom Ha'atzmaut* 1974, after the *Yom Kippur* War. It was a difficult and very sad situation to come back to classes and notice the empty seats of our friends, to be aware that they would not come back and that they would never finish the academic work we had all been doing together at the university. We learned very young how hard it is to deal with such losses. What if had been you, holding the notebook of your fellow student, reading his notes and being struck by how great his ideas were, and what an excellent professional, scientist or teacher he could have become had he not died in the war. Those friends were young Israeli soldiers, never questioning their role in *Tzahal* (Israel's Army of Defense). They were doing what they had to do – defending Israel. We would learn so many stories about that particular war, so many stories of heroic behavior, of miraculous survival.

In Israel we grew up with stories about Israel's wars. I remember the many stories our parents and teachers told us about heroism in the War of Independence.

The story of Kibbutz *Yad Mordechai* comes to my mind. My father lived nearby in *Moshav* (agricultural settlement) *Gan Yavneh*. At that time he was serving in the *Hagana*. If you travel south of Tel Aviv along the coastal road, a few hundred yards in front of the old Egyptian-Israeli border at the Gaza strip you will see a ruined water tower, a remnant of the Independence War, surrounded by beautiful gardens. Nearby stands the huge bronze statue of a man, a rough-cut figure in shirt-sleeves, clutching a hand grenade in his right hand. The statue represents *Mordechai Anilevich*, the 22-year-old commander of the desperate Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943. The nearby *kibbutz* is named after the dead

Jewish World War II hero. *Yad Mordechai*, in Hebrew, means Hand of Mordechai.

Yad Mordechai was founded in 1943 by one of the last groups of Zionist pioneers that managed to escape Poland on the eve of World War II. They belonged to the left-wing Zionist youth movement *Ha'shomer Ha'tzair*. Anilevich had also belonged to this movement, but was unable to get out of Poland in time. In 1946-1947 the men and women of *Yad Mordechai* were joined by survivors of the Holocaust who had made their way to Palestine as illegal immigrants aboard the overcrowded little boats that ran the British blockade. The *kibbutz* is burdened with heavy memories. It commemorates the Holocaust and the War of Independence.

Yad Mordechai played a crucial role in the War of Independence. On May 15th, the day British rule in Palestine formally came to an end, the regular armies of five neighboring Arab states invaded Palestine. Amos Elon, in his book "The Israelis," writes: "We now know that they expected a military walkover, an easy mopping-up operation that would last a few days only. We also know, at least in the case of Egypt and Syria, that their chief aim was...to carve out for themselves sizable chunks of territory in a country suddenly abandoned by British power. The Jews of Palestine stood in their way."

The Egyptian force invaded Palestine with roughly 10,000 men. Their infantry was supported by a small air force, heavy artillery, tank and armored units. The State of Israel, only a few days old, was equipped with only a few primitive weapons. The Egyptians, relying on their superiority in manpower and equipment, hoped to reach Tel Aviv within a few days. *Yad Mordechai*, at the Gaza end of the main road to Tel Aviv, was one of the first Jewish settlements to come under Egyptian attack. The *kibbutz* had prepared some fortifications, but they were not strong enough against the tanks and artillery. They did not expect an Arab army attack. Only a few weeks before the war an emissary from Tel Aviv had told the men of *Yad Mordechai* that Egypt was not planning an invasion. "You will have to hold out only against bands of Arabs ir-

regulars and armed villagers from the immediate neighborhood." When, contrary to expectations, the Egyptian army advanced toward Tel Aviv, *Yad Mordechai* became the scene of battle. Amos Elon writes: "It was neither the longest nor even the bloodiest battle in that short and awful war. Yet it was in all likelihood one of the most decisive."

There were only some 100 men at *Yad Mordechai*, including boys 14 years old; only about 75 or 80 men and boys were capable fighters. Armed only with rifles, 3,000 rounds of ammunition, 400 hand grenades, two machine guns, and two mortars with 50 shells, the defenders of *Yad Mordechai* blocked the advance of a whole Egyptian brigade for six days. (One of the Egyptian commanding officers, Colonel Mohammed Naguib, later headed the 1952 *coup d'etat* that brought Gamal Abdel Nasser to power.) The water tower was blown up on the second day. Teenagers with homemade Molotov cocktails threw themselves upon Egyptian tanks and armored vehicles. The settlement was surrounded and under constant artillery fire and it was repeatedly bombed from the air. Twenty-four men, nearly one-third of the active defending force, were killed; another 30 were wounded. On May 22nd, the fourth day of the Egyptian attack, *Yad Mordechai* signaled to the north: "The men's morale is sinking...They approach exhaustion...the settlement must be reinforced or abandoned...It is vital that women and wounded be evacuated immediately."

On May 23rd, the last machine gun had become unusable. Late that night the men of *Yad Mordechai* decided to abandon their burning settlement. Even though morale was very low, they argued among themselves over the decision to retreat. Some of them passionately wanted to fight the battle until the last man had died, as did the Jews who fought in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Fortunately they were overruled. The survivors managed to infiltrate through the Egyptian lines and reached the neighboring settlement of *Gvar Am*, a few miles north.

Yad Mordechai was lost. Nevertheless, the battle had a profound military and political

effect. During the six days that it lasted, Jewish units farther north were able to improvise a line of defense. Although this line was broken several times by the advancing Egyptian forces, and although bitter fighting continued for sixteen more days until the UN-imposed cease-fire went into effect on June 11th, it had become clear that the Egyptians had failed to attain their major objective. They were deep into Palestinian territory, but their advance on Tel Aviv had been stopped, first briefly at *Yad Mordechai* and then a few miles north of the abandoned *kibbutz*, at *Negba*. The new state had not been destroyed.

Tells Amos Elon: "When hostilities were resumed a few months later, the tables turned." *Yad Mordechai* was recaptured and rebuilt nearly from scratch in 1949; only the shattered water tower was left as a reminder.

The story of *Yad Mordechai*, the questions and alternatives, the existential problems the men and women had to confront, were relevant in a wider sense: in their loyalty, ferocity and

steadfast courage they were forming the new generation of Israelis, who had to continue the fight for the survival of the State of Israel. The next generation, born Israeli and growing up in Israel, felt fully at home on the new lawns of *Yad Mordechai*. ♦

Chag Same'ach Medinat Yisrael

Last Call: if your goal was to wait until the last minute to sign up for the June 11-23 KJCC trip to Israel being led by Rabbi Agler, congratulations. It's now the last minute.



Bahai Gardens on Mt. Carmel in Haifa



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 with fellow congregants and with Rabbi Richard Agler (who has led such trips dozens of times) for a ten-day adventure in Israel beginning on June 11-23, 2013. But now you need to hurry, because final preparations are being made. The cost is \$3,252 per person, not including airfare. What's included? The full trip itinerary and details are posted on the KJCC web site, keysjewishcenter.com; click on the "Misc." section. If you need a final push, contact Dave Mont, 305-393-9883. But Dave recommends that at this point you call Arza World Travel directly at 888-811-2812. They can answer any and all questions. (Are non-KJCC members or family welcome to join us? Absolutely.) Operators are standing by.

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.

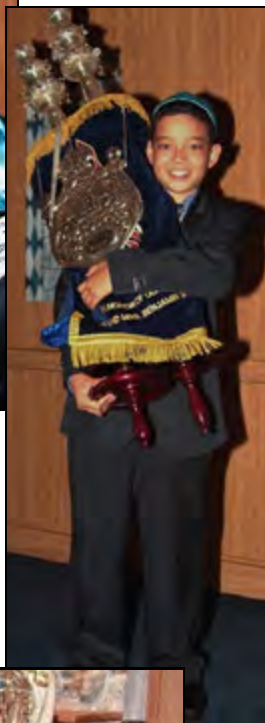
Tour highlights:

- 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.

Harry's Special Day with the Torah

by Gloria Avner

Harry Friedman is one of the best, most sincere students in the KJCC Religious School's history. His face and voice are seen and heard at nearly every *Erev Shabbat* Service. Harry has been attending our classes for five years and has been doing community service of some kind every week since we've known him. Harry walks the talk. His teachers and our congregation are immensely proud of him and his family. His serious work is a reflection of parents Steve and Jane's values.



Our deep appreciation to Richard Knowles, whose photography so perfectly captured the joy on the bema.





Harry Joseph Carmel Friedman will be called to the Torah at Keys Jewish Community Center as *Bar Mitzvah* on Saturday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m. He will be supported by his parents. Rabbi Richard Agler will



first time. Rabbi Agler, his tutor Gloria Avner, and his teacher Yardena Kamely are proud of him. He has come a long way from when we could barely hear his voice. With confidence and zest, he booms out the blessings, chants his *Parshah*, his *Haftorah*, the *Hatzi Kaddish*, the Call to Prayer, the *Sh'ema* and more. Don't miss this event (and Jane's yummy cooking at the *kiddush* afterwards). We are all invited. As a community, let's

embrace the opportunity to honor Harry and his family.

Mazel Tov to all the Friedmans. ♦



officialate.

These photos were taken at a dress rehearsal two weeks ago. Harry is on the *Bimah*, chanting his *Maftir* for Rabbi Agler. He is chanting directly from the vowel-free, punctuation-free Torah for the



Summer's Journey into Fall: *The Road from Shavuot to High Holidays*

by Gloria Avner

We won't be reading KJCC news again for almost three months. Is there such a thing as "time out?" From Chai-Lights, yes. From Judaism, no. The ritual wheels on our spirit bus continue to go round. The next few stops are not marked well or very deeply by most of us, but each one leads us closer to the Highest of our Holy Days, *Yomim Nora'im*, the "Ten Days of Awe" from *Rosh HaShanah* through *Yom Kippur*.

A few weeks have passed since we celebrated Shavuot, received the Torah, and became the Jewish people. Now comes a double dose of mourning, the Fast of 17 Tammuz (Tuesday, June 25th), marking the fall of Jerusalem, which builds up to the much more serious fast, three weeks later, of *Tisha B'Av* (Tuesday, July 16). This second fast, commemorating the day on which a nearly incomprehensible number of tragedies befell the Jewish people, is second in importance only to the Fast on *Yom Kippur*. Whether or not we observe the mandated rituals, let's be aware of both days and the depths of sadness inherent in the season with its historic repetition of attempts to destroy the Jewish people. Summer, for the Jews at least, has not been the season when "the livin' is easy."

We drown in sorrow. But then, somehow, we transmute the sorrow into joy. What is it about our tribe that makes us so resilient? Maybe the answer lies in the mechanics of the calendar itself and cycles of growth and decay. We are like the legend of the phoenix, rising from the ashes. Nearly scorched to death, beset by odds greater than human imaginings, we continue to survive and thrive. Where do we find the strength? Where is the guidance that leads us to overcome the setbacks thrown at us by the world and the traps we set for ourselves with less than stel-

lar behavior towards God, the world, our community, business associates, friends, and family?

After the sorrow and despair of *Av* comes the month of *Elul*, 30 days before *Tishrei*, the month that begins our New Year. *Elul* is a special month of opportunity, but how many of us use it? Here are four weeks in which we can (and are supposed to) prepare ourselves for the cleansing experience of High Holy Days, asking forgiveness for our imperfect behaviors and working toward becoming our best selves. It is said that *Elul* is the month when, like a King wandering his fields, God is the most approachable.

There will not be a reminder about the opportunities of *Elul* in Chai-Lights. *Elul* will be almost over when the next issue comes out. Let's mark the calendar now and start our introspection process on the 1st of *Elul* (Wednesday, August 7th this year). We could keep a journal. Write down what we are grateful for. List one behavior that might be improved. Put a positive affirmation in our pockets. Look at it at lunchtime. Meditate, even if only for a few minutes each day. See what happens.

Use the technique taught to us by Rabbi Chofetz, breathing in through the nose, following the breath all the way to the feet, feeling it bubble like seltzer as it travels back up the spine and out the top of the head. Pause before the next breath. Let the silence become profound, an empty moment that allows for creation of anything and everything. Do it again. Rabbi Chofetz suggested a technique for keeping track of one's breaths when we saw him at FIU. It does not require counting, and is so distinctly Jewish. Visualize a menorah. See six branches and a *shamash*. As you complete each breath, light one of the

candles. See the flame. When all seven are lit, you can either stop or go on to create another menorah next to the first.

In September, during the month of *Tishrei*, shortly after we celebrate the New Year with apples and honey, we will find ourselves reciting a list of those behaviors that missed the mark (“*Cheitim*,” often translated mistakenly as “sins,” perhaps better understood as “errors”) as we stand before God in community. If we choose to use the energy of *Elul* as advance preparation, our experiences could make the Days of Awe even richer.

Our High Holy Days will be different this year, not just because *Rosh HaShanah* comes sooner than ever before (evening of September 4th, as early as it can ever be, according to Jewish law). We will have a different leader, too, Rabbi Richard Agler. If you have been to any of his Shabbat morning services this year, you know how well Rabbi Agler connects the secular and the sacred. His services are warm, educational, and uplifting. He brings 35 years of High Holy Day leadership experience with him. We will set a new course with his guidance and inspiration. May the learning continue well beyond the last blast of the *Shofar*.

See you in September.

A Shul By Any Other Name: Looking Back . . . and Forward

by Gloria Avner

This has been a year in which the KJCC could just as well have been known, without even changing our initials, as the Keys Jewish Community College. More than ever, we have become a house of learning and Jewish enrichment. Gratitude goes to those making this possible – enthusiastic presidents, members of Education and Ritual committees, cooks and bakers (we must have refreshments) and, most of all, to a whole host of generous rabbis.

Yes, suddenly rabbis abound in our intentionally lay-led congregation. We get a request for shelter from a gaggle of youths; we say yes, and Ed Rosenthal, rabbi for all the Hillel groups in the Tampa Bay area, brings his “Scubi-Jews” to live under our roof while they engage in “*Tikkun HaYam*” (Ed’s own term), repair of the sea. Rabbi Ed leads *Havdalah* services in our Meditation Garden, his students work on reef repair and spirituality, and we get more learning and the joy of interacting with an upcoming generation.

That’s just the beginning. For the first time in KJCC history, we have regular, monthly, rabbi-led Shabbat morning services, with in-depth, informal Torah study thanks to the generosity of KJCC member Rabbi Richard Agler. The attending congregation grows each month as word spreads about the positive, inspiring experience. Our own lay-led services have been enriched as well by a series of workshops Rabbi Agler taught on “How to Lead a Friday Night Service” and “How to Prepare a *D’var Torah*.”

The list goes on. Rabbi Agler generously shares his exceptional friends with us. Anyone who attended the “Brunch and Learn” session with Rabbi Stephen Wylen this past winter was fascinated by the insights he shared with us on the topic of “Jews in the Time of Jesus,” just one of his particular fields of expertise. (He authored a book on the subject, a copy of which now resides in the KJCC library.) We trust that Rabbi Agler will continue to invite his friends to visit and that we will get to learn from them as well.

Moving on to the present, we just experienced a well attended, learning evening led by Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz – scholar, author, teacher and storyteller extraordinaire. If you were there you were introduced to the basics of Jewish Meditation (yes, many wanted more), you sang *niggunim*, learned what an extraordinary *siddur* we have, physically played the *Sh’m’a* on our bodies, and were initiated into the multiple levels of the unpronounceable name of God as a device to grow deeper spiritually. Stories were Rabbi Chefitz’s vehicle, and the silences were as important as the words. He took us, along with a

little girl who wanted to know why she was not allowed to say God's name, out of our bodies, through the roof of a synagogue, high above her village, to the far reaches of the earth's atmosphere, past our own galaxy to the heights, depth, and silent dark of the universe, and brought all of us safely back, gifting us with the twin lessons that nearly unspeakable awe and intense love are at the heart, the core, of readiness to say God's name.

The KJCC's by-laws, our statement of purpose, lay out a pretty specific and deceptively simple set of goals: *"The nature and goals of this organization are to improve, encourage, and enrich the religious, educational and social life of Jewish people in our community."* It looks like we are right on target for goal achievement.

June is the traditional time for graduation. We look back on what we've achieved. We look forward to what's next. Commencement. Get ready for more learning, and welcoming in the New Year with a new spiritual leader for High Holy Days, Rabbi Richard Agler. When the time comes this summer for Membership Dues packets to arrive in the mail, honor the man who has give to us so generously of

his time and wisdom. Add a special contribution to the High Holiday Rabbi Fund. Rabbi Agler has donated more to our enjoyment of Jewish learning and ritual than can be counted. It is our turn to give back. Thank you in advance to the members of the Board who have already pledged to contribute.

More plans are in the works. *L'Shanah HaBah b'KJCC.* ♦



KJCC Gift Shop



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For further information contact:
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Chai~Lights



September 2013

26 Elul 5773 - 26 Tishrei 5774

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High Holiday Section - page 27

Israel Trip Diary, Part 1 - page 33

Keys Jewish Community Center

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September 2013

26 Elul - 26 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30	2 Labor Day	3	4 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 5:00 Services 8:00	5 Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Services 9:30 a.m.	6 Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Steve & Barbara Smith</i>	7 Shabbat Tshuvah 10:00 a.m. Havdalah 7:45 p.m.
8 Board Meeting 9:00	9	10	11	12	13 Erev Yom Kippur <i>Kol Nidre</i> 8:00 p.m.	14 Yom Kippur Yizkor
15 Sukkah Decoration 10:00 a.m.	16	17	18	19 Sukkot First Day	20 Sukkot Second Day Steve Steinbock	21
22 First Day of Autumn	23	24	25	26 Shemini Atzeret	27 Stuart Sax et. al 6:30 Service Yizkor Simchat Torah	28 Bereshit
29	30		<div> Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted. </div>			

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



I'm writing this as summer has halfway passed. The High Holidays are approaching and all the temple officers and volunteers are going into over-drive.

Despite the increase of work, I find this the most rewarding part of my presidency, because this is the time for giving out the honors of *aliyahs* for the High Holidays at KJCC. It will be a great pleasure for me, in the next few weeks, to thank, with High Holiday honors, those unsung heroes who have given so much to make our temple run smoothly.

The holiday season will start with the S'lichot service (in preparation for Rosh Hashanah) on Saturday, August 31st at 6 p.m. (organized and sponsored by unsung heroes Stu and Lauren Sax.) It will feature pizza and a movie on the life of Theodore Herzl. Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner is Wednesday, September 4th at 5 p.m., prior to Rosh Hashanah services at 8 p.m. Then we are off to the races with the Rosh Hashanah, Shabbos Tshuvah and Yom Kippur services. See the calendar and schedule in this issue for complete details.

By the time you read this, we will have had the pleasure of hosting another Bar Mitzvah, on August 24th, when we will have initiated Zachary Schrader-Grace into adult membership in our Jewish community. It is always a compli-

ment to our religious school, its teachers and the religious education committee, as well as the parents, when a Bar or Bat Mitzvah can be celebrated by a child who was brought up in our very isolated Jewish community. This is the purpose of our KJCC: To live Jewishly and maintain the future of Jewish life.

To this purpose, I urge all of you to return your dues packages promptly and to include extra contributions above the minimum of dues alone, so that our synagogue may continue to provide all the services which our Jewish community needs. Many of you have contributed to the Rabbi and Cantor Fund and have been gratified with the increasing quality of our service. I urge you to continue such contributions and then add gifts in other categories in honor of loved ones. As every president learns so well, the regular dues alone are not enough to sustain our operations.

It is my fervent prayer that every member of the congregation finds inspiration in the High Holiday services and that they and their families will be inscribed in the Book of Life for a healthy and prosperous upcoming year.

Shalom, Bernie ◇

Nosh

Happy New Year at (and from) KJCC

As you read this, August will be coming to a close and Erev Rosh Hashanah will be but a week or so away. Yes, it really did all come very early this year.

In our Tribe, every new year is special, not simply a ritual of the calendar. It means your petition to be written in last year's book of life was granted. It means we get to ask for another chance to improve ourselves, finding our collective way through life's difficulties while still managing to remember that we are born to be spiritual beings and not merely navigators of the mundane. We forge forward, for reasons beyond the mere hope that things will get better; our traditions and sages have made it ringingly clear that what we learn, and how we act and live, are what matter. It's what we've been taught for millennia, in Judea and Spain and Persia and Eastern Europe and in Jewish outposts from Gaul to Aden to Buenos Aires to Shanghai to India and the Cape of Good Hope.

Cantor Mark Halpern returns this year. We are proud to announce that, joining him on the High Holiday bimah will be, for the first time, Rabbi Richard Agler (who was ordained right around the time that KJCC was founded). Those of you who have attended one or more of Rabbi Agler's Saturday morning Torah Learning Sessions know what a learned and inspiring teacher awaits us. This is certain to be an important and memorable New Year celebration for KJCC.

The hard work of preparation has been done. We hope that you'll be here to be part of it. (The High Holiday section begins on page 27.)

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
Linda Perloff and Eric Freundlich
and their family on the death of
Bob Freundlich*

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Don't Forget to Bring "Fast" Food

We at KJCC are starting a new tradition. Let's make our fast more meaningful by helping to spare others from hunger. As part of our Yom Kippur Tzedekah, we can each bring a bag of groceries to shul with us on Yom Kippur morning. The next day, on Sunday, our offerings will be delivered to the Food Bank next door at Burton Memorial Church. Todah, and may we all be written and sealed for a good, healthy year.

-Gloria

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of
JERRY OSHINSKY
2/18/50 - 2/8/13
Sherry Zwerdling

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Memory of
ELLEN L. COLTMAN
Loving Wife,
Mother & Daughter
7/18/41 - 4/16/12
24 Nissan 5772

The Garden Thanks Susan Gordon

Steve Steinbock, loving steward of the beautiful KJCC Meditation Garden, was frustrated. Sisterhood had donated money for a fountain. (Every place of beauty and contemplation should have a fountain, no?) The elegant concrete one that Steve selected developed problems, and then the manufacturer stopped answering the phone. (Out of business because of defective products?) But Susan Gordon stepped forward, saying that she had a similar fountain at home that she'd happily donate. And donate it she did. Look (and listen) for the gentle splashing of water in the Garden when you're here for High Holidays, and enjoy. Steve, our Garden, and all of us thank Susan for her generous gift to KJCC.

September Birthdays

1st.....	Mildred Finkelstein
1st.....	Wendy Shatz
2nd.....	Lloyd Wruble
2nd.....	Marcie Orenstein
4th.....	Chase Barrett
4th.....	Debby C. Block
6th.....	Steven Greenbaum
7th.....	Mindy Agler
7th.....	Morton Silverman
7th.....	Stellar Levy
8th.....	Susan Horn
9th.....	Jacob Klimpl
10th.....	Gerri Emkey
13th.....	Andy Tobin
13th.....	Lisha Lane
14th.....	Lili Werthamer
16th.....	Larry S. Schur
18th.....	Avery Haviv
18th.....	Shirley Krissel
19th.....	Barbara Bernstein
19th.....	Brenna Nobil
19th.....	Steven Schur
19th.....	Vippi Pollack
22nd.....	Fred Hudson
23rd.....	Lauren Schur
23rd.....	Maryon Gould
24th.....	Noah Bitton
25th.....	Marla Berenson
25th.....	Michel Bitton
26th.....	Cory Wasser
26th.....	Joan Kay
28th.....	Jonathan Line

September Anniversaries

	Years
4th	Jim & Lynn Nobil.....27
8th	Ronald & Deborah Kaplan17
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov.....29
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith.....35
30th	Ira & Anita Krieger.....35

TWO BOOK PLATES
In Honor of
Toby and David Goldfinger
from Muriel and George Swartz

BOOK PLATE
In Memory of
Joseph Goldberg
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE
In Honor of
Carol & Steve Steinbock
on their 30th Anniversary
6/12/2013
by Pauline Roller

BOOK PLATE
In Memory of
Jim Boruszak
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

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Rene Rose,
The Sunshine
of Our Lives.
Steve and Carol
Stuart and Lauren

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1905 - 1988

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Bar Mitzvah in memory of
Rene Rose
June 2013

BRICK

In Memory of
Louis R. Coltman
12/3/1908 - 3/3/1991

BRICK

In Loving Memory of
Rene Rose
Alan & Candy

BRICK

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Steinbock's**
30th Anniversary
Love, Joel and Linda

A Thank-You Note to KJCC from Nyan

Dear Members of the KJCC Scholarship Committee:

I would like to thank you for the scholarship you have awarded me. It's going to make a huge

difference in my financial health in college. Ever since I was a little boy I have felt the warmth, and tight-knit bond, that members of the Upper Keys Jewish community share. I know that I have more support than I could



ever ask for coming from the KJCC. Of course, with my graduating high school comes a new chapter in my life in which I must become a man...for the second time; but this time my duty is to succeed in society as an individual. I know that with the teachings I have received at the KJCC I will flourish in college and in life, and I will be able to pass on those lessons in moral code. The KJCC will always be a second family to me, and I hope that one day I can come back to the Keys and contribute in my own way.

With love,
Nyan Feder

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
Elaine Solas
and her family on the death of
Bernie Solas*

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of
Pauline Roller,
KJCC Founder,
on the occasion of her
98th birthday,
by
Arthur & Ann Plutzer

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of
LORRAINE "Rene" ROSE
9/15/1935 - 5/16/2013
The Rose Family

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Memory of
Henry W. Isenberg
from
Patricia Isenberg

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of
Pauline Roller's
98th Birthday
Steve & Barbara Smith

Our Sanctuary Has a New Sound System

A lot of thought and care goes into the programs and services we offer at KJCC, our unique little shul in the midst of an archipelago of islands settled by adventurers and dreamers. Bernie and Gloria have seen to it that this will be the best and most engaging High Holidays ever. But our sanctuary's sound system was old, and the speakers badly needed replacing. So we've upgraded all of it. When you're here, listen to how clean and pure the sound is now. And soon after the new year, Dave Feder has agreed to do a concert here, which will be a major community event and fundraiser. Watch this space for details.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Rene Rose
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Bill Kwalick
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
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Louis & Selma Smith
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

coast Hillels have joined together with Hillels based at other colleges and universities throughout Florida. Acting as one Florida voice, they've created a web site, which they hope all Jewish students at Florida colleges will see and respond to. To accomplish this they're asking for the help of all synagogues throughout Florida as well as all parents and grandparents of college-age (or soon to be) students; the idea is to allow Hillel staff members to actively reach out to Jewish students even before they arrive on campus. The web site is www.jcollegebound.com. Once there, enter the name, e-mail and school the student will be attending in the fall. A local Hillel staff member will then personally contact the student.

Hillel Seeks Jewish Students in Florida

According to Rabbi Ed Rosenthal — the rabbi for the group of Suncoast Hillels on Florida's Gulf coast, based at Eckerd College — the biggest challenge for Jewish life on Florida's college campuses is not anti-Israel attitudes, or anti-Semitism, or missionaries. According to Rabbi Ed, "the biggest challenge we face at Hillel is how to find the Jewish students in the first place." (Rabbi Ed has recently sought and been happily voted into membership in KJCC. So though we have no rabbi, we now have two rabbis as full members: Rabbi Ed and Rabbi Rich Agler. And both of their wives are named Mindy.)

So to help address this challenge, the Sun-

In Memoriam September 2013

In Memory Of

Anne Hendin Margulies

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

In Memory Of

David Schur

By Lee Schur

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Mauro Ojeda

By Mark & Sofy Wasser

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Toby Mitchell

By Joel & Linda Pollack

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Mollie Silverman

By Morton & Gene Silverman

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Jim Boruszak

By Joan Boruszak

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Lorraine Martell

By Skip Rose

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Mrs. Freda Shipman

By Ira & Shirley Stein

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Louis Gitin

By David Gitin

[illegible]

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 Gene Silverman at 305-664-3316.

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.

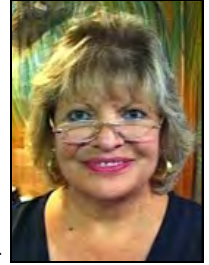
CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to make your donation.

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.

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



The summer is winding down and the fall is quickly approaching. This is the first summer I've had no time to myself. A pre-teen with a broken arm is not exactly what I bargained for.

On a very positive note: Sisterhood is finishing up their planning for the year and has done so through April. The dates will soon be announced for our big "Fundraiser in February." I'm trying to raffle off a special trip, which went over great in the past. The planning has been done and will be in my column and in next month's edition of "Nosh."

The High Holidays have been planned and will be starting out with Sisterhood hosting the Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner on Wednesday, September 4, 2013. Please contact Erica Garrett – hippiejap@hotmail.com – as she is chairing this event, to coordinate what to bring or any other help you can offer. Please help us make this a truly memorable Rosh Hashanah. The dinner will be \$20.00 per person, with no charge for children 12 and under. Charges for non-members (including children) will be \$25.00 per person. Dinner will be followed by services led by Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Mark Halpern. They will also be leading services on Thursday, September 5th and Friday, September 6th. The times for all these services are posted here in Chai-Lights, and on-line as well.

We will be having a Kol Nidre service on Friday, September 13, 2013, again with the Rabbi and Cantor as our leaders. The Break-The-Fast dinner will be held and sponsored by Sisterhood at the end of Yom Kippur services on Saturday, September 14th. The dinner chairpersons are Lauren Sax and Kathy Shabathai. They are fully in charge: coordinating dishes, helping to set up and managing all volunteers, and I know they'll make this important dinner another successful KJCC event. Contact Lauren at 305-753-7623 or Kathy at kathyshabathai@hotmail.com. There is no charge to join us for the Break-the-Fast, but

please RSVP to Lauren and/or Kathy so we are sure to have plenty of food.

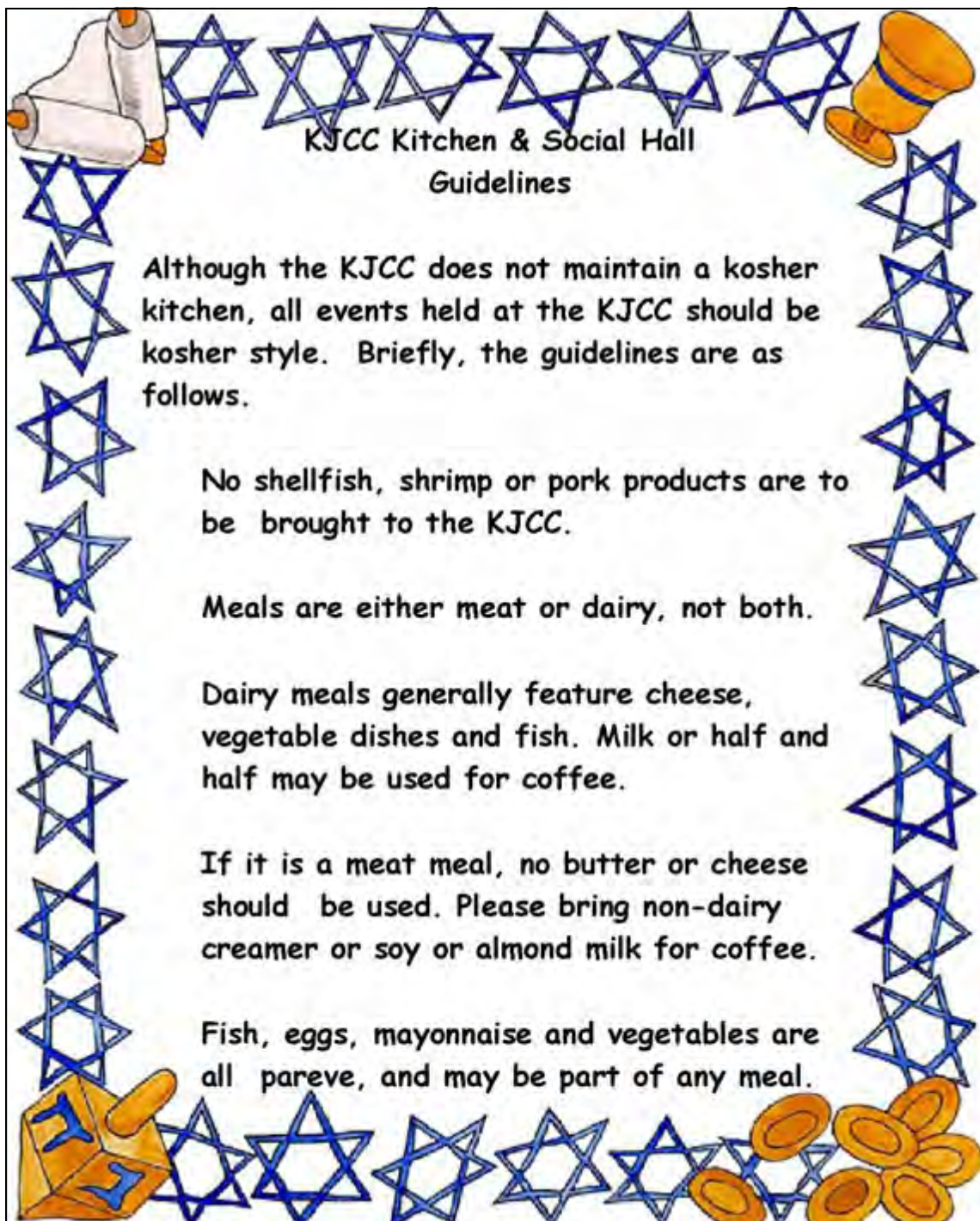
We have some volunteer opportunities for those of you who'd like to host, chair or sponsor either of the Onegs during the Holidays. Please contact me, Barbara, at 305-772-0503.

It's really hard to keep up with all the holidays going on in September. Sukkot will be celebrated during our Friday night service on September 20th in our gazebo, and will then be concluded inside our social hall with an Oneg. We are hoping to get a good majority of our Onegs sponsored this year, so we would appreciate anyone who is having an event (or wants to make one up) contact us as soon as possible.

I'm happy to announce that I have been checking into two Actors Playhouse events for the year. I checked with several of the people who normally attend these events and found thirteen already interested. When I purchase these tickets, to get a discount for excellent seating in the main theater, discounts are given for groups of fifteen or more. The two shows of interest are: "End of the Rainbow," which runs January 15th thru February 9th, 2014 and "Monty Python's Spamlot," running March 5th thru March 30th, 2014. I will be picking out the dates so as not to interfere with anything else that's going on.

I'd like to extend to everyone at the KJCC (*mishpocha*) wishes for a healthy, happy, prosperous and sweet New Year! As a reminder, all Sisterhood meetings take place the first Sunday of every month in the social hall at 9:30 a.m. and I look forward to seeing everyone there. I also can't wait to welcome back our snowbirds and catch up with them.

Here's hoping you make September a "Great Month." ♦



KJCC Kitchen & Social Hall Guidelines

Although the KJCC does not maintain a kosher kitchen, all events held at the KJCC should be kosher style. Briefly, the guidelines are as follows.

No shellfish, shrimp or pork products are to be brought to the KJCC.

Meals are either meat or dairy, not both.

Dairy meals generally feature cheese, vegetable dishes and fish. Milk or half and half may be used for coffee.

If it is a meat meal, no butter or cheese should be used. Please bring non-dairy creamer or soy or almond milk for coffee.

Fish, eggs, mayonnaise and vegetables are all pareve, and may be part of any meal.

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

Roller, Pauline Steve & Carol Steinbock's 30th anniversary
Plutzer, Arthur Pauline Roller's 98th birthday
Smith, Steve & Barbara Pauline Roller's 98th birthday
Swartz, George & Muriel (2) David & Toby Goldfinger

Bookplates

Smith, Steve & Barbara Rene Rose
Smith, Steve & Barbara Joseph Goldberg
Smith, Steve & Barbara Jerry Oshinsky
Smith, Steve & Barbara Jim Boruszak
Smith, Steve & Barbara Kurt Kluger
Smith, Steve & Barbara Bill Kwalick
Smith, Steve & Barbara Marty Graham
Smith, Steve & Barbara Louis & Selma Smith
Smith, Steve & Barbara Irving & Daisy H Smith
Smith, Steve & Barbara Al Roller

Chai-Lights

Graham, Bea
Kwalick, Teresa
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Sheinker, Miltra
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna
Yankow, Sandy & Nancy

General Fund

Avner, Gloria
Cole, Ronald
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Jacobson, Melvin
Levine, Sylvia Safe journey to Rabbi & Mindy Agler
to honor Talia's memory

Margulies, Stanley & Jenny
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Rose, Frank
Sarbo, Paul
Stein, Ira & Shirley
VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
Vaselich, Felicie
Wretzky, Gerald

Scholarship Fund

VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
Kluger, Nancy

In Honor of

In Memory of

Rene Rose
Joseph Goldberg
Jerry Oshinsky
Jim Boruszak
Kurt Kluger
Bill Kwalick
Marty Graham
Louis & Selma Smith
Irving & Daisy H Smith
Al Roller

General Fund

Avner, Gloria
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Funtall, Manuel & Joyce
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Kamely, Yardena
Peckman, Joyce
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda

Holocaust Education Center

Stein, Ira & Shirley
Swartz, George & Muriel

Meditation Garden

Avner, Gloria in gratitude for Steve's garden work
Graham, Bea Steve & Carol Steinbock's 30th anniversary

Meditation Garden

Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Coltman, Barney
Friedman, Harry
Kwalick, Teresa
Roy, Medina
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinbock, Steve & Carol

In Memory of

Bob Freundlich
Robert Davidson
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Joe Goldberg
Bob Freundlich
Bob Freundlich
Bernard Solas
Paul Soule

In Honor of

in gratitude for Steve's garden work
Steve & Carol Steinbock's 30th anniversary

In Memory of

brick - Rene Rose
brick - Louis R. Coltman
tree - Rene Rose
brick - Esther & Irwin "Babe" Kwalick
Rene Rose
Jan Finer
brick - Rene Rose
Howard Shutan
Bob Freundlich
Rose Wainer
Wally Steinberg
Sam Wainer
Erwin Wainer
Meyer Cohen
Samuel Wainer
Molly Z. Cohen
brick - Rene Rose

Contributions (Continued)

Sisterhood General Fund

Rose, Skip
Yankow, Sandy & Nancy

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Hartz, Steve & Jan
Hernstadt, Roger & Jessica

Rabbi and Cantor Fund

Avner, Gloria
Blumenfeld, Marvin & Ivy
Coltman, Barney
Dorf, Barry & Natalie
Gould, Maryon
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra
Kasinof, Steve & Amelia
Knowles, Richard & Barbara
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia

Sunshine Fund

Anonymous
Conklin, Rita & Wes
Cooper, Claire
Gould, Maryon
Hawkins, Frank & Inge
Johnson, Pamela
Kwalick, Teresa
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Schur, Lee
Singer, Mary Lee
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Swartz, George & Muriel

Tree of Life Leaves

Wruble, Lloyd & Rae Weiss Wruble
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

Tree of Life Leaves

Berger, Carol
Biskar, Rosie
Boruszak, Joan
Conklin, Rita & Wes
Dillon, Leslie
Gould, Maryon
Kluger, Nancy

In Memory of

Rene Rose

anniversary
Aidan's birthday

In Memory of

Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose

In Honor of

L'Chaim
Arthur Lee & Johanna's
wedding 12/11/65

In Memory of

Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose

Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Rose, Frank
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Silverman, Morton & Gene
Singer, Mary Lee

Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose

Tree of Life Rock

VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia

In Honor of

The Jacobs/VanArtsdalen
Family

Yahrzeits

Cooper, Claire
Gould, Maryon
Gould, Maryon
Graham, Bea
Gross, Mollie
Grossman, Stuart
Horn, Ron & Dorothy
Horn, Ron & Dorothy
Incociati, Estelle
Kantor, Erwin
Kaplan, Frank
Kluger, Nancy
Kwalick, Teresa
Kwalick, Teresa
Kwalick, Teresa
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Marmar, David & Pamela
Riley, Michelle
Roy, Medina
Rubin, Mike & Myrna
Schmidt, Judith
Tallent, Lillian
Tallent, Lillian
Taramona, Hermine
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

In Memory of

Murray Cooper, Mark Sands
Sam Schneider
Jeannette Gould, Max Gould, Richard Gould
Saul Elson
Emanuel Gross
Margaux Renee Grossman
Anna Horn, Samuel Horn
Ida Ratchik, Jacob Ratchik
Dorothy & Louis Biderman
Rose Kantor
Abraham Kaplan, Arthur Kaplan
Otto Kluger
Esther Kwalick
Enrique Astray-Caneda
Irwin Kwalick
William & Florence Kerman
Dorothy Marmar
Paula Travers
Leon Kirschenbaum
Mae Rubin Rear
Aaron Schmidt
Ida Estrin
Ralph Tallent
Robert Robinson
Rose Fine
Frieda Feinberg

Yahrzeit Plaques

Rose, Frank
Zwerdling, Sherry
Isenberg, Patricia

In Memory of

Rene Rose
Jerry Oshinsky
Henry W. Isenberg

Contributions (Continued)

Yizkor Book

Agler, Richard & Mindy
Avner, Gloria
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark
Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Blumenfeld, Marvin & Ivy
Boruszak, Joan
Coltman, Barney
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Emkey, Gerri
Feinberg, Arthur
Field, Carol
Garrettson, Marsha
Goldfinger, David & Toby
Gordon, Susan
Gould, Maryon
Graham, Bea
Grossman, Stuart
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Hernstadt, Roger & Jessica
Incociati, Estelle
Isenberg, Patricia
Jacobson, Melvin
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

Yizkor Book (cont.)

Kluger, Nancy
Knowles, Richard & Barbara
Krissel, Michael
Kwalick, Teresa
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Marmar, David & Pamela
Olsen, Gerald & Sheila
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Riley, Michelle
Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Schur, Lee
Sheinker, Miltra
Swartz, George & Muriel
Tallent, Lillian
Temkin, Robert
VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
Weber, Judith
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy
Yankow, Sandy & Nancy

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, eight-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$75 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. Examples: "In Honor of My Wonderful Zayde," or "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. No one ever made tastier blintzes."

S'lichot

Saturday, August 31, 2013
6:00 pm Pizza and Movie in Social Hall
8 pm S'lichot Service



***SLICHOT SERVICES, LED BY STUART AND LAUREN SAX, WILL BE
HELD IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWING THE MOVIE.***

Movie: It Is No Dream:

The Life of Theodor Herzl

Theodor Hertzl has been called "The Dreamer who became the Father of a Nation." The documentary is narrated by Sir Ben Kingsley and Christoph Waltz and examines how Herzl, a well-known journalist and playwright, took upon himself the task of attempting to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Not to be missed.

If you wish to bring your own beach chairs for extra comfort,
please feel free to do so.

**RSVP TO LAUREN @
MRSDIRTDEVIL@AOL.COM**



**THE EVENING IS
SPONSORED BY STUART &
LAUREN SAX. COME AND
ENJOY!**

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Hasidic Stories (Part I)

Hasidism always interested me when I was searching for themes and subjects for teaching Judaic studies. The Hasidic stories were motivating and attractive for the students as well as for the teachers; studying and teaching Judaism was easier through those stories. A good source to read and learn about the Hasidic movement and Hasidic stories is the book "Chosen Tales," edited by Peninnah Schram.

We learn that the Hasidic movement was a response to a crisis of despair among the Jews of eighteenth-century Eastern Europe. In their everyday life, Jews suffered from poverty, increasing restrictions and harassment from the world surrounding them. In the spiritual world, the only accepted way to be close to God was to spend long years studying God's law. But the poorer the Jews became, very few could devote themselves to a scholarly life, let alone go to a Yeshiva.

At times life was so difficult that they lost all hope of a better life in either world, physical or spiritual. According to Judaism, one should never lose hope; having hope is a *mitzvah* (commandment). And so, the Hasidic movement gave an answer: the way to be close to God was to be filled with God's spirit, the spirit of joy. Music and dance were expressions of joy and ways to nurture joy. And stories were a way to teach Judaism, to teach the Jewish way of life, and a way that did not just bring a theory to the educated, but that brought the experience of full everyday Jewishness to all.

As the movement matured, stories of earlier holy men, "Tzaddiks" or *Tzaddikim* (the plural in Hebrew), were told to "perpetuate

the experience of their teaching and their way of being human." Some of the stories, (like Christian saints' legends), tell about the Tzaddiks' abilities to see far, travel around and connect to the people of troubled communities, read minds, and produce miracles. Other stories repeat a Tzaddik's interpretation of a Biblical or Talmudic text. Still other Hasidic tales resemble the tales of the Zen masters. According to one scholar, "they describe--without recourse to the supernatural--the ways that a Tzaddik could surprise an unbeliever or misguided disciple into contact with his own deepest self."

A deeper study of the many Hasidic stories reveals that it was the influence of these stories, and not Hasidic philosophy, that attracted masses of Jews to join the Hasidic movement. Yitzhak Buxbaum, a *maggid* (Jewish religious storyteller), comments that Jews have always told religious stories, "but only Hasidism vigorously *encouraged* storytelling, moving it from the periphery to the center of Judaism. *Rebbes* praised [storytelling] as a *mitzvah* and a spiritual practice; they reflected on it deeply and taught about its significance." Not only did *Rebbes* often tell stories, they instructed their Hasidim to do likewise. So telling and listening to tales became popular as never before and the simple person, the Hasid, loved to hear and to retell Hasidic stories.

According to Hasidic teaching, storytelling is a holy activity equal to Torah study or prayer. The *Baal Shem Tov*, himself a master storyteller, said: "Telling stories praising the *Tzaddikim* is equivalent to *Maaseh Merkavah*, the mystic study of the Divine Chariot." The

Maggid of Mezritch, his successor as leader of the Hasidic movement, added that praising the *Tzaddikim* by storytelling is equivalent to praising God.

Hasidic storytelling is not only about *Tzaddikim*; there are also many inspiring tales about the noble deeds of common people. The famous Hasidic leader, the Seer of Lublin, told how he once passed by a synagogue from which shone a supernal light. He thought, "Certainly, there are great scholars inside, studying the Torah in holiness." But when he entered, he saw two ordinary Hasidim, not studying Torah but sitting and conversing. He asked them, "Friends, what are you talking about?" The Hasidim answered, "We are telling stories about the deeds of the *Tzaddikim*." When he heard that, the Seer was very moved, for he realized that their storytelling produced the same divine light and illumination as does Torah study.

Another Hasidic Rebbe, Rabbi Israel of Rizhin, regarded storytelling so highly that he sometimes told tales before the morning prayers, as a preparation and inspiration for praying. His involvement was so intense, however, that he could get carried away. One morning, surrounded by his followers, he began telling stories of the *Tzaddikim* with such enthusiasm that he lost all track of time; he went on for so long that the hour of prayer passed. He suddenly stopped in the middle and said: "The time for prayer has already passed and I didn't pray. But, essentially, what is the difference between telling stories about *Tzaddikim* and praying? Prayer is in the category of 'Praise the Lord!' while telling stories is in the category, 'Praise the servants of the Lord!' In the Book of Psalms, King David sometimes puts 'Praise the Lord!' before 'Praise the servants of the Lord!' but other times he puts them in the reverse order, indicating that they are equal. This teaches us," concluded the Rebbe, "that telling tales of the *Tzaddikim* is the same as praying."

The first of the Hasidic storytellers was Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer, the *Baal Shem Tov* - the founder of Hasidism. He was both the philosopher and the leader of the movement

and a *baal shem* (wonder-worker). "As a *baal shem*, his livelihood came from the blessings he gave to those seeking his help in matters of health, offspring, and livelihood. These blessings were generally connected with the giving of an amulet written by a special scribe employed by the Baal Shem Tov for this purpose. Obviously, many Hasidic stories relate the successes of the Baal Shem Tov and of other *Tzaddikim* in these realms." (Gedalyah Nigal, "Magic, Mysticism, and Hasidism.")

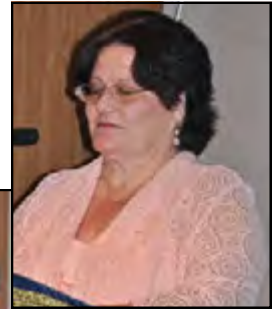
Hasidic stories are healing stories. From the beginning of Hasidism, stories have been the way to pass on the spiritual and emotional teachings of the movement's masters. As a result, the power of Hasidic stories has been in their healing effect on the listener *and* the teller. Another storyteller, Doug Lipman, writes: "These stories give the teller a chance to wrestle with unhealed emotional hurt...the process of learning, adapting, and telling a story can put me into an even more active relationship with its images. Telling is a dynamic event that molds the story while transforming the teller." Adds Yitzhak Buxbaum, Hasidic stories are "stories for inspiration. Hasidim praised and promoted storytelling because they appreciated its inspirational power. A person hearing a religious teaching may be impressed by its truth, but a tale about someone actually fulfilling the teaching can motivate the listener to action. That, say the Hasidim, is why the Torah itself is full of stories." A contemporary Hasidic storyteller, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, has said: "Stories are so real. Imagine that the Torah quoted all of our father Abraham's teachings and told us nothing about him. We wouldn't remain as his children today! We need to hear that there was a Jew, Abraham, who actually opened his door to the poor. It's making it real. A story is the most real thing in the world." The teachings explain what to do; the stories show that someone actually did it.

In "Hasidic Stories" part II, I will continue to bring more stories from the treasury of Hasidic literature. Maybe I'll find some that can give us lessons for our contemporary lives. ◇

— *Shana Tova U'metuka* —

Remembering Rene

June 2nd saw a full house at KJCC, when those who loved Rene Rose gathered to say a public goodbye and celebrate the fact that she'd been part of their lives. Skip told stories, many of them funny, about their courtship and early marriage. (How many of you knew that in the early 50s Rene had gone to New York to attend flight-attendant school? Or that she once chased down and cornered a purse-snatcher?) Daughter Della (top right) spoke, as did several others. The tree you see below right is a Mahogany, donated to the KJCC Garden as a living memorial to Rene by Harry Friedman on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.



We cordially invite you to our

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

on Wednesday, September 4th at 5:00 pm before evening service. We will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of soup, brisket, chicken, kasha and tzimmes, 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 August 27th 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.



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A “Mossad Spy” is Set Free

Paranoia over Israeli spy tactics reached new heights at the end of July, when Turkish authorities “arrested” a kestrel, believing it to be part of an elaborate Israeli surveillance operation. The bird was found in a village in eastern Turkey. It was wearing a metallic ring stamped with the words “24311 Tel Avivunia Israel.” Villagers turned the bird over to authorities, believing that it was on a spying mission for the Jewish state. Intensive medical examinations, which included X-rays, indicated that there were no microchips or anything else embedded in the bird that might transmit information back to Israel. The wording on the metal band turned out to be merely a tag used to track migratory patterns. The incident was the latest in a long line of animal spy accusations leveled against Israel. In 2010, an Egyptian official claimed that shark attacks in the Red Sea were an Israeli plot. And the most ridiculous of all? Iranian military intelligence detained fourteen snails, suspecting them of spying. (By the way, the kestrel was set free.) (www.thejc.com, 7-31-13)

A “Must-See” in Israel

TripAdvisor, the popular travel website, has ranked *Yad Vashem* number four on its list of top museums in the world. Israel’s Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem was also awarded the website’s 2013 Certificate of Excellence, an award given to places that consistently receive outstanding traveler reviews. *Yad Vashem* is listed as first among 146 recommended sites to visit in Jerusalem and has been described as a “must-see” for any traveler to Israel. Approximately one million people visit the museum annually. (www.jta.org, 7-14-13)

“The Search Engine for Video”

BriefCam, an Israeli high-tech company with an office in Boston, was instrumental in helping to identify the Boston Marathon bombers. The company calls itself the “search engine for video” and specializes in “compressing video that speeds up the investigation process from one hour of viewing time to one minute.” The video technology zeros in on suspicious movement and instantaneously edits out extraneous footage. This technology helped to quickly solve the crime. A *BriefCam* spokesman said, “If you have ten hours to investigate on a specific camera, the software will take it to a ten-minute clip.” *BriefCam*’s clients include United States security forces, China, and many police agencies around the world.

(*World Jewry Digest*, June/July 2013)

“Entebbe 2”

A recent report has revealed that in 2008, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) was preparing for one of its boldest operations in recent memory: to go into Gaza and kidnap Ahmed al-Jabari, Hamas’ military commander, and hold him captive in exchange for Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier who was held by Hamas from mid-2006 to late 2011. According to the report, soldiers were trained and were ready and waiting for al-Jabari. IDF intelligence had pinpointed a moment when the Hamas chief could be snatched. “The odds that he would have been taken alive were high,” IDF sources were quoted as saying. “We had the right equipment to ensure that he would have survived the ambush.” But as IDF commandos waited alongside the Gaza highway, they suddenly received orders to return to Israel. For some reason, al-Jabari’s driver used a different road. Had the mission succeeded, it

might have been dubbed “Entebbe 2,” a reference to the June 1976 raid into Uganda by Israeli commandos. At that time, terrorists had hijacked an Air France Airbus, releasing all passengers except for Jews or Israelis. The commandos ended up rescuing over 100 hostages; their only loss was the older brother of current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (Following weeks of rocket attacks in 2012, the IDF assassinated al-Jabari with a targeted strike on his car. Shalit was later released in exchange for over 1,000 terrorists who had been in Israeli prison.) (www.israelnationalnews.com, 7-25-13)

It Was Hidden in the Library

The world’s oldest complete Torah has been found in an Italian university. For over 100 years, the manuscript had been stored in the library of the University of Bologna. It could be well over 800 years old. When last examined, by an academic in 1889, it had been mistakenly labeled it as a 17th century manuscript. Professor Mauro Perani, who teaches Hebrew studies at the university, studied it and recognized the script as ancient Babylonian, making Perani suspect that the scroll was older. As a result of carbon dating in Italy and the U.S., the scroll has been determined to date from somewhere between the years 1155 and 1225, making it the oldest written example of the entire five books of the Torah. It is believed that the text is being transferred to a digital format. The oldest complete version of the Torah before this one had dated from the late 13th century, approximately a hundred years later. (www.thejc.com, 5-29-13)

Tikkun Olam, Massachusetts Style

It’s still fifteen months away, but so far, four of the declared candidates for the Massachusetts governor’s race are Jewish and all are talking about the religious imperative of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). They are: Steve Grossman, the state treasurer and a past chairman of the Democratic National Committee who also served as chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) from 1992 to 1997; Dan Wolf, co-

founder of Cape Air, an airline based on Cape Cod, a Democratic state senator; Evan Falchuk, an executive at a health care company, running as a member of a new third party, United Independent (whose mother, Nancy, is a former president of Hadassah); and Dan Berwick, (also a Democrat) a former administrator of the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Massachusetts has never had a Jewish governor. According to American Jewish Yearbook statistics, the state’s Jewish population is 277,000, or four percent – more than twice the national rate. Current Governor Deval Patrick is not seeking re-election. (www.jta.org, 7-30-13)

“Kids Aliya”

Nefesh B’Nefesh, the North American *aliyah* organization, broke all records in late July with an historic “children’s aliyah flight” that carried 106 children, in 41 families, to begin new lives in Israel. The total number of new *olim* (Jews arriving in Israel to settle) on the flight was 231 from North America. The flight was a first-ever “children’s flight” organized by *Nefesh B’Nefesh* along with the Jewish National Fund (JNF). *Nefesh B’Nefesh* expects 989 children to make *aliyah* on its flights in 2013. This is a 20 percent rise compared to 2012, in which 822 children made *aliyah*. Said a spokesman: “These children are the future of the state of Israel and they cause us great excitement in making *aliyah*.” Among the VIPs who greeted the flight was Dov Lipman, a member of Israel’s Knesset, who made *aliyah* on a *Nefesh B’Nefesh* flight in 2004. As a show of solidarity, former abducted IDF soldier Gilad Shalit was on board the El Al flight. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 7-21-13)

Evelyn Kozak

The world’s oldest documented Jewish person (and the world’s seventh-oldest person), Evelyn Kozak, whose family had fled Russia to escape anti-Semitism in the 1880s, died in June at the age of 113. Her story has been validated by Robert Young, a senior database administrator at the Los Angeles-

based Gerontology Research Group, an organization of physicians, scientists and engineers who validate supercentenarians, people 100 or older. Kozak was born on Manhattan's Lower East Side, one of nine children. Although she had no formal religious education, she kept kosher and was a Sabbath observer. An ardent Zionist, Kozak was married twice but had been a widow since 1957. She had five children, 10 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. (In case you are wondering, the world's oldest known person, Misao Okawa of Japan, is 115.) (www.huffingtonpost.com, 6-13-13)

The Little Prince's Jewish Connection

Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, gave birth recently to little Prince George in a Jewish-funded wing of St. Mary's Hospital in London. The Lindo Wing is named after Frank Charles Lindo, a wealthy Jew born in 1872. Lindo married Violet Portman (no mention of her heritage, but her name also sounds vaguely Jewish, no?), a woman from a British aristocratic family and a member of the board of management at St. Mary's. Lindo died in 1938, and by that time he had already donated a large sum to the hospital so that it could be debt-free. The hospital during that period was meant for "patients of moderate means" who could not afford private care but were too well-off to be treated in a charity hospital for the "deserving poor." (www.jta.org, 7-22-13)

In Memoriam

· Baruch Spiegel, one of the few remaining survivors of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has died. He was 93. Spiegel was one of about 750 Jewish fighters who launched an armed rebellion that took the Germans by surprise. The fighters were outnumbered and outgunned and never really had much of a chance, but they still managed to hold out for a month. The German revenge was brutal, burning down the ghetto building by building. A few dozen of the Jewish fighters survived by escaping through underground sewage canals. Spiegel and his future wife were among them. After surviving the ghetto upris-

ing, they joined the Polish partisans and took part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, a larger city-wide revolt against the occupying Germans. (*Associated Press*, 5-21-13)

· Alvin Schiff, a pioneer in Jewish education and a prolific author, has died. He was in his mid-80s. Schiff authored more than a dozen books, as well as several hundred articles and research papers on the status of Jewish education. He was the founder of "March of the Living," the two-week journey where teens from around the world gather each year in Poland to remember the Holocaust. The program commemorates *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Memorial Day, with the young people marching from Auschwitz to Birkenau. The group then travels to Israel and celebrates *Yom HaAtzmaut*, Israeli Independence Day, in the streets of Jerusalem. Schiff was also the founder of the New York Parade for Israel, now known as "Celebrate Israel." In 1959, he established and directed the Graduate School of Jewish Education at Yeshiva University, later renamed the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Schiff is recognized for his global dedication to Jewish education. In 2005, he was awarded the President's Prize in Jewish education in Israel. He was the executive vice president of the Board of Jewish Education for 25 years. (www.jta.org, 7-8-13)

· Oscar "Ossie" Schectman, the first to score a basket in the Basketball Association of America (which became the National Basketball Association three years later), has died at the age of 94. Schectman, a New York native, played for the Knicks, his hometown team. On November 1st, 1946, the Knicks were playing the Toronto Huskies in the inaugural game of the B.A.A., when Schectman scored the game's first two points (most likely via a two-hand set shot; the jump shot didn't become popular until much later). He was inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1998. One of five children of Jewish immigrants from Russia, Schectman was the subject of "The First Basket," a 2008 documentary which chronicled the Jewish roots of basketball in the first half of the 20th century. (www.nytimes.com, 7-31-13) ♦

L'Shana Tovah for 5774

As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah 5774, we of KJCC are a far-flung group: Maine to New York to New Jersey to Texas to the Carolinas to Georgia to Ohio to Pennsylvania to Illinois to Maryland to Massachusetts to Rhode Island and Canada and many cities and towns across Florida. As Jews have for millennia, we reach out to offer each other wishes for L'Shana Tovah, a good year.

<p>To All of Our KJCC friends, A Healthy and Happy New Year. Joel & Linda Pollack</p>	<p>Peace and Health to All. Steve & Carol Steinbock</p>	<p>L'Shana Tova To Our Family. May We All See a Healthy New Year. David & Gloria</p>	<p>To My Dear KJCC Family: Miss You. L'Shana Tovah Love, Joan Boruszak</p>
<p>A Healthy and Happy Year Ahead to Our KJCC Family. Lots of Love, Stu & Lauren</p>	<p>To Our KJCC Mishpocha, Shana Tovah. Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Family.</p>	<p>L'Shana Tovah. I am Blessed To Have Such A Wonderful KJCC Family! Susan Gordon</p>	<p>L'Shana Tovah To Our KJCC Family from Mindy & Rich Aglar</p>
<p>To All at KJCC, Wishing You a Healthy & Happy New Year. See You in the Winter. Linda Pincus</p>	<p>Best Wishes For Health and Happiness Always. Alan & Susan Cooper</p>	<p>May We All Enjoy Good Health And Happiness. The Wrubles</p>	<p>Ahappyhealthy Prosperousnew Year. Arthur& JohannaWillner. L'ShanaTovah</p>
<p>I Pray that All Of KJCC has A Blessed and Healthy New Year. Bernie Ginsberg</p>	<p>From the KJCC Board: May You Be Inscribed in "The Book" and in our books for 5774 and beyond.</p>	<p>Best Wishes To the KJCC For a New Year. Delores Begam</p>	<p>Happy New Year 5774. Miltra Sheinker</p>

Photo Gallery

KJCC members are deeply involved in many Keys activities. The photo at right is the newly installed Board of Voices for Florida Keys Children, including Corresponding Secretary Maryon Gould, Recording Secretary Mary Lee Singer, and board members Rita Conklin and Elaine Schulberg.



On June 7, Steve and Carol Steinbock celebrated their 30th anniversary by renewing their

vows outside in KJCC's Garden, in the Beth/Stanlake gazebo. Joel Pollack was asked to officiate, which he did. No rabbi could have done a better or more heartfelt job.



Photos of Steve and Carol's re-nuptials by Richard Knowles.

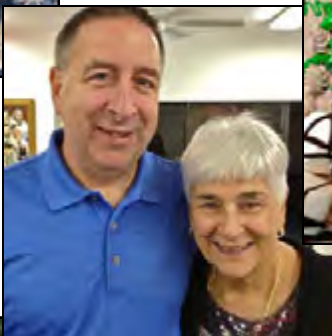


No one threw rice (hey, it makes a real mess), but a rollicking good time was had by all. Then we all went inside and, well, ate.





The top four photos were taken at the oneg on Friday, June 14th at Joan Boruszak's last service as a full-time Keys resident, shortly before her move to Texas. Sisterhood made sure there was a cake or two. That's son Bruce with Joan in the photo just below.



Joan Boruszak photos by Richard Knowles, David Gitin and Marc Bloom.



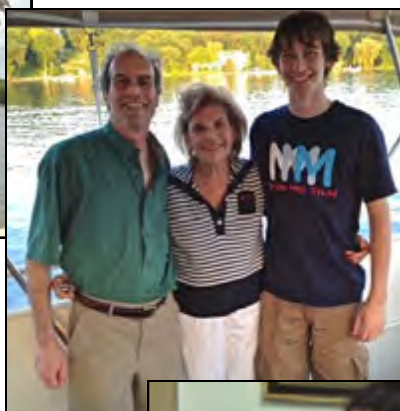
There's always work to do to fulfill Steve Steinbock's vision of what the KJCC Garden should continue to become. On June 29th, a motley crew of volunteers including Bernie Ginsberg, Steve and Jane Friedman, Yardena Kamely, Sam Vinicur and Skip Rose gathered to help



Steve with some heavy work — digging out and creating a form for the fountain's concrete base, and digging out a bed for decorative brick along the pathway. Come and see the results for yourself.



It was a full and rich summer for those connected to KJCC, whether here in the Keys or wherever our wandering feet took us. (They did name a plant after us, you know.) Below left, Roy Pollack holds up a Sheepshead (it isn't, apparently, just a bay off Brooklyn) he caught on Dickinson Bayou, a river in southeast Texas. Just below, Lee Schur stands with son John and grandson Reid on Minnesota's Lake Minnetonka in June.



Above, Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman, back from Israel and about to depart for parts north, mug with our amazing matriarch Pauline Roller at the annual KJCC Shabba-be-que and celebration of Pauline's birthday (98 this year) on June 5th. (Photo by David Gitin.)



In the photo above, Bea Graham sits with granddaughter Liati's newborn daughter Savyon. Joyce, who summers nearby in New Jersey, stopped by for the nachas. The photo at right has a Joyce connection too, but more directly. That's her granddaughter Libby ("my heart" in Hebrew) making challah along with mom Rebecca Peckman.



All the Blooms, including newbie Madison Rose, were at the August 2nd one, so grandpa Marc snapped this shot with Pauline.



Keys Jewish Community Center

Yom Kippur
Break Fast

Saturday, September 14, 2013

Dairy Dinner

after the final service

Volunteer Opportunity

for cooks and bakers. Please bring your food already prepared, cut up and plated with your name on the serving dish. We also need people to help set up the room on Friday morning.

Contact Chairpersons:

Lauren Sax 305-753-7623

Kathy Shabathai

kathyshabathai@hotmail.com

High Holy Days 5774

So another year has passed, and another one begins. Rosh Hashanah is always the same on the Jewish calendar, but comes early this year on the secular calendar. There's a lot to tell you about. We think you're going to love the experience that awaits you. Which is why Gloria, our Ritual Chair, goes first.

by Gloria Avner

Welcome to a year of “firsts” for our KJCC “*mishpocha*.” This will be President Bernard Ginsberg’s first High Holiday Services, and he approaches these “*Yamim Noraim*,” the Ten Days of Awe, with energetic enthusiasm and a strong desire that all of us, from our youngest child (Shalom, Shayna) to our most revered elders (Bless you, Pauline) have an enriched spiritual experience. Now we come to our second first. Ushering in 5774, we have a new, but not unknown, leader at our helm. Enter Rabbi Richard Agler.

Many of us have sat with Rabbi Agler at Saturday morning services this past year, studying Torah, informally engaging in discussion and exploration of historical Biblical texts with contemporary significance. We have begun services with silent meditation, sung *niggunim* (the old mystical melodies without words), and participated in group *aliyot*. Those who have shared these experiences have been enriched by them. Those fortunate enough to have been guided through Israel three months ago by this articulate, passionate, sensitive scholar know that these coming ten days will be unique under his leadership. It is with great pleasure and anticipation that your Board of Directors and Ritual Committee introduce Rabbi Agler

to our High Holy Days congregation. Let’s make the most of this opportunity. May all of us take part in the uplifting experience some of us have sampled on Shabbat mornings.

Along with the new, we will honor the old, our synagogue’s “*minchagim hamakom*,” the longstanding traditions we hold dear in this place. We will continue to observe *musaf*, the short but meaningful afternoon service, but we’ll provide a break for those who wish to leave after attending only the morning *shacharit* service.

Rabbi Agler will be joined on the *bimah* by Cantor Mark Halpern, who has led us in chant for fifteen seasons and promises excellent preparedness for a 16th. Once again, Cantor Mark will preside at a moving “*tashlich*” ceremony at the edge of the ocean. We will cast away our sins (in the form of bread) into the water, and sing songs of joyous release. Because of this year’s calendar, we will also have two extra ceremonies led by the Cantor: *Shabbat*

Tshuvah on the Saturday morning after *Rosh Hashanah* Day Two, plus a short, sweet *Havdalah* service that same evening, to be held under the stars on the beach at Ocean Pointe.

We will begin the most sacred ten days in our calendar with a joyous extended family



Rosh HaShanah feast and end with *Yom Kippur*, a somber day of fasting. On this last, most meaningful day, join in one more new event – a “Fast” Food Collection. Bring a shopping bag of canned food to the synagogue on Yom Kippur morning. We will heed the words of Isaiah, 58:6-11. “Is not this the fast I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free . . . ? Is it not to deal your bread to the hungry . . . ? Then shall your light break forth as the morning . . . and you shall be like a watered garden . . .”

Know that your contributions will be delivered to Burton Memorial Food Bank the next morning. Our Days of Awe actions will bring sustenance to others as well as ourselves. May we all be written and sealed in the Book of Life for a good and healthy year. ◇

Understanding the Days of Awe

by Rabbi Richard D. Agler, DD

The High Holydays are known in Hebrew as the *Yamim Noraim* – the Days of Awe. It is an apt description. Because this is a season that has the power to move us to the point of Awe, and beyond.

The High Holydays address core issues of humanity and spirituality. They ask existential questions. What are we doing with our lives? How can we bring greater honor to our selves, our families, our people and our God? How are we measuring up to our ideals – and, for that matter, how clear are we on what those ideals are? These are nothing if not awe-some and awe-full questions.

We may be tempted to push such questions aside. After all, it is far less disturbing to avoid them than to engage them. But the synagogue does not give us that option. If we are going to be present, we are going to be challenged. And our response to the challenge determines in no small measure the kind of people we will become in the year ahead.

As we know, our culture has been changing dramatically and rapidly, primarily

through technology. This has made the challenge of the High Holydays even greater. We have immediate access to an unlimited feast of people, places and ideas. We can communicate instantly across the globe. We can hold the equivalent of the Library of Alexandria and more – great art, literature and music – in the palm of our hand. All of this may persuade us that we have achieved fulfillment. At the same time, it may distract us enough to ignore greater issues altogether. After all, why should we do the hard work of refining our characters and improving the world when so much that amuses us is right at hand?

The answer, of course, is that such a life is not a complete one. The Greek philosopher Socrates said that the unexamined life was not worth living.

For Jews, the unconsecrated life is not worth living, either. During the Days of Awe we ask questions such as, “Have I been dedicated to any higher purpose, one beyond my self?” “How can my interpersonal relationships be more holy and less transactional?” “Has the world has been made better, even infinitesimally, by my being in it — this year or over the years?” And no matter what the answers to those questions are, the next one is always, “Can I be something more than I have been in the new year now beginning?”

We know that for all of our advances, we are not necessarily better human beings than we were a decade, a generation, a century, or even a millennium ago. Our world is still darkened by violence and corruption, oppression and injustice, preventable disease and starvation. At the same time, we have the power to overcome these ills, individually and collectively. The High Holydays place the

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all ills,
individually
and
collectively.***

challenge squarely before us.

As the Jewish calendar starts anew, each of us is a year older and a year closer to our own life's completion and conclusion. The *Yamim Noraim* confront us with this truth and help us realize that among the most fitting responses is a life of greater kindness, service and growth.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the most inward of our holy days, spiritual "me" time if you will. They have an awesome power to transform us, redirect us and elevate us. I pray we – all of us – make the most of them.

Mindy and our children join me in wishing all of our KJCC family a year of greater goodness – a true *shana tovah*. ♦

On The Meaning of *Hineini*

by Cantor Mark E. Halpern

This year our preview of the cantor's role in High Holy Day services will focus on the unique event preceding Yom Kippur's *Musaf Amidah*. (The *Musaf Amidah*, by the way, itself has a special status. It is not an everyday part of all services. It's an additional service recited on Shabbat, any *Yom Tov* and on the new moon of *Rosh Chodesh*. It contains nine blessings that refer to Kingship, remembrance and the Shofar blessings and is recited during the final part of the morning service.) Just before we start the *Musaf Amidah* – the *Chazzan* prepares to come down the aisle, slowly, chanting a prayer that begins with the word *Hineini*. It is really a private meditation the *Chazzan* says out loud to prepare himself for his awesome task: *Hineini he-anni mi-ma'as, nir'ash v'nif'chad mi-pachad*... "Here I am! I stand here lacking in good deeds, agitated and frightened, in dread before God who sits in judgment. I have come to stand and to plead before You on behalf of Your people, Israel, who have ap-

pointed me as their messenger – *even though* I am not worthy or qualified for the task." In this prayer the *Chazzan* is saying: "look, God, here I am...a flawed vessel...I'm totally unqualified and humbled to stand before you as a conduit for the prayers of my people...but I'm going to do it anyway...as flawed as I am, here I am. (*Hineini*.) I'm going to pray fervently to You on behalf of this congregation!"

Why come down the aisle in the sanctuary instead of chanting all of *Hineini* from the bima? It is intended to be a journey of utter hesitation and humility. By the end of the prayer, the *Chazzan* has reached the bima, now almost in tears after pouring out his soul to God in front of and literally among those who sent him as their stand-in.

That's the *yamim noraim* (the Ten Days of Penitence) in a nutshell...*Hineini*. Here we are, all of us, unprepared but willing. We stand before God as we are – the good and the bad – and God sees all of it. And we, too, are supposed to take a long, hard look at ourselves, not a pretend fantasy of ourselves as perfect people, but as truly and unabashedly who we are, yet *the best of who we are*. And that's where the opportunity lies. There's no clean slate, but there is the possibility of *teshuvah* – repentance. The *yamim noraim* are about looking boldly at ourselves and becoming more aware. And the paradox of saying *Hineini* is that being honest about our shortcomings actually allows us to discover our greatness. When we look deep within ourselves we find the spark of the Divine that is at our core. Too often we think the answers are out *there* somewhere, if only we could find them. The lesson of *Hineini* – of being fully present with ourselves – is that *we already have what we need to improve*.

Do you have a passion for social justice? Say *Hineini* – and join a Habitat for Humanity building crew. Do you love sports? Say *Hineini* – here I am to join the softball team. Do you enjoy parties? Say *Hineini* – and host a Shabbat

***There's no
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introduce yourself to others. Do you have a talent you love to share? Say *Hineini* and volunteer your skills.

It isn't about showing up in a building, and it isn't about filling seats, and it isn't about these (or any) walls. *Hineini* is about adding to the conversation. It's about presence. It's about looking deep within ourselves as a community and being the best of who we are – with all of our strengths and challenges – and saying “here I am” – *Hineini*.

May the coming year encourage us to greater introspection. May we find treasures waiting to be discovered. And may we all be willing to say: *Hineini*.

L'shanah tovah tikkateivu ve'tihateimu – May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good year. ◇

For many years, Chai-Lights has shared stories about the High Holidays. We like stories that take concepts, shed light, and make them warm, human, and specific. There is a theme that runs through centuries of stories about our people, our holidays, our faith. As individuals, we are all different. Levels of learning and observance vary widely. The stories tell us that being learned is not everything, and that it is the heart that matters most. An act of sincerity, born of total trust in our Creator, can tame dangerous seas and shower blessings on the believer. May we all, like Satya the fisherman, be worthy of being inscribed in the Book of Life forever.

-Gloria

Yom Kippur Miracle

*Adapted from a story by I. L. Peretz.
(Re-worked by Nina Jaffe and Gloria Avner)*

Long ago in a foreign land, there lived a Jewish man named Satya. Satya was a good fisherman, like his father and his grandfather before him. He lived with his family in a small hut close to the sea, and every day Satya would go out to fish in his little wooden boat. He knew the ins and outs

of tides, how to read the sky for weather, how to repair his boat, mend his nets, and

how to guide his boat at night by looking at the stars.

High Holiday Schedule 2013			
Saturday	August 31st	6:00 p.m.	Pizza/Movie/Slichot Service
Wednesday	September 4th	5:00 p.m.	Dinner
		8:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh HaShanah Service
		9:30 a.m.	Rosh HaShanah, Day 1. Shacharit (Morning Service)
Thursday	September 5th	Noon	Break after Shofar Sounding
		12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Musaf Service
		4:00 p.m.	Taschlich at Ocean Pointe
		9:30 a.m.	Rosh HaShanah, Day 2. Shacharit (Morning Service)
Friday	September 6th	Noon	Break after Shofar Sounding
		12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Musaf Service
		8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Saturday	September 7th	10:00 a.m.	Shabbat Tshuvah (led by Cantor Mark Halpern)
Friday	September 13th	7:45 p.m.	Havdalah at Ocean Pointe
		8:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Saturday	September 14th	9:30 a.m.	Yom Kippur Service
		11:30 a.m.	Yizkor and Children's Service
		12:15 p.m.	Break
		12:30 p.m.	Musaf
		2:30 p.m.	Informal “Fast Talk” with Rabbi Agler
		4:00 p.m.	Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler
		5:45 p.m.	Neillah (Story of Jonah), Maariv, Havdalah, Break The Fast
Sunday	September 15th	10:00 a.m.	Sukkah Decoration

When it came to fishing and the sea no one was as wise and experienced as Satya. But Satya knew little about the ways of his people. He didn't know how to sing blessings for the Sabbath or how to make a Seder, or even how to say the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. And yet, there was one tradition that Satya and his family observed every year without fail.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, Satya would take the biggest fish from his catch, cook it, and eat part of the fish before sundown. All that night and through the next day, Satya and his family would not eat or drink anything, not even water. Like all the other Jews in their village on this one day of the year, they would dress in white and go to the synagogue. Satya would sit and listen to the beautiful melodies of the Yom Kippur prayers. He was happy, even though he could not understand the words. At sundown, after the service was over, he and his family would return to their home. There they would break the fast and share the rest of the fish with their friends and neighbors. And so it went, always the same, year after year.

One year, everyone began to prepare for Yom Kippur as usual, but Satya had no fish in his nets. It was the day before the holiday, and he set out in his boat that afternoon. The sea was as calm as a sleeping baby, the sky as clear as crystal glass. Yet all his friends warned him, "Satya! Do not go out today! We're afraid the sea will become angry with a sudden storm!"

But Satya laughed and said, "Look at the ocean. There is not a ripple, and the sky is blue. Besides, I can handle my boat in any weather!"

And so he set off. Satya rowed for a long time. But he had no luck. Every time he hauled in his nets, they came up empty. Suddenly he saw before him a flash of light. It was a fish like none he'd ever seen – a golden fish, with scales that gleamed like the sun! Satya rowed faster and threw his net again, but the fish dove under the boat and escaped. Again, a little farther ahead, the fish dove through a wave and disappeared.

Satya chased the fish as it led him farther from shore. Without realizing it, he had rowed out of sight from land. Satya was tired, but he threw his nets one last time. It seemed he had finally caught the fish, but just then the sky began to fill with heavy rain clouds. The waves rose all around him and the wind blew hard and strong, whistling past his ears. It took all of his strength to keep his little boat afloat. Suddenly, Satya looked up and saw that behind the wind and clouds, the sun was setting on the horizon. "Yom Kippur is almost here," Satya thought to himself.

At that moment he threw down his oars, crossed his arms over his chest and shouted, "Come what may, I will not row on Yom Kippur!"

The waves lifted his little boat up like a matchbox and threw it down again. The wind whistled and shrieked, whipping the water into foam. Satya knew that his end might be near, but somehow he wasn't afraid. Instead he began to hum the melodies he had heard so often in his little synagogue.

Satya sang, the wind howled, the waves pounded his boat. Surely this is the end of me, he thought to himself, and closed his eyes in prayer. If he had kept his eyes open at that moment, he might have seen a strange sight. Out of the whirling mist, two figures appeared, an old man and an old woman, wrapped in flowing white robes, their faces glowing with a soft light.

They came close to Satya and whispered, "Sing, Satya, sing! Sing for Yom Kippur! The sea will hear you!" As if in a dream, Satya sang louder and stronger. Slowly, slowly, the waves began to subside, and the wind died down.

"Sing for Yom Kippur, Satya!" They whispered again as they gently

picked him up and lifted him above the water. High above the waves, they flew like birds with Satya in their arms until they laid him down on the sandy shore. Then, each bent down and kissed him on the forehead as they spoke to him for the last time.

"Shalom, Satya, may you be inscribed forever in the Book of Life."

Slowly, Satya opened his eyes. The sea was as calm as a sleeping baby. The sky was as clear as crystal, and the last rays of sun

peeped over the horizon. Satya rubbed his eyes. There was his little boat, rocking gently in the shallows.

"Surely this has been a dream," he murmured to himself. But as he stood up to go, he saw a gleam of light thrashing in his nets. It was the golden fish.

Satya looked at the fish. Then he looked at the sky. It seemed as though the evening stars were smiling at him, so he smiled back. Then he picked up the fish and brought it home. He was ready to hear the Yom Kippur prayers and break the fast with his friends and family, as he did every year. ◇



*Dip the
apple in the
honey for a
sweet New
Year!*



Israel Trip Diary

They boarded planes, in Miami and elsewhere, on June 11, 2013. For some it was a first trip; others had been once or many times. Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman and Medina Roy agreed to keep diaries and take as many photos as they could. Here, then, is the KJCC Israel trip, mostly through their eyes.

Day 1

Gloria (two days before):

I came within two degrees of canceling my trip this morning. It was pitch dark stormy when the phone rang. Adrenalin wake-up rush never stopped. My mother, three hours away, scared, breathless, and bleeding, wept for help. I could only talk to her, encouraging calmness and helping her make decisions. Bless the paramedics who picked her up and



Departure Day, Medina and Carl's anniversary.

took her to Palms West Hospital, where she is known and loved (a volunteer since the hospital broke ground 30 years ago). At 4:00 a.m., I started thinking of pulling the plug on Arza-world and Israel.

What came to me was the first prayer we always read with Rabbi Agler on Saturday mornings, the one about *mitzvot* you cannot overdo. Visit the sick. Honor your mother and father. How can I go thousands of miles away if my mother is in the hospital? Tomorrow she turns 92 years old. She's been happy as a prom queen since she moved into her new activity-filled "independent living" complex. We were planning to save our party until I got back from Israel. Now, all bets are off. My thought dance partners — desire, death, and duty — cut in on each other.

No sleep until pre-dawn. Then comes good-ish news. Her diagnosis after CAT scan is colitis, a condition that can or could have easily been shortstopped by drinking water throughout the day instead of sitting for hours at a time doing marathon knitting.

Water. Not medication. In two days, she'll be out of the hospital. My mother says in her now very chipper voice, from her brand new deluxe hospital room, "somebody up there is pulling strings for us, honey." "What?!!" I say. "Daddy!" she says. "He wanted so badly for you to go to Israel. It was his biggest wish."

This is news to me. He's been gone for 15

years. *Mitzvot* take a new turn. I'll continue to visit the sick, by voice. And honor my mother and father. I'm going to Israel.



Our first tears in Israel came when Medina's cousins met us at the airport. They'd all been as close as brothers and sisters growing up, but hadn't seen each other in 35 years. The tears! The laughter! The food! (Honestly, they brought a tuna fish sandwich, a giant bottle of Coke and enough pastries and cookies that generous Medina has been sharing with us on our bus rides for days :-) - Gloria

Gloria, Departure Day:

My two favorite trip moments so far, both before we boarded the plane: Georgia says, smiling, as we get into the van taking us to the airport, "This is going to be one big Oneg."

Funny. I suspect she's right. I've never travelled in community before. IT IS POSITIVELY relaxing--and delightful. We are like one simple life form, expanding and contracting, changing shape amoeba-like, splitting off into ones, twos and threes for exploration but always coming back together, our own mother ship, each individual aware of the sum of its parts.

Moment two will come to you in a photo, a goodbye hug, Medina and Carl saying goodbye on, of all days, their thirty-eighth wedding anniversary.

More to come.

Hours later – we have actually landed now – exhausted, excited, unable to sleep and way too full from our first shared Israeli meal, all 15 of us, at an over-the-top feast of Middle Eastern splendor.

Medina, Day 1 (in Israel):

I can't find the words to describe the emotions that came over me after I picked up my luggage. It actually started before then, when I heard the landing gear open as we were about to land in Tel Aviv. I felt a lump in my throat and my eyes welled up with tears. I actually found myself sobbing for a moment when the tires hit the runway.

So next is finding and schlepping the luggage. Exiting the security area, I'm greeted by the three first cousins I grew up with in Far Rockaway, New York; I have not seen them since my last trip to Israel in 1974. Enormous hugs, LOTS of tears all the way around. We only had

maybe 15 minutes together but they were magical. More next time.

Day Two

Gloria, Evening:

Old Yaffo is our first stop on the way from Tel Aviv's airport to our hotel. The hilltop overlooking the Mediterranean is the goal of our first hike. At the top, the modern sculpture and ancient themes strike me as important. (Looking back at photos now, it pulls the whole

trip together for me. Can you see the row of men on top with *shofars* in their hands?

Think Joshua and the walls of Jericho. On the left is the binding of Isaac, with the rescuing ram at the base of the column. *There is to be no more human sacrifice.* A breakthrough. On the right is Jacob, dreaming, struggling with the angel. Commitment, sacrifice, a dream that changes everything, even a name – he struggled with God – the name of this country.

Even if Yaffo weren't such an attractive old Mediterranean port city, with its cliffs, narrow, winding cobblestone streets and arches everywhere, I would love it for the 3,000-year-



Dave hands leadership over to Mike – our intrepid, knowledgeable, patient Israeli guide – as we board our bus for the very first time. -Gloria



Unmistakably us. We are the sign on our bus. And of course there are implications. -Gloria

old story, Jonah's and mine. Our footsteps might have touched the same dirt. This is the port where Jonah waits for the ship he thinks will help him escape God's command. Instead he endangers everyone aboard ship when God kicks up a wrathful storm. Jonah admits publicly that he is the problem, goes overboard and ends up in the belly of a "great fish." It will be this village-city that I'll see in my mind's eye when we read from the Torah this Yom Kippur.



The sculpture at the top of the old Yaffo hilltop, filled with themes from ancient Israel.

Medina, Evening:

It's late and I'm ready for bed. But I have to say, my first 24 hours in Israel...I've already gotten my money's worth for this trip. More (much more) to come.



Scenes from Old Yaffo: at top, ruins on the hilltop; at right, a young father pushes a stroller

along an old cobblestone street in a restored and vibrant section of Yaffo. Lower left, the first real touristy view after leaving the airport: the view from Old Yaffo (some refer to it as Jaffa), looking toward the beaches and buildings of modern Tel Aviv.

Day Three

Joyce, Evening:

I cannot believe that we have packed so much into one day. (The first day didn't really



"Shay-roo-teem" (The transliteration of the Hebrew word on a wall indicating the location of a bathroom.) -Medina

Below, we prepare to enter (hi, Barney) the clandestine munitions factory beneath the laundry room of Kibbutz Ayalon, which supplied the Haganah (the largest underground 1940s Jewish fighting force) with bullets during the time of the British Mandate and War of Independence. Even residents of the kibbutz were unaware for ten years. -Joyce



On our visit to Natal, a wonderfully articulate Major told us this was one of the hundreds of missiles shot at Israel during the 2nd Intifada. She said that this one did not have deadly effect, but just looking at the physical aftermath of its own self-destruction is enough to make me shudder at its power. I can well imagine that civilians, adults as well as children, are in need of the counseling services that Natal provides for traumatized soldiers. I am hoping that as part of our *Tikkun Olam* projects, KJCC and Women's Seder Committee will consider contributing both to Natal and the Children's Village at Neve Michael (see Day 6 – Ed.), which does a beautiful job of restoring sanity and self-worth to youngsters whose lives have been made hideous by horrific family conditions. (My artist's eye confesses to seeing a horrible beauty in whatever law of nature turned this weapon into a rusting predatory octopus, with a perfect spiral at the end of one tentacle, a deadly version of a shape that on a plant would represent a growing tip.)

-Gloria

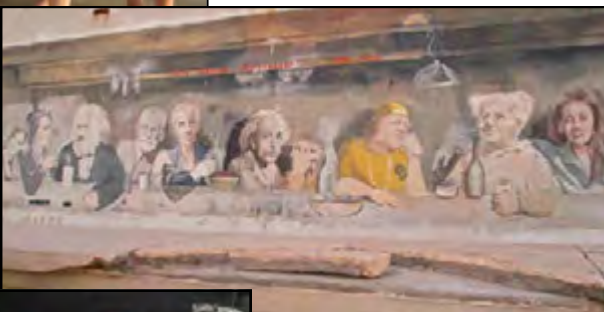
count. Although we had a wonderful dinner all together at a restaurant that doubles as vocational school for at-risk teens, we were exhausted from what seemed like 24 hours of travel.)

Today was full of the experience of what it took to make this country. We saw the hidden munitions factory under the Kibbutz Ayalon laundry, twenty feet below ground, where 36



Zoe joined in on the Tel Aviv beach.

young people put their lives in danger and on hold, living a secret double life to manufacture the bullets used in the



A mural of Israeli heroes, painted as a fresco on a wall above the hotel beach in Tel Aviv.



Above and right: dinner at an outdoor café in Old Yaffo...lots of salad choices, raisins, carrots...

War of Independence. We experienced the noise of only one of the bullet-making machines, saw photos of young people working those machines, and heard about the choices they made...the young woman who

allowed her husband and friends to believe she was having an affair rather than betray the secret...

Then we went to the headquarters of Natal, a nationwide NGO that works with post-traumatic stress prevention and rehabilitation with people of all ages and does training around the world. (They sent trainers to Boston after the bombing). We spoke to some of the volunteers and heard stories. There's a Natal film of a teenager living on a settlement near Gaza who pulled his young brother from incoming mortars to a shelter, but then refused to leave the bunker, and his choice to accept the hand of the volunteer who counseled him. We spoke to the head of that Natal program, and learned how it was

run using feedback and what I can only call a scientific method to modify and use what works best. Then there were the questions from our group, during which became clear the caliber of this little group of tourists, just from their comments: Medina, retired school librarian whose husband is a Vietnam vet dealing with PTSD, a volun-

teer with the VA; social workers; a physician; a psychologist; teachers; businessmen; artists...Neither Rabbi Agler nor Mike, our Israeli (from South Africa 30 years ago) guide, had been to Natal, and both were deeply moved.

We went to Independence Hall, where in 1948 David Ben Gurion had proclaimed to the world that the Jewish people once again had their own state. Guides there helped us to relive what it was like to live through





There just happened to be a public fitness station on the beach near the hotel in Tel Aviv.

the birth pangs of the nation, and what it feels like to be in a nation that has never known peace.

What makes everything so powerful is the personal touch: The ability of our tour guides to allow us to see the personal decisions faced by people both historical and unknown. We later went to the large open square in Tel Aviv where, near tables where folks were setting up a book fair, we stood on the spot where Yitzhak Rabin had been assassinated.

After the long day, Zoe met us at the hotel, and joined by Gloria and Medina, we four walked the mile along the beach to Old Yaffo, getting our toes wet in the Mediterranean, and saying "al netilat raglayim." We followed the Israelis and found a wonderful outdoor restaurant overlooking the marina, where the waiter covered the table with small plates of colorful salads, huge pitas, and a pitcher of lemonade. As the plates were emptied, they got refilled, and when we thought we could-

n't eat any more, four skewers of shish kabob, and mint tea. A friendly cab driver returned us to the hotel.

Tomorrow we leave at 8:30 for Caesarea and Haifa.

Day Four

Gloria, Evening:

The Synagogue of Chodorov, a city probably once in Poland and now in Rus-



The museum has a huge exhibit of scale models of shuls from all over the world at the Museum of the Jewish People. This one depicts one from Florence.

Stunning. -Gloria

sia, was the spiritual home of our president Bernie Ginsberg's grandfather. Picture Bernie's Zadeh *davening* under this magnificent painted ceiling with its unique depiction of the signs of the zodiac. Our group talked a little bit about *mazel* and how it really means stars rather than luck, but when someone asked if this was Jewish astrology and related to Kabbalah, Rabbi Agler threw up his hands.

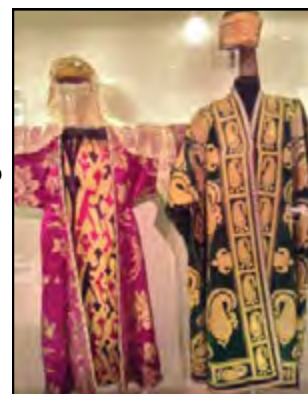
We were touring the Museum of the Jewish People (on the campus of Tel Aviv

University), devoted through its exhibits to exploring the

secrets of our tribe's unequalled longevity as a people and a culture. Mostly it's because our treas-



Bukharan Jewish wedding wear for those underneath the Chuppah.



My favorite pieces from the exhibit "Threads of Silk: the Life of Bukharan Jewry." I had to sweet-talk the guard to let me spin through this magnificent exhibit of Eurasian Jews I didn't know existed. Lots of silk ikat weavings and clothing for Jewish special occasions, a feast for the eye of yours truly, a tribal textile lover. -Gloria



A model of the Chinese synagogue at Khai Fong: can success breed failure? Of all the old model syna-

gogues we saw in this museum, only one Jewish community had totally disappeared. Irony alert. This Chinese community's Jews were totally accepted, loved, respected. There was not a shred of anti-Semitism. And now there is no one, nothing. Is it possible we stiff-necked people actually require some sort of resistance or wall to bang our heads against in order to survive with Jewish identity intact?

ures were never our "things." We had a book, laws, tradition, humanity, and community. We had our story and the light of Torah. We kept all that between our ears, re-telling our stories so well and so often that our children absorbed them. Wherever we were sent, however we were treated, the culture

kept us and we kept the culture. It is interesting though, that the one community who accepted

the Jews wholeheartedly was the one community where the Jews eventually disappeared. Where oh where are the Jews of Haiphong, China?

The trip is surpassing expectation on

Our Gloria always finds the quirky and avant garde in any museum.



In the Museum of the Jewish People, the ceiling from the Chodorov shul.

brate their bar mitzvahs the next morning. It wasn't until after I lit the candles and returned to my seat that I was

Joyce leans on a sculpture at Caesarea. We were exploring classical Roman ruins; Caesarea was the first of many Herod productions we would visit. -Gloria



every level. In tears at least twice a day, I've been so moved. Tonight it happened when two bar mitzvah students opened the ark at *Or Chadash* for the *Barchu*, then again when Rabbi Agler gave a very personal *dvar*. It was a joyous service, but suddenly I was overwhelmed at the intimacy of it, the connection, the dissolving of barriers across miles and centuries. (Of course, this was a reform synagogue. It also has a bomb shelter in the basement, with lots of toys for kids and, irony of ironies, a technological contraption to protect the congregation from poison gas. (We are in Haifa now).

Medina, evening:

Friday night services were held at a progressive reform synagogue, *Or Chadash*

(new light). The congregation welcomed us warmly, with Gloria and I invited to light the Shabbat candles along with two other women, mothers of boys who would cele-



A race track built by Herod in the Roman style. -Joyce



Barbara Smith in Caesarea.

overcome, realizing the importance of having the privilege of lighting Shabbat candles in Israel.

We heard some wonderful, new melodies for our standard prayers. Gloria, with the rabbi, recorded a new melody for "Lecha Dodi."

Rabbi Agler was called up to the bema to give a *d'var torah* and to speak to the congregation. He spoke entirely in Hebrew. He told the congregation of his family's tragedy, losing his daughter, Talia. This was Rich's first trip to Israel since Talia's accident. He was very emotional and had a hard time holding it to-

Dear Mindy,

What a generous spirit you are to share Rich with us when you could both be somewhere magical sharing your anniversary!! This has been a time of such wonder and learning that I still, after a whole week, need to pinch myself. Words like day and week don't really relate. As many as five totally different adventures can happen within twelve hours. But you know all this. I trust that you are enjoying creative time at home and will have a whole list of anniversary celebration activities for Rich when you get together again.

I like Rich's look in this photo. We had stopped at Ein Hod, the artist's village, for inspiration and lunch on day 4. All around were beautiful views from the hills of the lower Galilee. I don't know whether he visited the art bar or not.

-Love and gratitude, Gloria

gether. He broke down several times. There was not a dry eye in the room. This was the third day of our trip and the third with moments of tears. I had the feeling there would be tears every day. (I turned out to be correct.)

There was some joy for me, however. I found myself understanding almost every word Rich said, and those few words that I didn't recognize I was able to understand through from context. Yardena would be proud of me! From then on, I found the courage to try to speak as much Hebrew as possible, totally not caring about my horrific Hebrew *dikduk* (grammar).

Joyce, Evening:

We arrived at our hotel on the mountain-top overlooking the port, the Bay of Haifa and the distant Gali-



Rich and Mike below the artist's village at Ein Hod.





Why are these people smiling? They're happy because their vegetarian pitas are almost done and we're going to eat them at this small but lovely cafe looking out over the Mediterranean.

I'm happy because we've just had a stop at Ein Hod, an artists' village that has existed here at the top of the Carmel mountain range for 50 years. They let me wander for over an hour. I'm inspired.
-Gloria

lean mountains. We had time for showers before heading to *Ohr Hadash*, a reform temple, for services and dinner. First we had a tour of the building, including a shelter that doubles as a youth room complete with bright murals, toys, CD player and an air filter to be used in case of gas attack.

The service, of course, was all in Hebrew, but totally familiar, with many wonderful tunes by Carlebach and others. It is the first time I participated in a prayer service in a shul in Israel. This temple services those who are totally turned off by the Orthodox bureaucracy yet search for a ritual connection. At dinner we had a chance to speak with the rabbi and several congregants who



Back at the hotel in Haifa at the end of a long day.



A view of Haifa looking down from the heights of the magnificent Baha'i Gardens.

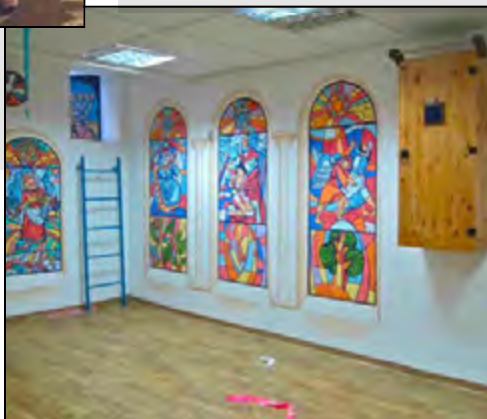
described their struggles to connect with secular Israelis.

Day Five

Joyce, Morning:

We begin this Shabbat morning with a prayer service on a grassy area near the pool. Rabbi Agler is the only one with a siddur, yet we find we know most of it by heart and he ably leads the rest. At home we face east toward Jerusalem but here we face southwest and think, "Jerusalem is right there, not far

The bomb shelter at Ohr Hadash, below, decorated festively so as to keep up the spirits of their children.



away over those hills." When we sing of heaven and earth, we look up at the same skies as our ancient poets and our feet are planted on the same earth.



Imagine the beauty of Shabbat morning services with Rabbi Agler, sitting in a circle with our feet on Israeli ground (yes, I took off my shoes), a blue sky overhead, in Haifa, Yardenia's city. I wish everyone at KJCC could have heard each of us speak in that circle of his or her first impressions of Israel. Many spoke of the amazing normalcy, the lack of overt anxiety here. I spoke of Yaffo and the heart-stopping reality of sharing space with Jonah. No longer in the Keys, we turned south to Jerusalem. My Amidah prayers were all of gratitude, for the great gift of this trip and for being part of a loving community. -Gloria



Gloria, evening, in a note to Linda Pollack:

Joyce, Medina, and I are sitting in the wi-fi-friendly lobby of our Haifa Hotel, doing our best to catch up with sending photos and impressions to Sam. Each day has been

The enchanted forest tree outside the fort at Akko. -Gloria

filled with a week's worth of activities. And each is more moving and eye-opening than the last.

Maybe sweetest was our own service this morning in a circle of yellow plastic chairs on vivid green grass under blue Israeli sky with Rich leading a siddur-less service. Seems we all knew everything by heart. Then on to Akko Crusader fort, mosque and grottoes, oh my. And oh goodness, I am so grateful.

Joyce, Evening:

Akko (listed as "Acre" on a lot of English maps) is one of the earliest places settled, mentioned early on in Michener's *The Source*; it's a key site and major port on several trade routes. Impressive is a mild word to describe the thick stone walls, well preserved great vaulted halls, moats and Turkish bath. Mike, our guide, took us through the history from the bloody crusaders, sultans and caliphs, to the Knights Templar and their

Akko's beautiful mosque; we were allowed to enter and were warmly welcomed there.

rivals. 13th Century Akko was described by a contemporary historian as "a monster with nine heads, each one trying to



The Crusader fort at Akko.



devour the other."

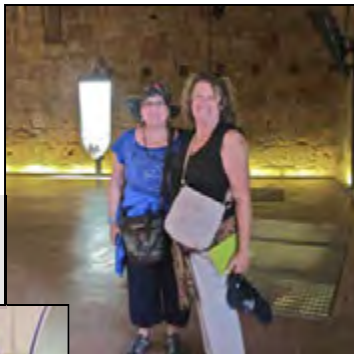
Fast forward to Napoleon's troops' early 19th century defeat, trapped between the inner and outer walls, at the hands of the keepers of the bathhouse during the rule of Caliph Al Jazeer. We learned the details of the jailbreak portrayed in Exodus.

(Who can forget Sal Mineo?) Still within the walls, we went to the bathhouses here; they had a Disney-style multimedia presentation on screens, narrated by actors portraying three

generations of bathhouse keepers that brought to life Muslim society in the 1800s: how the rooms of the bathhouse functioned

as a social center, where babies were delivered, children played, bachelor and bridal parties were entertained by belly dancers, and that period's medicine was practiced. We

The main religious sanctuary of the Akko mosque. The colors and tile work are breathtaking.



will not forget the tales of Akko's ruler Al Jazeer, the butcher. There are drawings of his Jewish financier, who lost one eye and one ear to Al

Jazeer's sword. He was one of the fortunate ones who kept his head.

Also within the walls, a lovely mosque, which we were allowed to visit

and were given a balanced lesson in Islam.

Leaving Akko, we traveled north to the Lebanese border and the lovely grottos of Rosh Hanikra. Kudos



The Akko mosque's cavernous halls and stone arches, above.



Joyce snapped Gloria, the cultural explorer, making sure she found all the art treasures.



Listening to Rich outside the Knights Hall at Akko.



to Barbara Smith, who overcame her fear to join us on the cable lift to descend to the grotto. We listened silently to the crash of waves echoing in the caves, saw the play of light and shadow on the stone walls, and then Gloria and I sang "Eli Eli" in the tunnel.

Back to the hotel, for dinner on our own. Because Yardenah so commanded, Gloria, Susan (Ellner) and I took a cab halfway down the mountain to Haifa's German Quarter with its restaurants and cafes, had dinner at a Mid-Eastern cafe called Douzan. Excellent. They



Um, I guess we didn't see the sign on the left side of the fence until it was too late. What a grand time we had at Rosh HaNikra (head of the grotto), descending the sheer chalk cliffs by cable car to walk the slippery rock pathways leading to these semi-underground caves with ever-crashing, thunderous waves. Joyce and I were moved to sing "Eli Eli."

Now that was the real "rish roosh shel hamayim" Hannah Senesh talked about. -Gloria (Note: The grotto & warning sign were all within 100 yards of the Lebanese border.)

gifted us an unknown dessert that was covered with stewed fruit and coconut. Tomorrow on to Tzfat.



The grottos and sheer cliffs of Rosh HaNikra on the sea in northernmost Israel, just south of the Lebanese border.

Gloria, Evening:

I don't know if I've ever been to a city as full of history and strange beauty as Akko. Driving in and seeing the "Tel" at a distance – the long, low, flat-topped hill that tells you civilization after civilization lived, died, and built upon each other's remains here – does not prepare you for the complex beauty of its historical remnants.



hillside overlooking the Haifa harbor. The first Shabbat in Israel had come to a close.

After a day of Crusader forts and mosques and the dashing of waves into white cliffs near the Lebanese border, there was Havdalah at the end on a

ever-present delicious Israeli lemonade amidst outdoor cafe hub-bub, and then climbed up a set of semi-circular stone steps to find ourselves in the suddenly peaceful gardens of a mosque. Inside there were elegant pillars, vaulted ceiling arches, white-on-indigo-blue Arabic calligraphy bordering high walls, and Persian carpets on the floor. Whatever the right and wrong actions in pursuit of their faith, the ruthless over-enthusiastic killing of "infidels," Jewish and otherwise, the builders of these structures created an expanded sense of time here.

You can feel that each religion is in

Over the course of an afternoon, we entered a magical garden with trees spreading its roots like an otherworldly sculpture;

walked through a Crusader-built fort (with soaring, giant, column-supported roofs) that later became a hospital; saw a high-ceilinged prison that once held Yarden's father, David Kamely, as a teenager for six months (and Sal Mineo in the film *Exodus*); explored the grounds and interior of a Muslim holy place; and witnessed a mixed-media show in which movie projections on the walls and bronze figures strategically placed (picture our Swedish friend Rebecca walking among them) told the story of a centuries-old Muslim Bath House.

Just outside the thick-walled fort, in a busy bazaar-like market area, we ate our falafels and *shwarma*, drank the

it for the long haul. Their spaces give us a way to see and feel with them the strength of their faith, not based in time but transcending it.



It's our last night in Haifa and in honor of Yarden's favorite childhood place, and strong suggestion, we head to the German colony for dinner just down the boulevard from the Baha'i Gardens, settling in a magically lit Arab restaurant where our picture is taken by a nice Jewish man from Australia. Ah Israel, Jews from everywhere, everywhere. As for the man that Susan and Joyce were getting friendly with, he was uncommunicative and we don't know where he's from. There is art and inspiration in so many forms in Israel. -Gloria

From the architecture of conquering Christianity to the Muslim house of five-times-a-day prayer, dedication to differing acts of faith are mere steps from one other here (more intensified and less expected than in Jerusalem). Beyond the absorbing visuals, what sticks is respect for the believers who created these places.

Gloria, Late Evening:

When you can't sleep in Haifa, there is always the hotel lobby with its view of the Bay, distant hills, and yes, the lure of wi-fi. (If only the post-Shabbat revelers weren't so noisy). It's easy to see how this was once a sleepy fishing village, before the Crusaders, Turks, and then the British realized how valuable a port could be for trade and conquest. *Layla tov.*

Day Six

Joyce, Evening:

Another fully packed day. It began with a visit to Neve Michael Children's Home, a youth village that works closely with social services and the courts to provide foster homes to 250 very at-risk youth. (It's located



The steel gate at the entrance to Neve Michael Children's Home in Beit Shemesh, near Jerusalem.

in central Israel, just south of Beit Shemesh and not far from Jerusalem, founded in 1958 by Persian Jews.) It is unique in that it takes family groups of siblings, and places them in



Inside the gates of Neve Michael. Security for its children is important, but so is beauty, music, art and normal living.

homes with real families, who often already have kids of their own, living in this special enclosed village with its own elementary school. Also living with each family, which can include up to eight kids of various ages, are young women doing national service as an alternative to the army. The families live in large two-family homes, so there are plenty of caring adults around, and there is a plethora of social workers and psychologists also on premises. Music lessons and art are a large part of the curriculum. There is security, because some of these children are in danger of being abducted by dangerous relatives. Most stay until they are 18, when they go into the national service or college.

From modern social issues we journeyed back to antiquity. Zippori National Park, "perched on top of the mountain like a bird," (a quote from the Babylonian Talmud)

preserves a city from the time of the Romans through the Crusaders (well over a thousand years, depending on which Crusade you measure

from). Of special interest is the Jewish quarter excavated by Duke University, with a *mikvah* among the dozen or so uncovered homes. Rabbi Judah HaNasi lived here around 200 CE; it's where he wrote the Mishnah. Zippori is mentioned in the Talmud as the home of rabbis such as Elazar Ben Azaria, and was home to the Sanhedrin until Rabbi Yohanan moved it to Tiberias. Amazing mosaics were discovered, among them the floor of a synagogue; the floor of the governor's home had a mosaic now called the Mona Lisa of Zippori, one of the most beautiful mosaics of that period anywhere in



Rabbi Agler has an animated conversation in Hebrew.



The mosaic floor of the old synagogue in Zippori.

the world.

We continued on into the Upper Galilee for over an hour to Tzfat.

Rabbi

Agler stood outside the Luria Shul and spoke a bit about mysticism and compared the many paths that varying cultures take to find G-d as paths up a mountain: the higher you climb the mountain, the more the paths approach each other. We all felt some of the holiness of Isaac Luria's synagogue, but when I asked Gloria to compare it to other spiritual places in other lands, she noted that in all sacred places there were commercial activities going on all around.

Here, instead of merchants with prayer beads or little Buddhas, there has developed a wonderful artist's colony. If we had had more time I



Georgia and Joyce at the below-ground desks at Isaac Luria's synagogue in Tzfat.



Rabbi Agler, outside the Luria Shul, spoke a bit about mysticism and compared the many paths that varying cultures take to find G-d as paths up a mountain. The higher you climb, the more the paths approach each other. We all felt some of the holiness of Isaac Luria's synagogue. -Joyce

would have spent more money. I got a copper-and-brass mezuzah holder from the working artist, and green Roman Glass earrings from a young man who came from Montreal nine years ago.

Our hotel for tonight and tomorrow is *Kibbutz Hagoshrim*. Instead of city lights we view the garden. It is a lovely room and they have the best dinner buffet I would ever want. Delicious salads, five kinds of soup, marinated grilled chicken, pot roast, and at least a dozen vegetable dishes, one yummier than the next.

Things I've noted: a Mezuzah on every hotel room door; while not every restaurant is kosher, and many serve shrimp, all of the beef and chicken on the menu is supplied by kosher butchers.

This is a wonderful country for vegetarians.



The curtain leading to the ark in Luria's shul.

Gloria, Evening:

This kibbutz makes me think of what the Catskills must have been like in their heyday – combination spa, retreat center, and buffet supreme, all Jewish, all friendly. There is even a lively young man singing and playing guitar after dinner, on a simple stage in the garden. "Frum" Is-

raelis (and Joyce and I) happily join in on the choruses. (If I haven't already said so, one commitment I've made as a result of this trip is to bring more lively, newer, joyous melodies into our services. Thank Rabbi Shai of *Or Chadash*, the Haifa Syna-



One of the many artists and artisans at work today in Tzfat.



about the Baal Shem Tov while we were in the "Ari's" beautiful shul this afternoon in Tzfat.)

I just KNOW that my bubbe walked these same Tzfat streets before I was born. –Medina

– and some words by Rabbi Agler

Spirituality in sacred places: I loved what Rabbi Agler said about different spiritual paths getting closer to each other as the seeker climbs higher up the mountain in pursuit of a direct and intimate encounter with God. It helps me understand the commonalities of cultures. I see how and why all great traditions make offerings (incense, water, food, fire, art,



And I'm sure my bubbe climbed these stairs! (I had to include my feet so that when I look at this photo in ten years, I'll remember why I snapped it.) –Medina

prayer) in gratitude for body, soul, and nature. They all seek to be still, to listen, to hear, and as Moses did, ask forgiveness for misdeeds and missed deeds. To find these depths in my

gogue we visited on Friday evening; Shlomo Carlebach – of blessed memory

Medina took this shot of a sign outside a Tzfat art studio. Note the web site.



own people's history (made so manifest on this trip) is inspiring to say the least, as is the art, from today's visit to fourth-century floor mosaics as amazing as illuminated manuscripts to the whimsical yet strong stone sculptures of animals scattered along the garden grounds of this kibbutz (that is not a kibbutz).

We are on the Golan Heights and I feel no sense of danger. I am impressed with the handsome, confident soldiers we've seen and talked to and their amazing technological resources for stopping problems before they start.

Tomorrow, a visit to Lebanon's border, chai-yakking across the not-so-large-or-daunting Jordan River and a host of other activities as well. Each day has been a marathon of learning and new experience. So much wonder and awe at our history, struggles and achievements can make a person weary. Good thing each morning brings new energy and eagerness (okay, and a fabulous breakfast) for another day's adventures.

I wish I could remember who among us coined the phrase "speed dating Israel". :-)

Day Seven

Joyce, Morning:

Beautifully written as usual, Gloria. I see by the time stamp that you probably needed the Bena-dryl I didn't give you. Minor correction: Kibbutz Hagoshrim is near, but not on, the Golan Heights. That trip is this morning, where they won't let us get too close to the Syrian border. The Lebanese border was a few hun-



Tel Dan with the ancient arch (circa Abraham) and the city gate from the time of Judges and Kings. That was the place where I felt closest to the first stories I learned as a very young girl. -Joyce

dred yards from Rosh Hanikra, above the grottos.

The kibbutz itself was delightful, the grounds purchased from a caliph, the re-



The view from Tel Dan, one source of the Jordan River, down into the Upper Galilee.

mains of an old mill and all. The food was the best on our trip, unbelievable breads, salads. We never knew there were so many varieties of white cheeses and yogurts. Two kinds of *shakshuka* (pan-cooked eggs with tomatoes, another with spinach). I think there will be *shakshuka* at future KJCC potlucks.

Our guide said he and his wife vacation here.



Above, ruins of Tel Dan, the ancient city settled by the tribe of Dan. At right, Dave at a Tel Dan spring.



man-made wading pond. Our goal, however, was some mind-blowing antiquities. (Remember the story of Abraham chasing Lot's captors? He went to the area of Dan and made treaties with the local king.) There, in front of us, was the earliest man-made arch

known, almost two thousand years before the Roman conquest, dating from the Canaanite period c.1800 BCE. It was really

Barney Coltman, Evening:

Today was day seven. Each day gets better and I learn more and more. We saw the Golan Heights and what lives were given up so we can call Israel our home.

I have strong feelings of belonging with my people.

Joyce, Evening:

We began our day at the Tel Dan nature reserve, at one of the sources of the Jordan River. It is beautifully maintained and the part we strolled was a cement walk, crossing over the tiny tributary, and opening up to a

primitive, but likely was the gate of a city. At least one scholar theorizes that Abraham

would have passed through it as he met the king!

In the same area are the remains, partly reconstructed, of a city gate. We went in and sat on stone benches, part of the ruins, which were once at-

tached to the inner gate. As we sat there in the shade, our guide reconstructed life during the time of the ancient kings, when the market would have been just outside the gate. We could actually see the stone where the two wooden doors would have closed at



A sign still warns of mines on the Golan. -Joyce



A halftrack from the 6-day war as a Golan memorial. It sits exactly where it stopped in 1967. -Joyce

night. Inside the outer gate was a kind of meeting area. Then our guide asked us to count how many people fit in the bench: ten. He showed the round, decorated rocks that looked like an umbrella holder under a porch table. There were four, one on each corner of the large bench in the middle. He said to think of canopy poles. Then he read sections from the Bible describing how the king would sit at the gate, or the judges or Sanhedrin would meet inside the gate, or Boaz agreed to marry Ruth before the witnesses at the gate. Every city had gates like that. We were sitting on those same benches!



Gloria and Medina emerge from a preserved Syrian bunker. -Joyce

From there we went to the Golan Heights, but that is a long story and it is late. So I will just say we ended the day kayaking the Jordan River (more like a good-sized stream). It was a lot of fun. There is one tiny waterfall, and they have a camera mounted on it to take photos as each kayak or rubber raft passes. You got mine. The best was the raft with Gloria, Medina, Susan, Nils and Rebecca. Barney and I slowed down so we could stay behind them to laugh and watch the struggles to keep it pointed in the right direction.

Gloria, Evening:

"Best" is an interesting word in relation to our raft trip. We certainly had the raft with the loudest shrieking laughter, as we careened from bank to opposite bank while Medina sat on her knees in front and did her best to keep us moving forward despite the whirlpools and her crew's lack of skill. Nils

sat in the back with Rebecca insisting he did not know how to paddle; Susan and I in the middle took turns paddling to correct course (when we weren't bumping into rocks, trees, or other boats filled with young people who got inordinate pleasure out of splashing us). We did all finally get the hang of it. Interesting insight: when we stopped struggling, we drifted quite successfully, enjoyed the birdsong, and thrilled to the grand finale of whooshing down the waterfall.

I won't say much about the Golan Heights, either, except that being there, so very close to Syria, seeing the army encampments along the road, certainly helped me understand the motivation of those who do not want to hand back the hard-won territory. The large number of soldiers who lost their lives here defending Israel and

the moving memorial to them at the top of the mountain made Joyce and I agree that our *erev Shabbat* service's last Kaddish will have a deeper, wider reach for us when we get back. There really is something transformational about walking on the ground where your history took place.



We stand near the eucalyptus trees that the Israeli infiltrator told the Syrians to bomb. We've just walked underground through the bunker. A few feet away is the memorial. -Gloria

Joyce, about the Golan:

The Golan I remember from 1967 was a rugged and dangerous frontier. Some of the



(Above and Right) The Golan Heights Winery, both from the entrance and inside, featuring tasters Steve and Barbara Smith and Phil Raphan.



and was given a tour of the Golan. He lamented the barren conditions of the outposts and how visible the soldiers would be to aircraft. He suggested that fast-growing eucalyptus would shield the bunkers from view. Years later the Israeli commanders were able to tell their artillerymen to aim

their rockets near eucalyptus trees. Unfortunately the spy was discovered and did not live to see the victory he helped create.

We drove further and over-looked the U.N. post at the Syrian border, visible

danger remains in marked-off minefields behind wire with small yellow signs, memorialized at the Syrian outpost we visited, with the Israeli halftrack, a workhorse tank that made its way up the mountain and a memorial to



Running a Jordan River Rapid (specifically note use of singular here), with a canoe holding Barney and me. -Joyce

just a couple of miles down the hill. Next to us was an educational park showing how volcanic action had created these hills; there were kibbutzim and Druze villages on both sides of the road – cows, goats, fields. Back in 1967 I could not have imagined a full-fledged shopping center here, but that is where, in June of 2013, we went for lunch. In the food court was a falafel-monger, putting on a show, loudly and tirelessly hawking the best falafel around. (It was pretty good!)

the many soldiers who lost their lives fighting up that barren hill. Many of those soldiers were volunteers who had grown up with the sound and the fear of Syrian shelling. We looked down over the Israeli kibbutzim and farms, the city of Kiryat Shemona, all clearly visible from this outpost. We walked into the bunkers and heard the story of the eucalyptus trees that shaded them: In the late 1950s an Israeli spy worked his way into the top echelons of Syrian government

As to the Golan winery: the wine was okay, but two things struck me...the innovative use of oak casks that had outlived their wine-aging usefulness. Also the ancient stone lintel with grapes. The region is ideal for vintners, yet there were no wineries here for hundreds of years. Why? Muslim rule. (Observant Muslims aren't allowed to drink alcohol, even wine).

Next Month: Israel Diary Part 2, days 8-12

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October 2013

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October 2013

27 Tishrei - 27 Cheshvan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Steve Steinbock <i>Arlene & John Line</i>	5 Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
6 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11 George Swartz <i>Barbara & Richard Knowles</i> 6:30 Sisterhood Dinner, Services 8:00	12 Torah Learning Service w/ Rabbi Agler 10 a.m.
13 KJCC Board Meeting 9 a.m.	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18 Bernie Ginsberg & Will Pollack <i>Linda & Joel Pollack</i>	19 Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25 Joyce Peckman 6:30 Service	26
27	28	29	30	31	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Ser- vices every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted.</div>	

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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



Yom Kippur is barely past, yet we are already strong into our regular cycle of Jewish events. This morning I watched as our children decorated the Sukkah. It was a beautiful thing to see—the children scampering over the trellises of the gazebo while decorating, then standing inside practicing the blessings for Sukkoth. I recruited Kathy and Joe Shabathai, along with Joel Bofshever and Steve Hartz, who had all come to support the children, to deliver the bags of food we collected over the Holidays for the food bank at Burton Memorial Church. (We filled every square inch of a large SUV with food. Thank you, Gloria, for the wonderful idea.) It was a very satisfying end to the High Holidays.

The rabbi's Holiday messages are already having some resonance in my life. As I was leaving the synagogue on Sunday, there was a steady drizzle. I thought of one of Rabbi Agler's Yom Kippur "fast talk" sessions where he used newly written poetic *bruchahs* to thank G-d for the little pleasures in our lives, and composed my own special *bruchah* for this rainy day: "Blessed art thou O Lord our G-d, who has created drizzly, gloomy Sundays so we may nap without guilt."

I must say that High Holiday services this year were outstanding. I have received

the highest compliments for Rabbi Agler's leadership and his inspiring sermons from (it seems) everyone who attended. Yes, it was Rabbi Agler's first year here, but he worked with Cantor Halpern to produce a seamless service.

Sisterhood prepared two wonderful dinners, before Rosh Hashanah and after Yom Kippur. Our Ritual Chair, Gloria Avner, worked hard and long and organized everything wonderfully. We had beautiful, fresh white flowers on the Bima due to Sisterhood and Lauren Sax and Jane Friedman. Notice the highly polished Torah crowns? Thank Joel Pollack, Steve Steinbock and Stuart Sax.

Don Zinner and Bobby Temkin volunteered to chant the traditional priestly blessing in place of our beloved Jim Boruszak, may he rest in peace, who performed the Kohanic blessing for years. (I even practiced blowing the shofar, though at times you couldn't tell.)

It all came together perfectly. Everything went off without a hitch. I can't thank everyone enough for the loving efforts that they made.

On October 19th all of KJCC is invited to the Bar Mitzvah of Will Pollack, grandson of treasured members Linda and Joel Pollack. We all look forward to being a part of this wonderful Pollack family *simcha*.

Shanah Tova, Bernie

Nosh

Rabbi Agler Torah Service, October 12th

Having apparently recovered from High Holidays (please see the recap section beginning on page 22), Rabbi Rich Agler has volunteered to lead a Shabbat morning service/Torah Learning on October 12th. Based upon the rave reviews she and Bernie heard about his teachings and gentle guidance during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Gloria gleefully doubts that we'll have trouble securing a minion.

A Special Thank You to Mort and Gene

Steve Steinbock reports that, thanks to the generosity of Mort and Gene Silverman, a new orchard is taking place on the front lawn of KJCC. They have donated eight trees — four avocados and four mangoes — with a few more to be planted. There are three species of each type of fruit. The plan is that they'll fruit early, mid- and late in the season, from June through September. Mort and Gene's hope is to have provided a lasting gift for many future generations of KJCC mishpocha. All of KJCC sends its warmest thanks.

KJCC's Tashlich is posted on YouTube

Gloria sent along a YouTube link of a video of KJCC at this year's Tashlich. She describes it as "overflowing with joyful noise" as sins were cast into the ocean. The link is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAx2po9FIY>. We'll also be asking Alan to post it to the KJCC site.

October Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Jonathan & Arlene Line.....	37
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein.....	19
15th	David & Toby Goldfinger.....	54
23rd	Michael & Suzanne Gilson.....	12
31st	Harvey & Judith Klein.....	59

Birthdays

2nd.....	Michael Gilson
4th.....	Michael Kanarek
4th.....	Michael Krissel
6th.....	Joel Bernard
7th.....	Jordan Feig
11th.....	Cynthia Arsenault
11th.....	Ian Bader
11th.....	Olivia Landes
12th.....	Benay Krissel
13th.....	Salomon Turner
13th.....	Sean Bader
14th.....	Paul L. Friedman
14th.....	Sidney Finkelstein
15th.....	Marcia Kreitman
15th.....	Matthew A. Silverman
16th.....	Kiersten Persoff
16th.....	Ronald Kaplan
17th.....	Stacey W. Seewald
18th.....	Payton Borisoff
20th.....	Barbara Knowles
21st.....	Sammy Knowles
22nd.....	Joseph Shabathai
22nd.....	Susan Roberts
24th.....	Marnie Gershowitz
24th.....	Stacy Temkin
25th.....	Landon Strasser
26th.....	Natalio Abrudsky
29th.....	Adriana Sherman
29th.....	Patricia Schocket
29th.....	Shyella Mayk
30th.....	Franklin Greenman
30th.....	Katie J. Schur
30th.....	Mark Hitzig
31st.....	Brittany Schur
31st.....	Susan Cooper

Oneg Sponsors for October 2013

October 4th - John and Arlene Line for their anniversary.

October 11th - Richard and Barbara Knowles for Barbara's birthday.

October 18th - Joel and Linda Pollack in honor of Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah.

The Congregation is invited to attend the Bar Mitzvah of Will Travis Pollack, son of Roy and Vippi Pollack of Austin, Texas, and grandson of Joel and Linda Pollack, on Saturday, October 19th, 2013, at 10 a.m. Please join in celebrating this simcha as Will is called to the Torah. Rabbi Richard Agler will officiate at the ceremony. A Kiddush lunch will be served in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall following the service.



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 Gene Silverman at 305-664-3316.

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.

KJCC Live Green - Recycle



In our quest to help you help the planet, we are collecting:

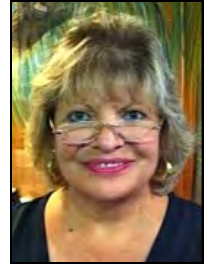
- ◆ **ink cartridges**
- ◆ **laser toners** (not previously recycled)
- ◆ **cell phones**
- ◆ **lap top computers**
- ◆ **i devices**
- ◆ **tablets**
- ◆ **and more.**
- ◆ **Items can be working or in need of repair.**

**Contact Carol Steinbock
(305) 393-1205
or just bring to the KJCC.**



Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



The High Holidays have been completed and we're left with the most wonderful memories. I hope everyone enjoyed and appreciated the services that were performed by Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Mark Halpern. The word that kept flowing to my mind every time someone asked what I thought of the services was "electrifying." I think that word just sums it up. In my opinion they were the best High Holiday services I have ever been to. Time just flew by and I truly believe everyone there really wanted to be there. The powerful new sound system that we now have thanks to the efforts of Dave Feder and Sam Vinicur also sounded amazing. No matter where Rabbi Agler walked in the Sanctuary, his voice amplified.

There are so many of you that I owe my sincere thanks and appreciation to for chairing, cooking, cleaning and for making both our "terrific" Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner and our Break-Fast huge successes.

I can't say thank you enough times to Erica Garrett for taking control of the Rosh Hashanah Dinner and to Lauren Sax and Kathy Shabathai for our Break-Fast. We had more people at both events than I've seen in the past and both were a-list events thanks to the efforts of all of Sisterhood and others that contributed. Thank you also to Miriam Sklar for the homemade Challah that we enjoyed. Thanks just pour out of me to *everyone* who donated their time, efforts and food; it was all such a wonderful team effort. Sincere, emotional congratulations and thanks to all. If I haven't mentioned everyone personally, it's not that anything that was done went unnoticed; there were so many people who made these Holidays a complete success that if I mentioned everyone I'd get in trouble for way too long a column. But know you all have my personal thanks and wishes for a wonderful new year.

Moving a little backwards, I also understand that S'lichot was a huge success as well. Thanks to Lauren and Stuart Sax who hosted, providing the pizza, movie, snacks and opening act. I'm told everyone had a wonderful time.

Though the Holidays are over, Sisterhood is winding down only a little. We'll be sponsoring another wonderful Shabbat Dinner on Friday, October 11th. It will start at 6:30 before services and will be a "chicken" dinner. We are very fortunate that two of our new members, Joel and Toby Bofshever, have decided to donate all the cooked "Kosher" chickens for this event. They are doing this to honor their long-time friend Joyce Peckman and to welcome her back to the Keys. The side dish commitments are still a little sparse. I will be chairing this event, so anyone wishing to bring side dishes, or help in any way, please coordinate with me at 305-772-0503. The donation for this dinner is \$10.00 per person for members- no charge for children 12 & under. Non-members, including children, will be \$15.00. There will also be a 50/50 raffle before sundown.

We also will be having another big event happening in October, and that's Joel and Linda Pollack's grandson's Bar Mitzvah. Will Pollack is being called to the Bema on October 19th for what is promising to be a great and sweet day.

I am still working on our big fundraising event for the year, which will be a raffle of a trip for \$100.00 per person. The drawing will be held at our annual brunch after the installation of Officers, on February 9th, 2014. (There will be much more information about this.)

Again, a very Happy New Year to all and make it a great month! ♦

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 blessings _____

@ \$2.00 per blessing \$ _____

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Total Contribution \$ _____

Complete and return by
November 28th to:
KJCC Sisterhood
PO Box 116
Tavernier, FL 33070

Please copy this page, or
tear out of Chai-Lights,
and send with your check.

**Finally, a
Fundraiser you do
not have to attend!**

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

Ginsberg, Bernard

In Memory of

Joseph Goldberg, MD

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara

Calev, Barbara

Ginsberg, Bernard

Gross, David & Patti

Hayden, Beth

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

Mont, Dave & Georgia Landau

Pincus, Linda

Rose, Skip

Smith, Steve & Barbara

Chai-Lights

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara

Pincus, Linda

Rose, Skip

Roy, Medina

Smith, Steve & Barbara

General Fund

Begam, Delores

Beinfest, Bennett & Deborah

Cole, Ronald

Cooper, Alan & Susan

Gilson, Michael & Suzanne

Ginsberg, Bernard

Harell, Allan

Kreitman, Marcia

Pincus, Linda

Roberts, Paul & Susan

Willner, Sherrie

In Honor of
please pray for Cathy

love offering

Scholarship Fund

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara

Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein

Roy, Medina

Singer, Mary Lee

In Honor of
memory Robert W. Singer
& Jon R. Singer

Holocaust Education Center

Roy, Medina

Steinbock, Steve & Carol

Sisterhood General Fund

Rose, Skip

In Memory of
Rene Rose

Meditation Garden

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara brick - in honor of "Gabbi"

Bernie Ginsberg

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara brick -in honor of the 3

morahs, Gloria Avner, Yardena Kamely, Susan Gordon

Roy, Medina

Silverman, Mort & Gene

Vinicur, Sam

In Honor Of

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Bofshever, Joel & Toby

In Honor of
Joyce Peckman's
homecoming

Coltman, Barney

Gross, David & Patti

Kaplan, Linda

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

Line, Jonathan & Arlene

Pollack, Joel & Linda

Pollack, Joel & Linda

Smith, Steve & Barbara

Chanukah Dinner
Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah

New Year's Greeting

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara & Joshua

Wishing our

Mishpocha a healthy, happy new year

Sunshine Fund

Mandel, Mark & Ruth

Steinbock, Steve & Carol

In Memory of
Rene Rose
Rene Rose

Tree of Life - Leaves
Bernstein, Paul & Barbara
Gross, David & Patti

In Honor of
Joshua Samuel Bernstein
Bar Mitzvah 11/5/11
Alvin S. Gross

Yahrzeits
Boruszak, Joan
Rubin, Mike & Myrna
Cooper, Claire
Gould, Maryon

In Memory of
Jim Boruszak, Lillian Goldstein
Anna Applebaum
Sarah Sandberg
Paul Gould, H. Robert Walters

Yahrzeit Plaques
Alter, Barry

In Memory of
Franne Alter

Yizkor Book
Bernstein, Paul & Barbara
Calev, Barbara
Chasteen, Dale
Conklin, Rita & Wes

Cooper, Alan & Susan
Friedman, Steve & Jane
Gilson, Michael & Suzanne
Ginsberg, Bernard
Goodman, Jamie & Laura
Gorson, Janice
Greenbaum, Marilyn
Gross, David & Patti
Hayden, Beth
Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica
Pincus, Linda
Rose, Skip
Roy, Medina
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Silverman, Mort & Gene
Singer, Mary Lee
Smith, Steve & Barbara
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Willner, Sherrie

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 \$75 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."

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



The Yom Kippur War

Looking Back After 40 Years

In the history books we read: On October 6, 1973 — Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar — Egypt and Syria opened a coordinated surprise attack against Israel. The equivalent of the total forces of NATO in Europe had been mobilized on Israel's borders. On the Golan Heights, approximately 180 Israeli tanks faced an onslaught of 1,400 Syrian tanks. Along the Suez Canal, fewer than 500 Israeli defenders were attacked by 80,000 Egyptians.

The war was the fiercest Arab-Israeli war since the 1948 War of Independence because Egypt and Syria's attack caught Israel off guard. The Egyptians crossed the Suez Canal and controlled its entire length on the east bank; the Syrians overran the Golan Heights and came within sight of the Sea of Galilee. In his book "Living History, A Memoir," Chaim Herzog, former general in the Israeli army (Tzahal), ambassador to the U.N. in the 1970s, president of Israel in the 1980s, describes his experience of the Yom Kippur War: "On Yom Kippur, I was in synagogue atoning for my sins, like the rest of Israel. People were leaving in groups, and the congregation was emptying. Gradually, I realized what was happening. Our troops were being mobilized. We were facing attack." Herzog was summoned to general headquarters; he was asked to go on the air because of the success of his broadcasts in 1967. He was given access to military information and began broadcasting in Hebrew and English, on radio and television, along with the noted Arabist Professor Shimon Shamir, later Israel's ambassador to Egypt and Jordan. Their job was to lessen people's fears when possi-

ble, and alert them to danger when necessary.

The counterattacks were at first unsuccessful. Israel suffered many losses. Not one city, town, or village escaped losses. A total of 2,688 Israeli soldiers were killed in this war. Writes Herzog: "The nation experienced a nightmare. But we dug in and the momentum gradually shifted. The Israeli bank of the Suez Canal was the site of the biggest tank battle since the battle of Kursk in World War II. We followed this victory with a series of successful counterattacks, as the division under Ariel Sharon crossed the canal. Within days, we had surrounded the Egyptian Third Army on both banks of the Suez Canal." On October 22, the Security Council adopted Resolution 338, calling for "all parties to the present fighting to cease all firing and terminate all military activity immediately." The vote came on the day that Israeli forces cut off and isolated the Egyptian Third Army and were in a position to destroy it.

Yet despite the Israel Defense Forces' success on the battlefield at the end, the war was considered a diplomatic and military failure.

Shortly before this year's Yom Kippur, an article in the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv discussed the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War. The author says that Israel has had enough of "the Yom Kippur War festivals that take place every year as the holy day approaches," and believes that "Forty years since that trauma/fiasco, the time has come to mature, return to normal and restore to Yom Kippur its original function." The paper suggests that "The forty-year-long introspection is – how to put it – a little too long, espe-

cially when it deepens the trauma instead of healing it."

I do not agree.

For me, this war has a lot of significance. It shaped my life. For the first time I had lost fellow students, friends and cousins my age. For me and my peers this war was a new experience;

it had changed our view of the world we lived in, of Israel. We realized how vulnerable Israel was and understood for the first time what our parents and grandparents went through during World War II and what was the real meaning of the Holocaust. They wanted to shield us from this trauma, by raising us Sabras as tough, fearless fighters. They were right. The young soldiers fought heroically, and they knew what was at stake and understood that Israel's fate was in their hands, and, in their own words, they expressed their feeling that this war was like the Holocaust, the nightmare the Holocaust survivors had told them about.

I want to remember all the Israelis that died in the Yom Kippur War, the battles they fought so that Israel could survive, in the same sense we are remembering the Holocaust. There is no end to the stories of the war, to the stories of those who lost their life and those who survived. Chaim Herzog remembers: "For me, as for many others who served in Israel's battles, the Yom Kippur War was a new experience. Instead of me being in the field, our two elder sons were serving." One of his sons was fighting in Sinai near the Suez Canal. The Herzog family was without news of him for weeks. One friend, serving with him in the same unit, managed to get leave because he was wounded and he called them, re-



General Ariel Sharon led the armored Israeli counteroffensive in the Sinai in 1973.

porting that the unit was having a very hard time. Herzog tells: "I visited the underground headquarters of the armed forces every day for my broadcast briefing. There I saw parents like myself, senior officers anxiously searching out the location and

fate of the units to which their sons were assigned, without appearing to do so. No one wanted to show anxiety or fear, but none of us could really hide what we were feeling." Herzog's sons returned home safely. The one who fought at the Egyptian front was, he said, "utterly exhausted and traumatized. He basically was shell-shocked." But he stayed in the army and went to Officers School, where, fortunately, he could "regroup psychologically and emotionally." His father tells: "But I shall never forget his return from the front. As I opened the door, he staggered in and said softly, 'Father, war is a terrible thing. It is no picnic.' That is the understatement of my lifetime. And I can only hope that my grandchildren never have to make it." ♦



Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Prime Minister Golda Meir.

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A Talmudic Loophole?

Did you suffer from the dreaded Yom Kippur head-exploding, caffeine-withdrawal headache because you were fasting? Did you ask yourself, how am I expected to focus on serious atonement for my sins without my morning cup of joe? Have no fear, there's a solution. You can now plan ahead for next year's Day of Atonement. This serious Yom Kippur problem can be alleviated if you can get your hands on a product available from pharmacies in Williamsburg, the Hasidic neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. Ready for this? It's huge, rectally-inserted caffeine suppositories. Though it sounds like cheating, some rabbis claim that the prohibition of eating and drinking on Yom Kippur applies only to things ingested through the mouth. Other bodily orifices are not included in the prohibition. But other rabbis disagree. They say that consuming anything – through the body's entrance or exit – is against the spirit of the ritual of fasting. Rabbi Simcha Weinstein, a Hasidic leader said, "We want to keep Jews in the synagogue and not in the bathrooms." (www.jewniverse.com, 9-13-13)

Finally...A Formal Recognition

Israeli legislators have established a new law recognizing Jews who fled persecution in Arab countries. The law, approved by the Ministerial Committee on Legislation, has designated February 17th as the annual date on the Israeli calendar to remember the 850,000 Jewish refugees who were forced out or who had to flee their homes in Arab countries in the middle of the last century. On that date in 1948 the Arab League approved a law permitting member states to place severe sanctions against their Jewish populations. Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Knesset member (*Yisrael Beiteinu*) drafted the law known as "Day Commemorating the Jewish Refugees from Arab

Countries." The law is part of a concerted effort to have the rights of these Jewish refugees recognized in Israel, the Arab world and the international community. He has called on the Arab League to "accept historic accountability for the humiliation, the suffering, and the losses incurred by innocent Jewish victims of the Arab world's declared war against the State of Israel." Dr. Ohayon and his family fled Morocco in 1956. (www.thejc.com, 7-15-13)

Israel's "Green House"

Israel is now officially a world power in environmentally sensible home design. "Team Israel" came in fourth overall in the *Solar Decathlon*, a contest occurring every two years where design and technology teams from around the world compete against each other to see who can come up with the best "house of the future." Israel's entry, an 85-square-meter modular house built of locally produced materials, came in first in the "energy balance" category for homes that produce more energy than they consume. The team also won the hot water production category, was second in the architecture category and fourth in the market appeal category. The contest took place in mid-August in Datong, China. The *Solar Decathlon*, a contest with ten categories, was first held in 2002. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. This year's event was the first time it took place outside the United States. The purpose of the contest, which is open to teams from universities and colleges around the world, is to "encourage teams to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective and energy-efficient solar-powered house." "Team Israel" included students and faculty from nearly a dozen Israeli academic institutions. The team was chosen last year in a semi-final event as one of 20 teams to participate in this year's

finals. (www.timesofisrael.com, 8-22-13)

A New Memorial Planned

The first day of Rosh Hashanah this year coincided with the 41st anniversary of the massacre of eleven Israeli athletes and their coaches at the 1972 Munich Olympics. On this occasion, the Bavarian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs announced plans for the construction of a memorial to the athletes and a German police officer killed by *Black September*, the Palestinian terrorist group. The plans call for a Hall of Remembrance to be built near the site that housed the games. The memorial will allow visitors to learn about the events and the victims and to view the site of the failed rescue attempt at Furstenfeldbruck airfield. Scheduled to be completed by 2016, the memorial is expected to cost approximately 2.25 million dollars. Charlotte Knoblach, head of the Bavarian Jewish community, thanked the state of Bavaria and Germany as a whole for “their recent efforts to ensure a transparent explanation of the events of 1972 and to answer the last remaining questions from family members and Israeli authorities, in cooperation with them.” (*The Forward*, 9-5-13)

Taking a Trip Back to the Dark Ages

At the end of June, Israel's Education Ministry asked textbook publishers to eliminate chapters on human reproduction, pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted diseases from science textbooks used in state religious junior high schools as well as from their teacher manuals. Some publishers have made the changes. Others agreed to the modifications, but when the ministry began requesting additional revisions, such as eliminating any reference to the female body throughout the book or softening any text or image that might offend the religious community, the publishers changed their minds. The ministry requested the changes at the urging of officials in the state religious school system. “The ministry capitulated to one of the most extremist factions of the religious public,” one publishing executive charged. Until now, all state schools, whether religious or secular, used the same science

textbooks. Removing the chapter on reproduction means that religious students will not have an opportunity to learn about reproduction from a scientific perspective unless they take a biology course in high school. The chapters scheduled for removal include basic scientific information about the reproductive system.

Science textbooks aren't the only ones being revamped for use in state religious schools, which, for a long time, have had different history and literature curricula than the secular schools. About a year and a half ago, the ministry decided to alter their Hebrew language textbooks as well. All women pictured in these texts now wear head coverings and all the girls wear skirts. *Meretz* chairwoman Zahava Gal-On described the Education Ministry's decision as “not only ridiculous, but also worrying. More than 200,000 children today are in the state-religious education system, which is 200,000 future citizens of the State of Israel who will grow up with ignorance and with the sense that the human body, or to be more specific, the body of the woman, is something dirty.” (*Meretz* is a left-wing Israeli political party concerned with human and civil rights and the separation of religion and state.) (www.haaretz.com, 9-3-13)

“A Breathtaking Discovery”

A recent excavation in Jerusalem's City of David, only fifty meters from the southern wall of the Temple Mount, has unearthed 36 gold coins, gold and silver jewelry and a unique gold medallion inscribed with images of a menorah, a shofar and a Torah scroll. The discovery was led by archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar of the Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology. Researchers believe the medallion was an ornament for a Torah scroll, and if so, it is the earliest Torah scroll ornament found in archaeological excavations to date. Dr. Mazar has called the find “a breathtaking, once-in-a-lifetime discovery.” She said, “We have been making significant finds from the First Temple Period in this area, a much earlier time in Jerusalem's history, so discovering a golden seven-branched menorah from the seventh century CE at the foot of the Temple Mount was a complete surprise.” The gold treasure was discovered in a ruined Byzantine public structure. The

menorah, a candelabrum with seven branches that was used in the Temple, is the national symbol of the State of Israel and reflects the historical presence of Jews in the area. Given the date of the items and the manner in which they were found, Mazar estimates they were abandoned in the context of the Persian conquest of Jerusalem in 614 CE. Dr. Mazar made headlines earlier this year when she announced the 2012 discovery of an ancient Canaanite inscription, recently identified as Hebrew, the earliest alphabetical written text ever uncovered in Jerusalem. (www.israeltoday.co.il, 9-12-13)

Presidential Medal of Freedom

Daniel Kahneman, a psychologist known for his application of psychology to economic analysis, has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama. The Princeton University scholar, who shared the Nobel Prize for economics in 2002, escaped Nazi Europe and served in the Israeli army. Fifteen other individuals will receive the award later this year, among them Gloria Steinem, the feminist pioneer, and the late Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) who for decades was a pro-Israel leader in Congress. The Presidential Medal of Freedom was established in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy. Along with the Congressional Gold Medal, it is the highest civilian honor available in the United States. (www.jta.org, 8-8-13)

Rabbi Kathy Lee?

Kathy Lee Gifford, co-host of the "Today Show," recently revealed her dream of becoming a rabbi. Here's how it unfolded: A 60-year-old viewer posted on Facebook her interest in returning to college later in life. This prompted a debate between Kathy Lee and her co-host Hoda Kotb. Gifford, a born-again Christian with Jewish roots, said, "I want to go to Yeshiva University and become a rabbi. I want to get my Orthodox rabbinical degree...I want to understand what words mean, what all the context is. I'm so fascinated by that stuff." Gifford was born Kathryn Lee Epstein. Her paternal grandfather was a Russian Jew from Saint Petersburg. After seeing the Billy Graham-produced film, *The Restless Ones*, at

age 12, she became a born-again Christian. She once told interviewer Larry King, "I was raised with many Jewish traditions and raised to be very grateful for my Jewish heritage." (By the way, her brother, Rev. David Paul Epstein, is an evangelical Baptist preacher and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in New York City.) Good luck, Kathy Lee. (www.jta.org, 8-19-13)

The Other Speaker Fifty Years Ago

August 28th marked the 50th anniversary of the historic March on Washington and one of the most important speeches ever delivered in the United States. But did you know that right before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, Rabbi Joachim Prinz stood at the podium and said, "I was the rabbi of the Jewish community in Berlin under the Hitler regime." The horrors witnessed by Prinz in Nazi Germany compelled him to challenge America in the 1960s. "Bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problems," he said to the crowd gathered at the Lincoln Memorial. "The most shameful and most tragic problem is silence." (www.cbsnews.com, 8-31-13)

Did You Know...

- The Ashkenazi version of the melody of *Kol Nidrei*, repeated three times before sunset when Yom Kippur begins, was arranged in 1880 by the non-Jewish German composer Max Bruch for cello and orchestra. It was done on commission from the Jewish community of Liverpool and became his most popular work. (www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org) ◇

600,000 and Counting

In an attempt to boost the Sea of Galilee's dwindling fish population, 600,000 tilapia now have a new home. The fish are expected to boost the lake's biodiversity and also to clear its waters of toxins originating in seaweed – the tilapia's food source. The fish will also act as biofilters to balance out the lake's ecosystem. Masses of tilapia are introduced into the Sea of Galilee each year by Israel's Agriculture Ministry. Along with the tilapia, some 300,000 silver carp were also added and an additional 400,000 tilapia will be introduced in October. (www.timesofisrael.com, 9-12-13) ◇

KJCC
SISTERHOOD SHABBAT
DINNER
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013
6:30 PM
CHICKEN DINNER



Contact Barbara Knowles
(305) 772-0503; iweddu@bellsouth.net
to reserve your spot and coordinate your
covered side dish or dessert

-raffle before sundown-



Donation: Members \$10;
Children 12 and under no
charge
All Non-Members \$15

Photo Gallery

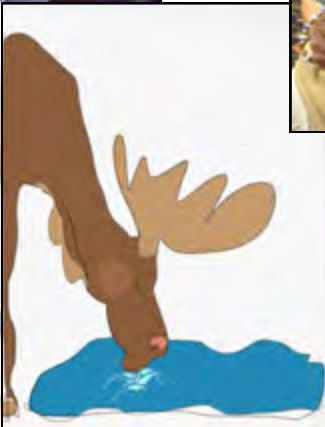
As she does every year, Lee Schur summered with family in Chicago. She sent us these photos of her at Wrigley Field (the Cubs lost) and with grandchildren Brittany and Jeremy prior to attending a Blue Man Group Performance in Chicago.



Several KJCC members had voiced concerns about security, so Bernie asked Robert Tanen, center, the ADL's Associate Regional Director, to come give us an assessment. (We passed.) Also at the meeting was KJCC member Jason Madnick, a Monroe County police sergeant.



Joyce sent us the photo below of son Daniel erecting the family sukkah in Denver. That's Michal bracing Dad on the ladder and Yosef on the roof laying schach.



Gloria's mom Bea Avner reads last month's issue of Chai-Lights, above. At left is a delightful moose doodle Gloria did with one finger on her iPad.

KJCC Gift Shop

*It's the Time to Shop-
FREE Chanukah candles with a
\$20 minimum purchase!!*

Remember us for Chanukah



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

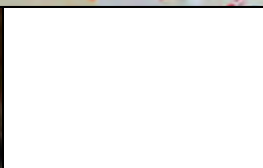
**See our new items from Israel
handpicked by our Mishpocha
on their recent tour.**



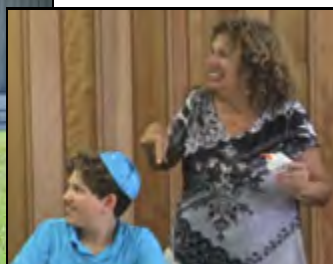
For further information contact:
Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585



September 8th was the first class for this year's KJCC religious school. With his interest in our children, Prez Bernie is always available to help out. Morah Gloria was ready.



The young tree at right is one of the new fruit trees donated to KJCC by Mort and Gene Silverman to help create our own orchard. Mangoes and avocados, yum.



Siyum Sefer Torah

Completion and Dedication of a Sefer Torah in Zurich, Switzerland, August 18, 2013

by Joseph Shabathai

Our KJCC congregation is reminded each week of the preservation and significance of the *Sefer Torah* when we recite a special, final Kaddish for Holocaust victims while our "Holocaust" Torah, rescued from Czechoslovakia after the Second World War and now on permanent loan from the Westminster Synagogue in London, is displayed. Jewish tradition tells us that the *Sefer Torah* itself has its own life, so to speak. It is created by a scribe, usually an Orthodox rabbi, writing the entire five books of Moses, letter-by-letter, word-by-word and paragraph-by-paragraph on parchment. When the entire testament is complete, the *Sefer Torah* is carried under a *chuppah* to its home in the Temple Ark with much rejoicing, as if we were celebrating a kind of heavenly marriage. The Torah under the *chuppah* is the bride and we, the Jewish people, are the bridegroom.

As marriage can be a discovery – of one's self and one's partner together revealing the other half of one's soul – our sages tell us that the writing of a *Sefer Torah* is also a discovery of one's self. Through it one discovers oneself as a person, as one's soul attaches to its mirror image in the written Torah and initiates the beginning of a lifelong relationship which requires effort and care; the Torah is our spouse.

So it was with particular interest and honor that I was invited to participate in *Siyum Sefer Torah* - the completion and dedication of a new Torah at a Lubavich synagogue in Zurich, Switzerland this past August. Tradition has it that whoever participates at all in the writing of the *Sefer Torah*, it is as if he or she has written the entire *Sefer Torah* him- or herself.

The new Torah was donated in memory of a friend of mine, Joseph Moradian, who died last October (2012) in Zurich. Joseph was a Baghdadi Jew born in 1929 who was forced to flee Baghdad in 1951 and was smuggled into Iran. From Teheran he founded a successful business, traveling to Israel and across the Middle East to India and to Europe until the Iranian revolution in 1978 forced him to flee again, this time with a wife and four children. Leaving everything behind, he settled in Zurich, in a country with an unfamiliar language and culture, starting once again from scratch.

A man of great optimism, Joseph had a stroke fourteen years ago and lived dependent on assistance until his death last year, never believing that adversity would ever stop him. He taught us never to give up, that there is so

much more to life than we see and that being united with family is what counts.

The last few sentences of a new *Sefer Torah* are deliberately left in outline, with members of the congregation invited to write an individual letter with quill pen and ink guided by the scribe. You will see me in the attached pictures seated at the table performing this very task. (Family members complete the last few words and letters. The last letter in the Bible is a "lamed," or "L," and the first



**Joe finishes a letter or two of the
Sefer Torah, in honor of his friend.**



The Torah's beginning, where the first letter is a Bet, for B'raishit.

letter of the Bible in Bereshis is a "Bet," or "B"; the two combined make for "Lev," or "Love" (as in "heart").

After the scroll is complete the Torah is "dressed," and then with much rejoicing is passed around with music and dancing much as in a wedding ceremony. It is then carried under a *chuppah* outside of the building to the Temple Sanctuary, where it is placed in the Ark. Following this procession there is more dancing (men and women separately, the Lubavitch way). After the dancing, we enjoyed a sumptuous meal for everyone prepared meticulously by Chabad member Karin Rosenberg.

A *Sefer Torah* can now cost anywhere from \$20,000 to over \$100,000, depending on the scribe and the donor. It takes about a year for

one to be written by hand. Each paragraph is scanned and checked by computer and as well as visually by other rabbis; there can be no mistakes.

After completion, there is great celebration, and then the Torah is placed in an Ark.



My father, now 96 years old and living near Geneva, Switzerland, reminded me that the Shabathai family itself donated two *Sefer Torahs* in Aden (at the time a British colony and now a part of Yemen) earlier in the last century. When the Jews were forced to flee Aden the same *Sefer Torahs* were rescued and escorted to Israel. One is now with the Adenite congregation in Bat Yam and the other in Tel Aviv at Temple Sha'aray Zion; they are a living heritage to the memory of those in whose honor they were created (respectively my great-grandfather Shabathai and my aunt Rosa, who died at birth).

I have always been impressed by the ingenuity, resilience and resourcefulness of our people, as exemplified by Joseph Moradian's spiritual and material success,



An old photo of the two Torahs the Shabathai family donated to synagogues in Aden. They both now reside in Israel.

which I attribute to the influence of the teachings of the *Sefer Torah*. In particular, I thought of my own family's journey from a relatively backward, centuries-old community in Aden to the modern, developed world. I was proud to have achieved academic success as a graduate of one of America's finest universities and to recently learn that my young half-cousin Ehud Shabtei (we share the same grandfather) had just sold his Israeli tech company "Waze" to Google for \$960 million dollars! ♦

Note: Some of the religious and inspirational commentary mentioned above was provided by Rabbi Sholom Rosenfeld of the Chabad Esra in Zurich, Switzerland. -Joe

It all began with S'lichot on August 31st. There was a sumptuous Erev Rosh Hashanah feast, then a full house for Day One, then Taschlich, then Friday services, then Shabbat Tshuvah; a week later came Kol Nidre and then the long and challenging full day of Yom Kippur. There was freshness, and substance, and brilliant orchestration. It was KJCC.

The Fullness of High Holy Days 5774

by Gloria Avner

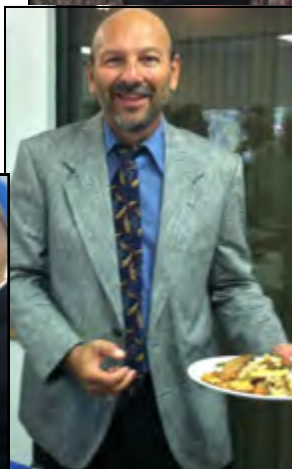
High Holidays would be different this year. Under the leadership of Rabbi Agler (from whom many of us have learned during Shabbat morning services) respected scholar, educator, dynamic speaker, and friend, it seemed inevitable we'd sail some different seas. Over the Ten Days, there was excitement and there was awe. Comments heard in hallways had a theme, echoed service every service, every day: "These were the best High Holidays I've ever experienced."

But let's start at the beginning. The first event of our new year began with

bounty, a joyful pre-Rosh HaShanah community feast presented by a hard-working KJCC Sisterhood under the guidance of Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Barbara Knowles. Miriam Sklar's three



kinds of home-made challah (cinnamon – a new treat!) were followed by Erica's delicious chicken soup with matzoh balls, three varieties of brisket, Sofy Wasser's amazing roast chicken and tables full of homemade trimmings, backed up by more desserts than can be named (though





event set records. People generously performed their honors with seriousness and grace. Our children and Bar Mitzvah'd



Some moments captured at the Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner before services.



Linda Kaplan's honeycake with apples was a standout). We schmoozed, digested, walked and meditated



young people took part willingly. Our path was one of high vibration. Every-

in our garden, got re-acquainted with members and guests until services began.



Transitioning from feast to prayer to Cantor Halpern's chanting to Rabbi Agler's introductory talk, our *mishpocha* began to see what was in store for us. These Days of Awe would be a journey. Each of us would be in the company of fellow travellers.

The two days of *Rosh HaShanah*, our Torah services, the singing, our *Taschlich* bits of bread tossed into the ocean hoping for our sins to be washed away, our surprisingly well-attended tuneful musaf services, the Friday night service immediately following Day two, *Shabbat Tshuvah* service on the following morning, and *Havdalah* under the stars on Saturday night cinched it. Attendance at each



one felt it, elevated, radiating, hushed and moved.

When we gathered again for *Kol Nidre* and the beginning of our fast, the sanctuary was filled to capacity with eager, expectant faces. Rabbi Agler and Cantor Halpern continued



their smooth interaction; our past and present presidents of KJCC and Sisterhood held and passed on each Torah reverently. Tone and scene were set for our final, food-free, day.

On *Yom Kippur*, the Torah service, *Yizkor*, the children's service led by David Feder (to whom we are also indebted for the notable improvement in sound), the repeated recitation asking for forgiveness, all built on the intensity of



At the Day Two Kiddush. No one could remember a bigger crowd for Day Two.



what had gone before. We loved the addition of Joe Shabbathai's Sephardic chanting. The reading of Noah was a particular pleasure with alternate Hebrew and English verses voiced beautifully by Yardena



and Sam, framed by our president's soulful *Haftarah* blessings.

For the first time in KJCC history,



a large core of people did not go home for rest, but stayed throughout the day, participating in each of the five services and the new parts in between, the rabbi's "fast" talk discussion of blessing and poetry, an hour of Jewish medi-



The four photos at top are from Taschlich on R.H. Day One.



within, to become fellow travelers on a journey that would take us deep and high. Whatever our beliefs about God, our life paths, histories, or goals, our prayers would connect us to

tation, and deep camaraderie.

This was an extraordinary period for KJCC *mishpocha* and friends, our ten Days of Awe. This



all members of our tribe. Cantor Halpern's *Hineni* prayer would be a model to us of humility. All

exploration in search of forgiveness would reinforce our commitment to *tikkun olam*, repair of the world, starting with *tikkun* of ourselves.

Our helmsman, Rabbi Agler, walked among us, talked to us directly and powerfully, as much in the aisles as on the *bimah*. People loved that. We became participants in a process, not

watchers in an audience.

With the last shofar blast, strong and harmonious, from

Rachael Bloom and our tireless, devoted president, Bernie Ginsberg, the guiding architect of our



At left, Havdalah on Shabbat Tshuvah. Below, Havdalah after Yom Kippur a week later.



is what happened: the whole became greater than the sum of its parts. From the very beginning of



Rosh Ha-Shanah, our rabbi helped us set an intent, to listen to the still small voice





After Musaf on Yom Kippur, but before Neillah, the late afternoon service, Rabbi Agler gathered the weary but willing for several hours of stimulating “fast talk.” He and Yardena spoke of Jerusalem during the Yom Kippur War. No one wished they’d slept.



Holidays, the lights were lowered. The Havdalah candle lit, our rabbi stood surrounded by wide-eyed children. All of us

sang, weak but uplifted. As wine put out the flame, we were as one, released.

Another Sisterhood feast was waiting.

L'Shanah Tovah. ♦



Break-the-Fast was, as always with KJCC Sisterhood, another feast.

The delightful smiling watermelon whale was created by Barbara Bernstein.



Sukkot at KJCC – 5774

by Gloria Avner

Thanks to President
Bernie Ginsberg's High
Holiday announcements



lulav and et-
rog. Noah,
Cole, and

Westley lead the group in the blessings and
Susan leads us in singing "*Hinei MaTovu Ma-
Nayim.*"

Despite the
heat and
humidity it
is wonder-
ful to sit
inside our
"booth"
with *mish-*



from the Bimah,
many adults
showed up to help
decorate our Suk-
kah. They were the
perfect "*ushpizim*,"
the sacred ances-
tor-visitors we are
to welcome
throughout the
eight days of Sukkot.



The scene: Sunday morning after Yom
Kippur. Our KJCC religious school students
are excited and busy coloring posters and
hanging bright beads. The adult women help
tie white ribbons to plastic fruit for hanging
and prepare challah, wine, sweets and real
fruit for our (pre)Sukkot repast. The men cut
palm fronds, stand on ladders, and add en-
thusiasm. Almost thirty people eat in and
around our beautifully decorated sukkah.
(Thank you, Candy Stanlake and Alan Beth,
for building us a multi-functional gazebo).
Mikhaela and Natalie read to us about the

pachah.

Now we
are pre-
pared for
the con-
gregation's
celebration
on Friday
night, September 20th, Rabbi and Mindy Agler's
Sukkot Havdalah service the following night,
and the family Sukkot celebration that next
Sunday morning, back among our own decora-
tions in the KJCC Meditation Garden. ♦



On Sunday, September 15th, mere hours after the end of Yom Kippur, KJCC's students and interested adults gathered to decorate the KJCC sukkah. After all the work, plus as you saw on the previous page some snacks and an antic or two, everyone gathered for this group shot.



The next Friday, after services, we all assembled in our gazebo/sukkah for Kiddush plus the seasonal Sukkot prayers. Prez Bernie was more than happy to instruct Westley and Cole Silverman on the fine art of shaking lulav and etrog. And, no, we didn't neglect the blessings for wine and bread. (Rabbi Agler, by the way, says that the etrog rind is particularly tasty in a martini.)





On Saturday, September 21st, all of KJCC was invited to the beautiful bayside home of Mindy and Rich Agler for Havdalah. We watched the sunset, ate, looked for three stars, listened to Rabbi Agler talk about Sukkot, celebrated Havdalah and sang “Eliahu HaNavi” outside on a perfect tropical evening.

Keys Jewish Community Center

CHANUKAH BAZAAR!

Join us for a very special day of shopping,
friends, food
& refreshments!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
11:00am to 2:00pm
at the KJCC
MM 93.5



You may have shopped at The Chosen in Miami over the years.
The owners want you to
know that the store is now closed and they have become an
on-line shopping site
THE CHOSEN GIFT
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We are hosting an exclusive one-day sale at the KJCC
in order to bring you many beautiful Chanukkah items
and exciting gifts from
THE CHOSEN GIFT

(A portion of all proceeds will benefit the KJCC Sisterhood.)

We will also have a Raffle for Chanukah Merchandise!

(All raffle proceeds go to the KJCC sisterhood)

Israel Trip Diary: Part II

Last month we joined our intrepid band as they began a twelve-day odyssey in Israel of discovery and connection. They visited Tel Aviv, and Haifa, the Herodian city of Caesarea, the cliffs of Rosh HaNikra and the mystical medieval city of Tzfat. In Part II, the conclusion, they are nearing Jerusalem, for 3,000 years the embodiment of Jewish identity. Once again our reporters are Gloria, Joyce and Medina.

Day Eight

Gloria, Late Afternoon:

I am impressed with Israel in more ways every day. Not only do the people figure out how to make the desert bloom, become the technological R&D center of the Middle East (and one of the best in the world), maintain a top-notch defense force and intelligence system, but they put time, effort, design smarts and money into protecting natural wonders and providing exquisite facilities for joyful rest and recreation. Take the Gan HaShlosa Nature Preserve called Sachne. Rabbi Agler compares it to the Garden of Eden. It lies at the foot of Mt. Gilboa (really more a ridge

than a single mountain) and looks like an etching out of an old book of Middle Eastern botanical drawings. Surrounded by large palms, beautifully landscaped pools of water – all different sizes and shapes, all fed by natural warm springs – invite exploration, swimming, and lolling about. There are places to cook, grassy expanses for rest, a meandering path connecting it all, and a pleasing flat stone walkway across the water between one of the largest pools and a water-fall (which gives excellent back massages).

Joyce, Evening:

The Tomb of Maimonides is a place visited mainly by the Orthodox. Rabbi Agler wanted us to appreciate the magnitude of the Rambam, and so our group learned and I fulfilled my longtime desire to pay homage to this amazing physician sage. Gloria unfortunately

missed the last paragraph of the intro; she turned right instead of left, wandered into the men's section and took a few photos before she realized her error. I took the time at the grave to pray for the health of my daughters and their children, and for the fruitful pregnancies of three wonderful young women. I repeated that same prayer at the Western Wall six hours later, this time in a prayer circle of eight women

focusing their hearts and prayers for these girls, then a silent personal prayer, then to-



Rabbi Agler made sure that a visit to the Rambam's tomb was on the KJCC itinerary.



I guess I'm lucky no religious police are at my door yet :-). That quarter-cylinder is the Rambam's actual tomb. The other half of it is on the women's side. The praying man did not seem to mind me (or even be aware of me, thank goodness). The Orthodox visitors either ignored us or were very gracious. What a giant of a man Maimonides was: physician to Saladin, one of the great Caliphs; scholar; writer (sometime I'd like to read "Guide to the Perplexed"); philosopher; Biblical exegete; and high-ranking advisor to kings. -Gloria

gether, amen.

We will have five nights in this amazing city, so our prayers can be repeated.

In between these two powerful emotional and spiritual events – visiting the tomb of one of the greatest Jewish sages and entering Jerusalem, the holy city – we went swimming at Sachne, a jewel of a park in the desert. Gloria called it Gan Eden, which it must have seemed to any ancient travelers who came upon this oasis with its warm pools of water, palm and olive trees. It is now a beautiful national park complete with picnic tables, large deep natural pools separated by a

man-modified waterfall that wonderfully massaged our backs, and tiny fish that tickled our heels and ankles. An Israeli woman told me in broken English that she likes that pedicure, as they nibble

dead skin. There is a kiddie pool separated by natural stones, visited by the same fish, which the children seemed to like.

On the way to Jerusalem we followed the Jordanian border, passed Mt. Gilboa, where King Saul and his sons were killed in battle, and heard David's emotional eulogy.

We stopped for delicious salads and iced coffee at Café Café, passed into the occupied territory with scattered Bedouin settlements, and Arab and Israeli towns. At the same overlook where we stopped with the Mayk-Shuker tour group (when I was here three years ago

for Shyella and Amit's wedding), we again said *shehechianu* and made prayer over wine and bread, and sang *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*, before we went to the Wall. Now having settled into the Dan Pano-



I was an innocent. As directed, I had dressed respectfully for the visit to this Orthodox-run site. Wandering from the group for just a minute to take a photo of the giant metal openwork tent sculpture over Rambam's tomb, I missed the instruction for women to go to the left. Enchanted by cases full of books, I took some photos and intuitively went to the right, noticing one man praying by the half-cylindrical stone tomb of Spanish-born Moshe Ben Maimon and a few young men studying at a table, but I saw none of our group, so I moved on. Following a sign about saints, I stepped behind a wall and into a whole different world, a universe of women and girls, praying, studying, washing hands. We prayed together, especially for our younger women friends. The women were accepting and unjudgmental. It was an uplifting experience in all directions. -Gloria

rama Hotel's luxurious rooms, Gloria, Medina, Susan and I are going to wander the city looking for a place to try FIDG (the name of a fig brandy that my kids raved about and I haven't been able to find). Gloria and I are heading to the hotel bar right now to see if they have it!

Gloria, Evening:

As if visiting Maimonides' tomb, swimming at a park/oasis/natural hot springs (as close as we'll ever get to the Garden of Eden) and driving along the Jordanian border were not enough(!) for one day, we go on to enter Jerusalem. The sight takes my breath away, but it is the ceremony with our little *chevrah* and Rabbi's story of the two brothers and the two Jerusalems that starts the tears. All the tour buses are gone now. We have the view to ourselves. We bless our wine, eat bread with salt, sing *Jerusalem shel Zahav*, recite *Shehachiyanu*.

Life here is so rich. We move on to the Wall itself. But it is the whole site that embraces. More tears, happy to be sharing a piece of Wall with Medina, and then a very moving, Impromptu ceremony circle, a *misha-*



The Gan HaShlosa Nature Reserve, known as Sachne, sits at the foot of Mt. Gilboa. There are natural pools, and waterfalls, olive trees, and a graceful bridge of large stones.



beyrach with *mishpacha*, for our daughters, granddaughters, babies-to-be, and mothers. We pray through the stones, not to them, and a big part of what melts me is the sight of those pieces of paper tucked into crevasses.



At the end of Day 8, Jerusalem. At the Kotel, the Wall, Gloria takes her first photo of the holy site.



Day Nine

Gloria, Evening:

Today was all about walking – up stairs, down ramps, into cave-like structures that have been painstakingly excavated, one-wheelbarrow-full of stone and sand at a time; lots of discoveries in the past twenty years. Imagine sifting through tons of debris and finding small clay seals identifiable as the signature, in proto-Hebrew lettering, of a specific secretary/scribe who sent out papyrus governmental documents in the time of David (roughly 1,000 BCE). How did the seals survive? Baked when the city was destroyed by fire. It does something visceral to both body and mind to think you are standing where David's palace once stood and you are staring at the actual



It's amazing that we are all still intact. They let cars drive down these narrow quasi-streets. -Gloria



Rabbi Agler, at one of the early Jerusalem archaeological sites, explains the dig, the rubble, and the treasures beneath.

stone remnants. Oh, even better, Rabbi told us about an amulet found at an HUC-sponsored dig that actually had the Priestly Blessing inscribed on it. Whew! 2,500 years ago we

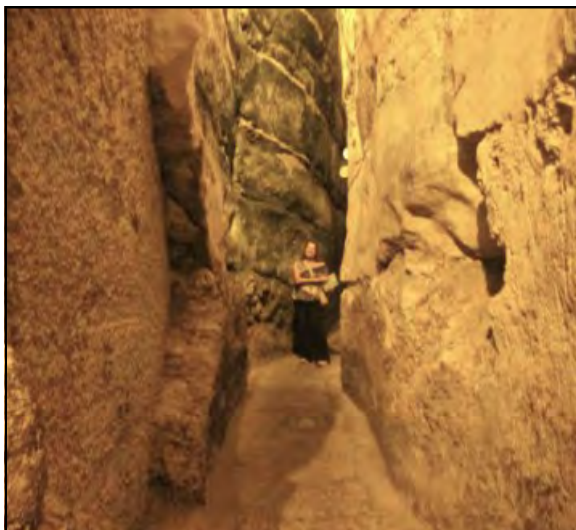


The Old Wall at Jerusalem's Lion's Gate.

were here, doing what we still do.

At right, an "Asher yatzar" prayer upon leaving a bathroom. (Is there anything that doesn't require a prayer?) -Medina

At left, Joyce photographed Gloria in the newest tunnel under the Western Wall.



Did I mention that we spent a good part of the day walking single-file through winding, damp, skinny underground tunnels the whole length of the Western Wall?? I'm thinking 21 football fields. Poor Dave. The ceilings were low.

We even saw the little shops/stalls where the money changers plied their trade, also selling animals for sacrifice to people from far away who could not bring their own. The truly remarkable part to me of many of these sites is that some of them were parking lots just ten years ago. Doesn't it make you wonder what else is there? Actually, all I wonder now is how my legs and feet will rejuvenate for tomorrow. I think my thighs have turned to iron over the course of this last week.

A sign on an ancient Old City Wall guides visitors to the four old Sephardic synagogues in the Jewish Quarter.



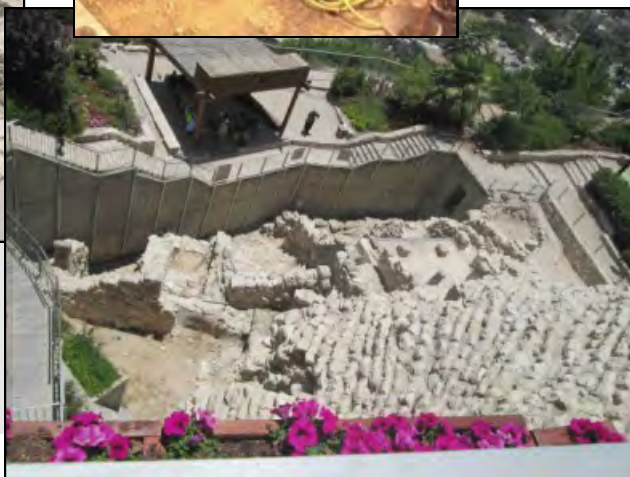
My heart has definitely gotten a workout too, the biggest still on that first Jerusalem day (could it really be just yesterday?) sobbing uncontrollably with Medina, our foreheads pressed to the

Western Wall stone.

(We just came back from the sound-and-light show at Jaffa Gate. David had told me not to bother. He saw it fifteen years ago and was pretty unimpressed. Well, it's still Jerusalem-



Joyce shot these two views of the ongoing archeology digs in the Biblical City of David. The ruins above are well below modern street level.



This kitty cat came, uncalled, to Georgia to be stroked and loved. And maybe to communicate. We were taking a moment's break (*shirutim* call) at the City of David archeological site in Jerusalem when the bonding happened. The cat couldn't have been happier. (Neither could Georgia).

—Gloria



After a long day, Medina and Georgia pause to rinse off some of the dust that goes with Jerusalem archeology, below.



It was a day of history and archeology. In the evening we were having a fine time walking the shopping streets

history-lite, but oh, the visual technology! Stunning and totally fitting to the natural magnificence of the site. My favorite scene was when the whole stone panorama – with all its niches, angles and architectural details – turned into a massive 3-D library with giant leather-bound volumes on the shelves and two or three ethereal people browsing



I spoke to this rug merchant in Hebrew and loved his accent. Turns out he is from Iran, Mashhaadi like David and Michal Kamely and said he knows Yarden's whole family. Says he sold rugs to her uncle. -Joyce



of Ben Yehuda in Jerusalem, people-watching, eating bitter chocolate ice cream, buying a few hand-embroidered Druze bags for the KJCC gift shop from a Bedouin down the alley from the main drag, when all of a sudden these gorgeous, exotically costumed men start pouring out of a side door. Who are they and can we have a picture? The man smiles, puts his arm around Joyce and voila. A classical music moment. We may have missed the performance – they're a troupe of Georgian singers and dancers – but we're happy anyhow, especially Joyce. Below the medals are a row of decorative, um, bullets. -Gloria

the spines. Rich was very cute shepherding us there, like a man leading his ducklings. Only two of us got lost. Medina says it's because she and Susan are short and they got swept away. They were quickly found and all was well. Another memorable day.)

The ramparts at Jaffa Gate in old Jerusalem.



Day Ten

Joyce, Evening:

Having read "The Dovekeepers," this amazing place (Masada) takes on even more meaning. So much of it is original; I can touch the same plaster walls that King Herod and later the 900-plus doomed refugees from

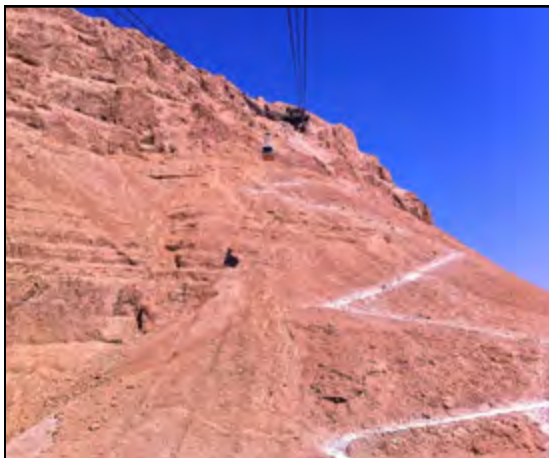


devastated Jerusalem walked through. We sat in the synagogue room where on that final

Our day was intense, serious, salty, and rugged by turns. Camel-riding was the least of it (apparently the new oasis configuration is parking lot, gas station, convenience store complex). But I love Barbara's obvious delight and how she rides as if to the manor born. - Gloria



night the men debated their course of action, wrote their names on pieces of pottery, and then left to slaughter their families and after that take each other's lives. We saw the dove-



Viewing Masada from the desert floor. The snake trail is clearly visible, as are the cable car cables, at top, by which most visitors arrive. Due to the desert heat, walking is only possible in early morning.

cote. It was so real.

We arrived there about 10 a.m. Maybe 10:30. Still early, already hot. I remember thinking how much safer the snake trail was, with its 700 steps and numerous guardrails, compared to the narrow, harrowing trail of earlier years. By the time we left at about 12:30 it was scorching. Lunch began about

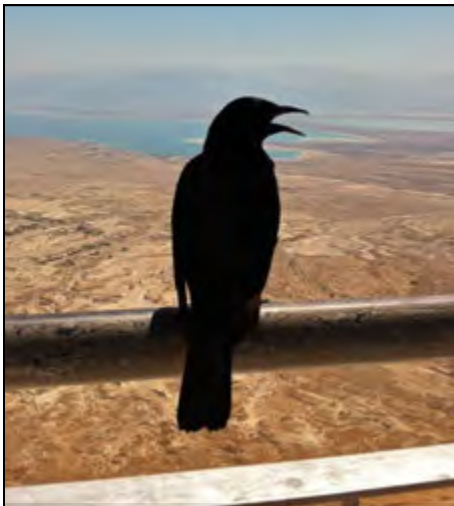
1:00, then we had to be out of the pool and ready to leave at 3:00, and then we went to Ein Gedi....just writing this, I can understand why only three of us were up for joining Richard and Mike for the climb up the hill to the second waterfall.

From there we went to the Resort by the Dead Sea. I had fun wading up to my ankles and taking pictures with Gloria's camera, which I am sure she will send on. I loved relaxing in the pool.

Next stop was Ein Gedi, a marvelous national park in the middle of the desert, complete with pools and waterfalls. As we left the bus, an ibex walked by in the distance, followed by several more, and we watched mesmerized as a huge group of at least fifty, small and very large, strolled across the scrub ahead of us. Our tour guide had said we would be fortunate if we saw one, and in all the years he had been there, he had never seen so many. We continued up the trail to the pools and waterfalls,



Mike, the invaluable guide, begins the story of Masada next to a scale model of Herod's palace. The Starling listens in.



The Tristram's Starling that helped escort KJCC around Masada. The Dead Sea and desert are far below.

where we soaked in the cool shallows.

Back in Jerusalem, we went our separate ways for dinner. Gloria, Barney, Susan and I joined Rabbi Agler for a walk to Emek Rafaim for shakshuka.

Tomorrow Yad Vashem.

Gloria, Evening:

Spiritual Teaching from Geography: Two Different Seas. Yam Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee, really a lake) has an inlet and an outlet. Beautiful. Why is Yam Kinneret alive? It takes and then it gives back. Yam HaMelach (the Salt Sea) is the Dead Sea. It takes and keeps; life comes in, but none leaves.

Joyce against a Masada wall, the black line marking separation of original stonework and reconstruction. -Gloria



Gloria Reflects on Masada:

We did not visit Masada until our tour was almost finished. I'd been looking forward to the experience at the same time as fearing it. The steep cable car climb from the valley floor to the nearly dizzying top of the plateau-perched ruins was not what unnerved me. It was the harsh, brutal, yet inspiring reality of what happened here. The Roman armies laid siege to a band of Jewish rebels, the Zealots, in the time of the Second Temple. Lasting beyond all expectations, the Jews chose to die by their own hands rather than lose their freedom and be tortured by their enemies.

(Once the trip-dust settles, I want to read "The Dovekeepers" again, that brilliant, history-based re-imagining of all that led up to the dramatic conclusion for the 940 holdouts in the 1st century

C.E. Jewish zealots' battle against Rome.)

Wandering past a series of adjoining large rectangular store-rooms — each with high walls of large stones, roofs long gone, windows non-existent — made the small stone individual mikvah around the corner from

another warren of stone-walled, unceilinged rooms, seem very intimate, personal. We walked through Herod's handiwork, saw brilliant fragments of original frescoed wall painting, small palaces, living quarters, thermal baths with an array of column heights, and a synagogue. We stood on large expanses of tamped earth perfect for looking out in all directions, over ramparts, to the garrisons and desert below.

A bird seemed to be following me, perching on a protective iron railing (no doubt placed there to prevent tourists from falling over the edge). He kept opening and closing his mouth, as if hesitant about his message. An earlier sighting of him and two companions on top of a wall above my head, their dark gray silhouettes with rust-trimmed wings, stark against the pale blue



At top Gloria stands at the highest point of Masada. Joyce took this photo of the desert area around the Dead Sea, over 400 feet below. Lower left is the remains of a Roman-style hot room, a caldarium, under the bathhouse. (This had, after all, been a royal palace.)



sky, was both startling and familiar.

We could see for miles the clear traces of original winding roads that led to Roman fortifi-

cations 2,000 years ago and take note of the brilliant aqueduct systems used to gather and store water for this seemingly unreachable flat-

topped spire in a nearly empty land-

On Masada, we were fascinated by a black bird that followed us around.

(Gloria mentioned him, and he's in several photos. And, yes, we all thought of Edgar Allan Poe.) In the group photo of us sitting around, the bird left a load on Steve's hat. -Joyce



scape (think Acoma Pueblo if you've traveled in the

Southwest but not in Israel).

Our walk around Masada, and the ever-present 360-degree view, made everything I'd
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read feel totally real. Then, as if I needed more historical validation, I passed the Dovecote, with its small assortment of stone-built mini-houses, one above the other, for the doves used for communication, early versions of



The vibrant colors on the nearly 2,000-year-old wall frescoes in Herod's palace at Masada amazed me. Of course he imported the finest pigments. -Gloria

first name of a man was clearly inscribed. It all matched the description recorded by Josephus, the Roman/Jewish historian who was an eyewitness to the Roman siege and wrote in detail about the last day. (His narrative had probably been aided by interviewing the two sole adult survivors, women who had hidden in a drainage pipe with four children.) The ten fragments named the last members of the Torah-devoted community, the ones who would draw lots to see who would kill the last of them, after the 940 had killed



Reproduction (originals are in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem) of the lots with the names of the ten men who were to kill people at Masada rather than be captured by the Romans. -Medina

homing pigeons. I was walking where the women of the book had done their work. I could feel their strength and their challenges. *Dayenu!* That would have been enough. But it was something absolutely tiny that rocked me and sent

me back two millennia — a display, in photos, of recently unearthed pottery shards, irregular fragments no larger than one or two inches square. On ten of these shards, the



When I look at these photos of us in Yam HaMelach, the Dead Sea (Medina at top, both of us below at left), I remember how hard we laughed at how hard it was to stand up once we were rock-a-byed in that big, thick, silky-salty waterbed :-) —Gloria

their own wives and children. It seems impossible, but they were not called zealots for nothing. They cheated the Romans of victory, choosing freedom through self-imposed death rather than expose their families to torture at the hands of their enemy.

Whew. We gathered under a latticed roof, not unlike a Sukkah, grateful for stripes of shade in the unrelenting sun. The discussion, led by Rabbi Agler, was fascinating. Ultimately, the big question: Is it better to die for one's beliefs, like the Zealots of Masada, or to live for them, as

Johan Ben Zakkai did, talking Roman ruler-to-be Vespasian into letting him escape Jerusalem (via casket) and establish a humble community in Yavneh with families and students that would eventually become the new center of Jewish life, passing on Jewish values and learning to new generations?

I leave the big question for a moment to honor Dave Mont. He wanted so badly to walk

Our escorts on the walk up Ein Gedi today, a herd of up to fifty ibexes. Mike, our guide, said he had never seen so many. —Joyce



In the midst of the stark Judean desert there is an oasis now known as the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve. Most of the group washed off the desert dust in the waterfall. At right is “Artzy,” a stylized ibex whose likeness is all over Israel. He’s their Smokey the Bear.



the long winding uphill snake path to Masada, but he was not allowed to do it. When we arrived late morning the 700-step walkway was already under blazing sun, too hot and too dangerous. Still, I applaud Dave's intent and am sorry he did not get to achieve his goal.

Discussion on the life/death question continues among us as the bird reappears. He reminds me of a red-winged blackbird with the call of a grackle, darting among the rafters with his companions while Mike—our extremely knowledgeable, articulate, and entertaining

guide—tries to shoo them away. They are persistent. They have lived here and along the shores of the Dead Sea for centuries, if not millennia.

We are the aliens. (I find out later they are called Tristram's Starlings or Grackles, named for the ornithologist who discovered them in the late 1800s.) Tristram's birds fly away and we hear new, important input on the life/death issue.

There has been re

-thinking, apparently, by many more people than our small tour group and Rabbi Agler. Both the hike up Masada and the shout are no longer part of Israeli soldiers' induction. ♦

Day Eleven

Joyce, Late Afternoon:

Only a couple of hours until Shabbat. Hopefully the hotel will get its Internet up and running before then. We are all physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted. We began the day at Mt. Herzl, where an interactive film (think Disney Hall of Presidents) took us into Vienna of the 1800s, with its culture and quiet but deep anti-Semitism that burst to the surface during the Dreyfus trial in 1894. The Herzl museum made him come alive for us...his struggles, his choices. He literally gave his life to the cause. The artifacts in the rooms were his possessions, purchased from his widow who was about to sell them because he had spent all of their money promoting the future Jewish state.

He spent much of the rest of his life on trains, traveling from one head of state or ministry to another, from England to Turkey to Russia, planning and choreographing six Zionist Congresses. Herzl is famous for say-



This section of Mt. Herzl is all from the War for Independence. No differentiation according to rank. Just names, ages, and where they came from. So many teenagers from so many parts of the world. Don't the graves look and feel like peaceful beds? Sad. The "blankets" are made of rosemary. -Gloria



Theodore Herzl's tomb. Rabbi Agler considers him the most important Jew of the last 1,000 years.

state of Israel. It was, almost exactly fifty years after his triumphant First Zionist Congress in

Basel, Switzerland.

In that

Joyce lays a stone at Golda Meir's grave, near the Herzl Museum in Jerusalem.



same cemetery we find the remains

of those who fell during the wars. It was said, "No one is given a new country on a silver platter." Two young soldiers answered: "We are the silver platter." Their graves are there, along with many others who died as early as 1946. We read their places of birth: Iraq, Russia, Jerusalem, Poland...and their ages: 40, 25, 16.

From there we drove to *Yad Vashem*. I was last there in 1967. It is

no longer just a memorial, but rather a graphic, dramatic, visual and auditory testimony to that part of world history. We were only there for two hours. Two days would not have been enough to comprehend it all. One small example: remains of objects pulled from the ruins of Chelmno. Among the spoons and buttons were a few broken shot glasses, the little ones with tiny handles. I visualized the people who had made "lechaim!" with them. My imagination was aided by the thousands of photos everywhere.

We are going to the Wall again before Shabbat.

Gloria, Evening:

Last Shabbat morning Rabbi Agler asked us our first impressions of Israel as we sat on the grass near our Haifa hotel pool. What a difference a week makes. Tonight we are at the *Kotel* (our third time at the wall in four days). It is nearly sunset and the words "Yirushalayim Shel Zahav" suddenly make sense. The evening light *does* turn the buff stone walls to gold. A nearly full moon pops out of the ramparts and the crowds begin to swell. We agree to fifteen minutes of personal time at the wall before we meet near the back of



At top, leaving Lion's Gate, walking down the hill from the gate near the Temple Mount. Just below, the KJCC bus approaches a section of the barrier separating Israeli and Palestinian areas; a discussion on the issues was led by Rabbi Michael Schwartz. The eleventh day culminated in Shabbat and another trip

to the Kotel. The two photos below show the women's section, an amalgam of young and old, formal and casual, orthodox and other. If you look carefully you can see a soldier standing in the center.

the plaza for our own service. I see two circles of women praying and singing as I walk towards the wall. There are so many more people here than on the afternoon of our arrival. But it's Shabbat.

I wonder how I will answer Rabbi Agler's question for tonight: what experience stands out the most for you?

I nearly jump out of my skin as a great shout goes out from the men's side. (Okay, we're a tiny bit nervous because of this morning's shooting.) Half bedlam, half cacophony, it turns out to be all joy. Some huge group is singing the same Carlebach melodies I loved at Rabbi Shai's services last Friday night.

So imagine one great chorus going on while another group is chanting *Bar'chu*

and a third, fourth and fifth are doing their own things at equally enthusiastic volume. (Joyce says the energy of it reminds her of an Orthodox wedding.) I don't see any of this, of course, because of the high *mechitza* (the separating wall between men and women). I marvel at the tolerance of all these different groups towards each other.

Waiting patiently by the wall, I find a space, place my folded prayers in a mini-cave within the stone and put my hands and then my forehead on the wall. Surprising heat flows into me. Today's sun reflected through the stone to me, on the longest day of the year. We get to be here for *Erev Shabbat*, nearly full moonrise, and the summer solstice? Could this have been planned any better?

My prayers of gratitude over, I work my way gingerly backwards to our group. We get a sweet young lady to take our picture and we begin our service, an amalgam of the same songs we sing on Friday nights at shul with little interludes of two or three of us talking about what moved us, impressed us, helped us the most.

Many speak of the beauty of Israel, the resilience of the people, the way that de-

spite the many problems, how happy the people seem, and how amazing it was to be walking on ancient sites and stones, history alive. I thought I was going to talk about the Herzl Museum, the power of one man's dream, the graves of young soldiers from everywhere, killed in the War of Independence, planted in rosemary, with fragrant borders of lavender. But I lost it when we sang *v'Shamru* (it's not even my favorite song). Sudden tears. What hit me was how wonderful it was that we were doing the same thing at the Western Wall in Jerusalem that our KJCC *mishpocha* was doing in Tavernier, Florida. The experience rocked me. Over-abundance of gratitude made for more tears. (This is definitely the most cathartic

trip I've ever been on. It has also been the most fulfilling, exciting, educational, and, um, fun-filled trip ever, an adventure pilgrimage. Gratitude to all who made this trip possible – Rabbi Agler, Dave Mont, KJCC family, our great band of loving fellow travelers, Arzaworld, and cheerleader from afar, David Gitin.)

Medina, Evening:

If I were asked to pick the place that had the greatest impact on me during this trip, I would be hard-pressed to select just one. Independence Hall, Ayalon Institute, Tzfat (where my grandmother was born and where both she and my



From left to right: Carol Raphan, Georgia Landau, Joyce Peckman, Medina Roy, Rebecca Levinsky, Gloria Avner, Barney Coltman, Nils Levinsky, Barbara Smith, Steven Smith, Susan Ellner. In front are Phil Raphan and Rabbi Richard Agler. Missing is Dave Mont, who had joined the men dancing at the Wall. (And Barry and Natalie Dorf, who had already left for home. FYI, Rebecca and Nils Levinsky are not KJCC members. They joined us from Sweden. They had visited the Keys for several weeks this winter, and signed up for the trip.) -Joyce

grandfather are buried), the Tomb of Maimonides, Masada, a dip in the Dead Sea, Yad Vashem, viewing the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum, not to mention the emotionally overwhelming visits to the Kotel...how could I possibly choose just one? But I would probably have to zero in on the visit to Mt. Herzl, the burial place of the man who had the vision for a homeland for the Jews in the late 1800s. Had it not been for Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism, there might not be a Jewish homeland in Israel today.

The same feeling I had when the flight touched down in Tel Aviv, a definite lump in my throat and tears welling up in my eyes, came over me on this visit. To stand beside, and place a stone on the grave of this man...and he never lived to see the day when Israel would be declared an independent nation.

I will never forget walking through the national military cemetery, adjacent to Herzl's grave. Every Israeli has been touched, in some way, by one of its many wars. We walked through the only section of the cemetery where soldiers under the age of 18 are buried. (Young Israelis, both male and female, do not now enter the military before the age of 18.) This was the section where Israelis who died fighting for independence in 1948 are buried. Our guide Mike told us that just like in America's Civil War, lots of boys under the age of 18 signed up to fight. He told us that the population of Israel in 1948 numbered about 600,000 Jews. One percent of them, namely 6,000 – both military and civilian – were killed in the War of Independence. It was difficult not to become emotionally overwhelmed seeing the graves inscribed with the names of...warrior children. The inscriptions in Hebrew brought tears to all of us - "so-and-so who died in the battle to save Jerusalem, age 17..."

But perhaps the most gut-wrenching moments were when Rich Agler, unable to hold back his tears and finding it difficult to speak, told us the story of Israeli poet Natan Alterman's poem, "The Silver Platter." Based on the phrase often used by Chaim Weizmann in December of 1947 soon after the

adoption of the U.N. plan for the partition of Palestine, Weizmann is quoted as having said, "No state is ever handed on a silver platter." Alterman wrote the poem emphasizing that the land of Israel would not be handed to us on "a silver platter," that there would be a sizable price to pay. Walking through the military cemetery, Rich repeated more than once, that this trip, this place, this country *is* the silver platter. And it was given to us.

Day Twelve

Joyce, Evening:

The group had the day off. After taking the Shabbat elevator (local stops only, no buttons to push) to a buffet breakfast (minus omelet station or scrambled eggs), we went our separate ways. Dave and Georgia headed off to the Old City, meandering through the narrow, crowded streets, and bought Armenian pottery and woven shawls. Barbara and Steve, Susan, Gloria, Medina, Barney, Nils and Rebecca and I accompanied Rabbi Agler on the five-minute walk to Hebrew Union College. In the hall we saw examples of the photos of Jerusalem, artifacts from excavations done by their rabbinical students, and photos of a much younger Richard Agler. We were introduced to the dean of students, who leads the Shabbat service. It was about to begin, and she assigned us several honors. Nils, a Levi, received second *aliya*. He is obviously a learned man, judging by the questions he has been asking in broken English with his heavy Swedish accent. Hearing him chant the prayers in perfect Hebrew, we understood how Shabbat transcends nationality and bonds us all together. Barney got *Hagbaah* (lifting and carrying the Torah) and I was given *Galilah* (dressing the Torah). My son Dan would not have been happy with the service, but it was all in Hebrew. Singing our age-old prayers, in Hebrew, in Jerusalem, was extremely meaningful.

From there the four gals and Richard piled into a cab to the Israel Museum. The amiable Arab driver told us that his family came to East Jerusalem from Yemen five hundred years ago. They are Israeli citizens and his eldest daughter is studying law at the Hebrew University.

The museum is featuring King Herod, who

was responsible for building Judea into a magnificent country, rivaling even Rome in volume of construction. He built Masada, Caesarea, Herodius and more, not to mention years of work expanding the Second Temple. We had spent the last week living among his works, so we were fascinated with the exhibit.

Of course we also saw the Dead Sea scrolls; antiquities starting with the early Galilee Man of the

stone ages; remnants from Masada, ritual objects and clothing; and modern Israeli art. Oh yes, a small Joan Miro exhibit as well. We were there for five hours.

One last dinner together. It has been a wonderful trip, with a terrific, compatible group of people. None of us will be the same.

Tonight



Before services, Rabbi Agler gave us a tour (he'd done his rabbinical training there in the 70s) and pointed out some of the marvelous finds that HUC-sponsored archeological digs have uncovered. -Gloria

the shuttle comes at one a.m. for our five a.m. flight home.

Gloria, Evening:

Everyone did different things today. We must be subtly getting ready for group dissolution. The Smiths went back to the Old City. Dave and Georgia went to the Wall again. A few caught up on sleep. Seven of us spent the morning at HUC morning services. Who would have thought: a Reform service with barely a trace of English. It was

lovely, musical, and came with another water-works surprise whenever a prayer or song mentioned Tzion, Yisrael, or Yirushalayim. Will I ever get over this?

The woman rabbi's *dvar* gave us the exciting news about the three women who have been ordained as the first Orthodox Spiritual Leaders (someday they may even be called rabbis :-). They were happy to welcome Rich back (and it was fun to see photos of Rabbi Agler in his days as a student there in the early 70s!).

After four hours in the magnificent Israel Museum with its breathtaking Herod exhibit – he was the ultimate egocentric man of power, but oh what magnificent wonders he created, before he covered everything up with sand and rubble so his tomb could sit undistracted at the top of the Hill – we're exhausted. Like little kids who are tired but too excited to go to bed, we wandered the Archaeology Halls and Judaica exhibit as well as the Qumran scroll exhibit (did everybody but me know that *Qumran* comes from an Arabic word for "moon?") and saw some modern art and works of Escher, oh my. Medina, Susan, Joyce, and I are calling it a day (at least until our legs stop aching – or it's time for our farewell dinner). ♦



Barney enjoys a final Jerusalem waffle, covered with peaches, pears and cream. To his left, out of the photo, Richard is waiting for his *shakshuka*, which, unlike waffles, is practically a national dish and can also be eaten for any meal. -Joyce

Postscript

A Visit with Family

by Medina Roy

Extending my trip for a week to visit and reconnect with family I haven't seen in 39 years.....I loved every moment - from those totally secular to the *chareydi* (and everything in between) - even some who don't recognize the legitimacy of the State of Israel (although that part does bother me a lot).

I spent some time each day with family that I thought I would have nothing in common with. I was prepared ahead of time that I most likely could not relate to them, especially those who are *chareydi*. Just the opposite! We didn't talk politics or religion. We shared family stories, laughed a lot, cried a little but absorbed every moment. They shared stories of my parents, who lived in the town of Petach Tikva, a suburb of Tel Aviv, from 1972 to some time in the 1990s (can't remember exact date at the moment). They ALL adored my mom and dad.

One of the highlights of my extended week was a return to Tzfat, the mystical northern town where my paternal grandmother was born. I have absolutely no doubt that the ancient stone walkways and stairs I climbed were the same my *bubbe* and her family traveled, just as I'm sure they knew well Ashkenazi Ari Synagogue we (the KJCC group) visited a week or so earlier. My visit to Tzfat ended at the cemetery where my *bubbe* and *zaydee* are buried - a visit I will never forget.

There is real joy preparing for Shabbat. It's kind of like Thanksgiving, except it happens once a week, not once a year. Most Israelis now have the day off on Friday or only work half a day and a good part of the day is spent cooking.

At about 7:15 p.m., music from a P.A. system filled the streets of the neighborhood. It was to announce that Shabbat would begin in about 15 minutes. It happened again ten minutes later, alerting the neighborhood that in

five minutes, it would be time to light the Shabbat candles. Soon after, the streets filled with men walking to shul for the evening prayers. When they returned home, it was time for supper, and like Thanksgiving, the time at the dinner table was about two hours, with joyous singing in-between courses. ♦

Walls, Dreams, and Shirutim

by Gloria Avner

There are walls and there are walls.

In Israel, boundary walls walk a snaking green line, a 25 ft. tall, grey cement, smooth-surfaced monolithic protector of families who live close to dangerous borders, especially the borders known for unpredictable incursions of suicide bombers. In some places where the wall exists, it has reduced incidents and casualties tremendously. In others, it has bred hatred and resentment, especially when the wall seemed to be placed capriciously by officials who simply looked at a map, without regard for centuries of olive grove ownership and crop-tending by Arab communities that straddle the line. Finally, some accommodations are being made. Portions of The wall get moved. The Arabs agree to protect the railroad passing through town. The farmers get to harvest their olives.

Time out for a folk song, composed and sung on our "*Alumah* (Ray of Light)" bus by Rabbi Richard Agler (with acknowledgment to Woody Guthrie). It may seem humorous, but it makes a serious point: "This Land is your land. This land is my land, from the Arab border, to the Arab border, from the Arab border, to the Arab border. This land was made for you and me."

We are nearing the end of our Israel trip, and Rabbi Michael Schwartz is guiding our bus to wall-related sites, including a local bus stop where a suicide bomber caused the loss of eight lives. He is discussing the boundary wall problem as a humanitarian and social justice issue. Are we better served by meet-

ing, talking with, and helping to uplift our neighbors, or by building more and higher boundary walls? The question resonates. There are no obvious answers, just arguments. We are exhausted and want to get off the bus, lie down, have a glass of wine, go to dinner. The pollyanna glow of our first few days in Israel is losing its gloss. Like everything else in and about Israel, it's complicated.

The wall that is not complicated is the Western Wall, the Wailing Wall, the pale ancient Temple boundary wall of giant stones that turn the city into *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* (Jerusalem of Gold) with "end of day" light. If our trip to Israel were a play in three or four or eleven acts (maybe one for each day, each having four or five scenes), this Wall would be a main character. It certainly made for catharsis, emotional release through tears.

We are so tiny against that Wall. Look at any of our photographs. The Wall would embrace us if it could, and it does when we get close, giving solace to us and our little folded-up prayer messages, the paper "please" and "thank you" notes we place in its human-scale little crevices.

We've walked underneath our big Wall, below ground, stooping through tunnels so narrow we could touch their walls by barely raising an arm. They anointed us with insight. They let us in on secrets, mind-boggling construction techniques, foresight in relation to water storage, complexity of an ancient culture brilliant in its architecture.

Outside of Jerusalem we marveled at walls too: the remnants of the amphitheater at Caesarea, Herod's tribute to the emperor Augustus on the Mediterranean; the painted fresco fragments on the remaining walls of Herod's palaces at Masada in the Judean desert; the almost unbreachable walls of the Crusader city Akko jutting out into the sea just above Haifa, with its many solid feet of heaped stone on either side of twelve feet of dirt.

To really understand walls, though, we have to think about what we're walling in and walling out, and why. (I recommend Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall.") If there is noth-

ing to protect, nothing precious to house, there is no need for walls. What is precious in Israel is both concept and reality: *Ha'Aretz*, the land. It was promised to us millennia ago, only recently made a reality. The reality began with a dream. Everything in Israel begins with a dream.

The Bible and its stories are never far away here. We can find where Abraham was told by three angels that he would found a great nation. Jacob had a dream in the wilderness and wrestled all night with an angel who would give him a new name, this country's name. Moses sealed the deal with God, Torah, and a covenant here on Mount Sinai. And then there are Herzl's words. When he said, in his most famous quote, "if you will it, it is no dream," he proved as good as his word. "Dream and deed are not as different as many think," he said. "All the deeds of men are dreams at first, and become dreams in the end." He thought that people would laugh at him if he said, "At Basel, I founded the Jewish State." Then he added, "Perhaps in five years, certainly in fifty, everyone will know it."

We on the bus certainly know it. It is over 100 years since Herzl voiced his dream, providing the impetus to make the State of Israel a welcome reality for a people without a homeland. It was and is a struggle, both to create and preserve, so we need to keep dreaming it. There is a profound feeling when you walk down a street in which you belong, where all around you are Jews, of every color, description, attitude, belief, and clothing style, but all Jews.

One last thematic thread remains, a banal one, but integrally woven into the complex fabric of our journey. On behalf of our entire band of pilgrims, I would like to thank our guide, Mike Rogoff. In addition to giving great context and a Bernie Ginsberg-like sprinkling of humor to our journey, he always pointed out the nearest "*shirutim*" (bathrooms) and gave us adequate time to visit them. Given our ages, relative infirmities, and simple necessity, we appreciated his attention to this detail before, during, and after every activity, exploration, and event. We wandered from the sublime to the mundane and back again with zest. ♦

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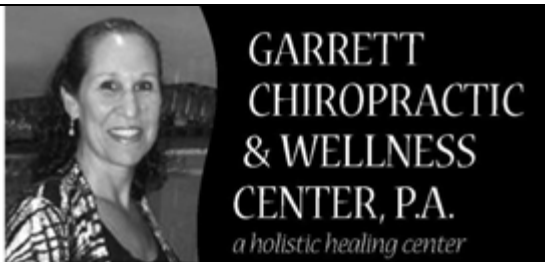
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Chai~Lights



November 2013

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November 2013

28 Chesvan - 27 Kislev

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Erica Lieberman-Garrett	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m., Chanukah Bazaar 11:00	4	5	6 Men's Club Game Night 7:30	7	8 Gloria Avner, Beth Hayden, Sam Vinicur <i>Linda Kaplan</i>	9
10 KJCC Board Meeting 9 a.m. Bloodmobile 10:30	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15 Steve Steinbock	16 Rabbi Agler Torah Study Service 10:00
17	18	19	20	21	22 Gloria Avner, David Gitin, Westley Silverman <i>David Gitin</i>	23
24	25	26	27 First Night Of Chanukah	28 Thanks-giving	29 Daniel Peckman <i>Jessica and Roger Hernstadt</i> 6:30 Sisterhood Chanuka Dinner, Services 8:00	30

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



We, the Jewish community of the Keys, as well as the community at large, have lost many "pillars" of our community through death in recent weeks. I have just returned from the lovely service for Ron Levy at Founders Park in Islamorada, a park he had so much to do with establishing as a public green space. Not long ago we heard that our dear friend Gerald Hirsch passed away; it seems only yesterday that he and Elaine were hosting KJCC fundraisers at their beautiful oceanside estate. It feels like so many anchors of our community are slipping. We seem to have lost more children, friends, parents, grandparents, husbands and wives in a short time than ever before. As I write this, we have just lost our beloved Michal Kamely.

Not to confuse the loss of a precious human life with a mere physical thing, but even the physical building of our Jewish Center seems to be rebelling, sliding away and getting old. Our esteemed board member Steve Hartz warns us that we must plan now for the replacement of our building and its major systems.

I appointed a new House Committee chairman at the last Board Meeting, since Stu Sax will soon be leaving for Texas. Before Richard Knowles could go home on the day of his appointment he

faced two problems: a broken-down oven in the kitchen and flooding in both our bathrooms.

How do we deal with all these losses? In the words of Bob Dylan, the poet of my generation (with apologies to KJCC's own David Gitin), we "have to keep on keeping on." We have no choice but to continue supporting each other and going on. The physical things can be repaired and the personal losses remain, but eventually the pain becomes less acute. We stumble onward step by step and eventually the KJCC will re-constitute itself.

Friends will comfort and console each other. New members will take up the places of the old, though the memories of the old live on. The religious school students have become young people that can attend and even lead services. Bar Mitzvahs like that of Will Pollack will refill the ranks of the Jewish people. Joy will return as we gather in community at our Sisterhood Shabbat dinners (like the excellent dinner on Oct. 11th and the festive Chanukah/Shabbat dinner scheduled for Friday, Nov. 29th) and holiday celebrations replace funerals and celebrations of life.

Nor auf Simchas. (May we only meet on happy occasions.)

— *B'ahava*, Bernie

Nosh

Rabbi Agler's Upcoming Schedule

For the organized few among us, Rabbi Agler has given us the dates on which he will be conducting the next four months of Saturday morning Torah study services at KJCC, all to begin at 10:00. Those dates are November 16th, December 28th, January 18th and February 22nd. And, yes, we will be reminding you of the dates each month. If you haven't taken advantage of these extraordinary monthly gifts to KJCC, you really should come and unwrap one. So far, all who have come have enthusiastically come back.

The Early Service This Month is a Dinner

Ordinarily, the final service of every month begins at 6:30, not 8:00 like typical services. (The idea has always been to make at least one service especially family-friendly.) But this month will be an exception. There will be a Chanukah/Shabbat dinner beginning at 6:30 on November 29th. Services will follow at the usual time of 8:00.

The Twelve Chairs

If you and your back (or tush) dread the ubiquitous brown folding chairs in KJCC's Ruth Richardson Social Hall and David Kamely Classroom, you and your back are not alone. But relief may be at hand (if such a thing can be said about one's back). Twelve new thickly padded folding chairs are now available to anyone who asks. They were donated by Bernie Ginsberg's office staff to honor the memory of Joe Goldberg, Bernie's late medical practice partner. KJCC, and assorted unnamed backs and tushes, send thanks and gratitude to Bernie's office.

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
the Levy/Kaminstein family
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In Memory of Ron Levy

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in places Ron made his
and ours
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twist arms
cajole
birth schools make pools
a founders park
amphitheater home to feasts and festivals
bard by the bay morada clay
we'll weep and celebrate

a huddle of friends
shoulders touching
wordless body consolation
ears strain to hear
tributes on the wind
eyes pink
puffy over dark blue rings
from former combatants
fragile daughters
missing memories
of the strength that was their dad

six months he was given
seven years he took
ashes sprinkled in a circle round
great grandmother tree
community joins hands
in perfect song and dance
you put your whole self in
you put your whole self out . . .

Gloria Avner 10/13/13

Ed note: Six new poems by Gloria are featured in an online arts magazine called "Empty Mirror." The link is <http://www.emptymirrorbooks.com/features/poems/6-poems-by-Gloria-Avner.html>

November Birthdays

2nd.....	Brian Boruszak
2nd.....	Emma Neidenberg
2nd.....	Hannah Werthamer
2nd.....	Jeremy M. Schur
2nd.....	Madalyn F. Tobias
2nd.....	Matt Temkin
3rd.....	Ivan Bader
3rd.....	Katherine Shabathai
4th.....	Herbert Grossman
4th.....	Zoey Barrett
5th.....	Milton Wohl
7th.....	Joel Stein
7th.....	Michele Lindenbaum
8th.....	Nico Bader
8th.....	Nico Wilbur
11th.....	Allan Harrell
11th.....	Cathy Dutton
13th.....	Marilyn Greenbaum
13th.....	Mark Wasser
13th.....	Tami Antelman
14th.....	Larry Wolfe
14th.....	Rae Wruble
16th.....	Lorelei Alexander
16th.....	Sofy Wasser
17th.....	Jason Orans
18th.....	Ross Alexander
19th.....	Georgia Landau
19th.....	Michael E. Schur
22nd.....	Christopher Gould
22nd.....	Gloria Avner
22nd.....	John Greenbaum
23rd.....	Alec Gilderman
24th.....	Aidan Kahn
24th.....	Arthur Lee Willner
24th.....	Will Travis Pollack
25th.....	Nancy L. Cohn
26th.....	John Greenbaum
26th.....	Ruth Schrader-Grace
28th.....	Nicole Hudson
29th.....	Benjamin Rakov
30th.....	Steven Horowitz

November Anniversaries

		Years
1st	Jeffrey & Patty Schocket.....	10
6th	Thomas & Renee Brodie.....	20
26th	Roger & Danna Levy.....	46
27th	Joni Sages & Robert Dandrea.....	10
27th	Stanley & Jenny Margulies	
28th	Sam & Leslie Janowitz.....	16

Yahrzeit Plaque

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November 29th - Roger and Jessica Hernstadt
 for Aidan's birthday

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of
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 from
Gloria Avner

Rabbi Agler's Shirt

Rabbi Agler had admired a shirt he saw in the congregation on Rosh Hashanah. So Gloria, as Head of Ritual, gifted him with one after High Holidays. (There's a photo of him wearing the shirt on page 19.) It's a comfortable, heavy cotton shirt. The "aleph" insignia is said to have mystical connotations. If you want a shirt of your very own, go to kabbalahdesigns.com; there you'll see a variety of shirts and caps, with the same "aleph" insignia but also offering the Hebrew letters "mem" and "shin."

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Joseph Goldberg, MD

by Bernard Ginsberg, MD

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
the Kamely family
on the death of
Michal Kamely

BOOK PLATE

Mazel Tov to
The Pollack Family
on Will's Bar Mitzvah
from
Joan Boruszak

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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.

Marcia's Tribute to Ron

(KJCC member Marcia Kreitman posted this loving memory of Ron Levy on her Facebook page.)

Ron Levy, supportive friend, brilliant, forceful, and fearless visionary, your earthly star went out this morning, but your legacy burns bright.

Your only goal, gain and reward was to help and support others, and to enhance the quality of life for your community. The amenities we now take for granted are the result of your tireless efforts. Thank you for creating a community identity and infrastructure. Thank you for our community park, pool, athletic fields, dog park, beach, a place for youth to congregate and a tradition of Fourth of July Celebration. Thank you for our amphitheater and the cultural programs it hosts.

John and I will miss you. We will all miss you. But, if it is at all possible (and knowing you, you'll find a way), please continue to make your influence felt, and continue to enrich our lives.

All my love and gratitude!

Skip Rose Joins the KJCC Board

Rene Rose's passing left a big hole at KJCC, one that we're all still learning to cope with. But she also left a vacancy on the KJCC Board of Directors. Bernie waited until the right time, then asked husband Skip if he'd be willing to take Rene's place at the table. He said yes, and the Board voted unanimously at the October meeting to swear him in before he had a chance to change his mind. Skip brings a lifetime of wisdom and wide experience to the Board, and KJCC is lucky to have him. This issue's masthead reflects the Board's new composition.

Bloodmobile to be at KJCC in November

Sunday, November 10th will be the next KJCC Board Meeting, at 9 a.m. As it does every few months, the local Bloodmobile will pull in around 10:30 and park in the KJCC lot, open for business. All KJCC members are encouraged to join us and donate. Join us at the meeting first (we have coffee), or bypass us entirely and go right to the Bloodmobile. There's always a need.

Tree of Life Leaves

**To all our Wonderful and Dear
Friends in the KJCC Congregation,**
Health and Happiness always,

from the Sanders Family.

In Honor of
Joshua Samuel Bernstein
Bar Mitzvah 11/5/2011
Mazel Tov!

Love, Mom & Dad

In Honor of
Bea Avner,
Tireless worker for Tikkun Olam,
From her loving daughter Gloria

Sumner Berenson
Forever in our hearts.
Marla Berenson & Joe Gould

To Honor
Sally Shabathai
1922 - 1996
The Shabathai Family

In Honor of the Life of
Alvin S. Gross
by David and Patti Gross

Barbara Gould
Forever in Our Hearts.
Joe & Marla
Marla Berenson & Joe Gould

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 blessings _____

@ \$2.00 per blessing \$ _____

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Total Contribution \$ _____

Complete and return by
November 28th to:
KJCC Sisterhood
PO Box 116
Tavernier, FL 33070

Please copy this page, or
tear out of Chai-Lights,
and send with your check.

Finally, a
Fundraiser you do
not have to attend!

In Memoriam November 2013

In Memory Of

Solomon Wasser

By Mark & Sofy Wasser

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Esther Gold Willner

By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Diana Wolfe

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Morris Mazur

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

[illegible]

In Memory Of

Katy Kram

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Eve W. Zinner

By Donald Zinner

<><><><><><><><><><><>



Much applause to all who helped with our Break Fast. Huge thank you's to those who helped set up, clean up, cook, bake and even cleaned up afterward. We could not have done it without you all!!!

And to those who enjoyed our sumptuous buffet, we hope it was a fulfilling conclusion to your High Holidays.

Lauren Sax & Kathy Shabathai



KJCC Chanukah

5774

Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, November 29, 2013

Dairy Dinner

6:30 PM



Followed by our Sunday School children's
Chanukah Presentation:

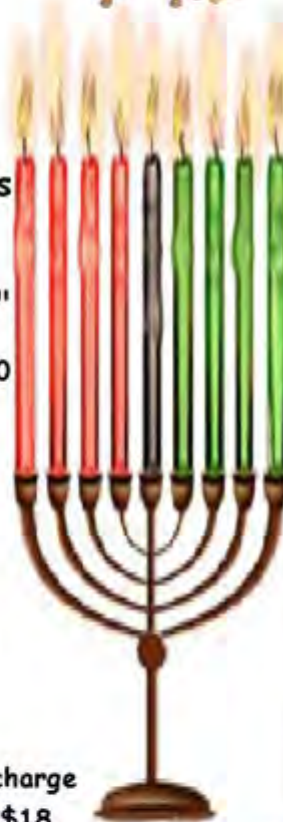
"Thanksgivikkah - A Holiday Celebration"

Don't Miss It: This Won't Happen Again for 70,000
years!

Services at 8 pm

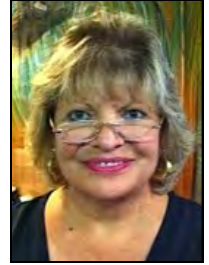
Contact Erica @ (305) 853-1003
hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your spot and
coordinate your dish.

Donations - Members: no charge
NonMembers: \$18



Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



Now that the summer months have flown by and we're already into fall, there's so much happening at KJCC. November 3rd will be a very popular day. As always, Sisterhood's meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. The meeting, however, will not be in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall as usual but in the Sanctuary instead. The reason for moving our location is so we can accommodate The Chosen Gift Shop's Chanukah Bazaar. We are hosting this exclusive one-day sale in our Social Hall in order to allow them to bring us (and display for all to see and explore) an assortment of wonderful items and gifts for Chanukah. The hours will be 11 a.m. till 2 p.m.

A portion of what they sell will give benefit KJCC Sisterhood. Sisterhood will also be selling refreshments – hot dogs, chips and a soda for \$5.00 to make it a fun and special day for all.

November 3rd is also the night when we turn our clocks back one hour, which blesses us all with an extra hour of sleep. (We'll all be ready for a great November meeting along with a lot of extra energy to "Shop, Shop, Shop" for Chanukah. Right?)

While I am on the subject of Chanukah, we are having our "Thanksgivukkah" Shabbat Dinner on Friday, November 29th, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. We have moved our services to 8:00 p.m. (last Friday of the month is usually at 6:30), so we can have this Holiday Celebration. I hope all will be able to attend this dinner, as this year Chanukah and Thanksgiving will fall on the same day, which won't happen again for another 70,000 years.

Our "Thanksgivukkah" dinner has been graciously sponsored by Joel and Linda Polack, so there's no charge for members; there's an \$18.00 for all non-members, adults and children. This is a Potluck Dairy Dinner featuring everyone's favorite (or for

some a guilty pleasure), potato latkes. Please R.S.V.P. to Erica Garrett @ 305-853-1003 or hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your spot and coordinate your dish.

The KJCC Sisterhood is working diligently to have monthly dinners. Bernie is right that it fosters a joyous gathering of friends and family and a great way of keeping the feeling of "mishpocha."

I've mentioned at many Sisterhood meetings that we need more women to join our great group. We're close to getting the rest of our snowbirds back (we've missed you), but we really want new faces and ideas to help keep us moving forward and being even more successful. The meetings are also another great way to spend special time together. So, to those of you who don't typically come to meetings, I hope you will consider joining us for our November meeting.

I have to say that I'm always so happy to see so many people at our services, plus meeting and greeting new members as they walk through our door. October has been a tough time for all of us since we've had to say goodbye to some long-time members. The recent passings are a great loss to all of us here at KJCC.

I'm sure everyone is aware by now that two special people, Stuart and Lauren Sax, will be moving soon to be close to their family in Texas. Stuart contributed so much during his term as KJCC President and Lauren was my predecessor as Sisterhood President. She has been my mentor and great friend. Both of you will be missed but not forgotten. We wish you the very best and hope you'll come back to visit us soon.

Let's all make November a safe and great month. ◇

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

Avner, Gloria

Boruszak, Joan

In Honor of

Dr. Bernie Ginsberg's
fine leadership 5774

Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin

Gould, Joe & Marla Berenson

Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine

General Fund

Barash, Richard & Donna

Covan, Frederick

Nelson, Darling J.

Reamer, Leslie

Sherman, Robert & Adriana

In Honor of

thank you for warm &
welcoming Shabbat services

Scholarship Fund

Pollack, Joel & Linda

In Memory of

Ron Levy

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Gitin, David

Mah Jongg Girls (2 onegs)

In Honor of

Gloria Avner's birthday

Rene Rose

General Fund

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin

Gilson, Michael & Suzanne

Pollack, Joel & Linda

Pollack, Joel & Linda

In Memory of

Bob Freundlich

Gerald Hirsch

Muriel Catanese

Jose Cohen

Tree of Life - Leaves

Sanders, Steven B.

In Honor of

Health & happiness to our
KJCC friends, from the Sanders Family

Shabathai, Joe & Katherine and family

Avner, Gloria

Gould, Joe & Marla Berenson

Gould, Joe & Marla Berenson

To honor

Sally Shabathai, 1922-1996

In honor of Bea Avner,
tireless worker for Tikkun Olam

forever in our hearts -

Sumner Berenson

forever in our hearts -

Barbara Gould

Holidays

Olsen, Gerald & Sheila

Ross, Mildred

In Honor of

Kol Nidre donation

thank you for the holiday services

Meditation Garden

Coltman, Barney

Coltman, Barney

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

In Memory of

brick - Robert S. Coltman

brick - Evelyn O. Coltman

Gerald Hirsch

Muriel Catanese

Saunders Cohen

Joel Cohen

James Yakov Nobil

Yahrzeits

Avner, Gloria

Isenberg, Patricia

Yizkor Book

Berman, Sylvia

Kamely, Yardena

Kamely, Michal

Sanders, Steven B.

In Memory of

Perren Gerber

Henry Isenberg

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A First for *Yad Vashem*

On September 30th, *Yad Vashem*, Israel's Holocaust memorial, posthumously honored Mohamed Helmy, an Egyptian doctor who risked his life to rescue Jews during World War II. Helmy is the first Arab to be awarded the prestigious recognition of "Righteous Among the Nations." *Yad Vashem* learned of Helmy's actions about a year ago when a German researcher discovered letters in Berlin's city archives written decades ago by Holocaust survivors on behalf of their rescuers. After conducting more research, *Yad Vashem* pieced together Helmy's story. Mohamed Helmy moved to Berlin in 1922 to study medicine, then settled there after completing his studies. He spoke out against Nazi policies, after which he himself suffered discrimination and was forbidden to work. Helmy hid his friend, a young Jewish woman, in his cabin, arranged a hiding place for other members of her family and provided medical care for her relatives during the war. Frieda Szturmann assisted him by hiding members of the woman's family and she, too, was honored posthumously. Helmy died in 1982; Szturmann died in 1962.

(www.bostonglobe.com, 10-1-13)

And KJCC Helped...

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, tourism to Israel hit a record high for the period January to June in 2013, reaching 1.7 million visitors. The figure was one percent higher than in the same six-month period in 2012. In June, tourism rose three percent to 295,000 – 15 of whom were the KJCC Israel trip participants! In the last 25 years, the number of travelers arriving in Israel has grown by 110 percent. (www.reuters.com, 7-12-13)

Israel's Ambassador: "It's About Time"

According to Ron Prosor, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, the Jewish state will, for the first time ever, vie for a rotating seat on the fifteen-member panel of the U.N. Security Council, the United Nations' most powerful and prestigious body. In order to win one of the ten two-year rotations on the Security Council, Israel would have to secure two-thirds of the votes in the General Assembly, which is made up of 193 member states. U.N. diplomats believe it will not be easy for the Jewish state to win. Most members of the non-aligned bloc of developing nations are either cool or openly hostile towards Israel. The Security Council has five permanent members (The United States., Britain, France, Russia and China), any one of which has veto power over any resolution. It has the ability to pass binding resolutions, impose sanctions or authorize the use of military force. Prosor said Israel would compete against Germany and Belgium for two seats for 2019-2020. On occasion, Israel has held posts as vice president of the General Assembly, but it has never been a member of the Security Council. (www.reuters.com, 10-3-13)

Screening for Ashkenazi Genetic Diseases

Emory University's School of Medicine's Department of Human Genetics recently introduced a genetic screening initiative for hereditary diseases in the Ashkenazi Jewish community. *JScreen* is a multi-state initiative that will provide screening through a saliva test taken at home. In addition, the program will also offer private counseling to Jewish couples and individuals to determine their risk for passing on genetic diseases to their

children. *JScreen* is a collaboration of clinical geneticists, the business community and non-profits. Markers for nineteen genetic diseases that are more common in the Jewish community have been identified. *JScreen* also offers an expanded panel for interfaith couples and couples of mixed descent which screens for a total of 80 diseases. (www.jta.org, 10-2-13)

Janet Yellen and The Fed

In early October, President Obama nominated Janet Yellen to chair the Federal Reserve, positioning her as the first woman to hold the position in its 100-year history. She currently serves as vice-chairwoman of the agency. If confirmed by the Senate, Yellen would become “the world’s most powerful economic policy maker.” She would also be the third consecutive Jewish economist to serve as Fed chairperson. She would succeed Ben Bernanke, who is expected to step down in January after serving since February 2006. Bernanke succeeded Alan Greenspan. Yellen was born in Brooklyn, New York and graduated summa cum laude in 1967 from Brown University with a degree in economics. In 1971, she received her PhD in economics from Yale University. Yellen served as a Federal Reserve Board governor from 1994-1997, a position she left to head President Bill Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisers. She is married to George Akerlof, a 2001 Nobel economics laureate; the two were active in the Bay Area Jewish community when Akerlof taught at the University of California, Berkeley. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 10-9-13)

Buried in Bury

A rare, handwritten Jewish manuscript dating back to 1726 was recently discovered in Bury, England, stored in a cardboard box in a garage at a house being cleared out after the passing of the Jewish couple who lived there. The estimated value of the manuscript is somewhere between \$161,000 and \$242,000, but could be sold for more when it goes up for auction at the end of November. The manuscript is a 20-page *Haggadah* hand-painted on goat skin. It is believed to have been smuggled out of Belgium during World

War II by a family escaping the Nazis. (www.bbc.co.uk, 10-8-13)

Apple v. Google

Cue, a personal assistant app co-founded by 21-year-old Israeli entrepreneur Daniel Gross, was recently purchased by Apple for an estimated \$40 million. Gross founded *Cue* (formerly *Greplin*) together with Robbie Walker, another young entrepreneur. A native of Jerusalem, Gross graduated from the prestigious Eli pre-military academy. He was preparing to enlist in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) but first took a trip to San Francisco and got caught up in Silicon Valley’s start-up fever. Apple apparently decided to buy *Cue* in order to “bolster the iPhone’s personal assistant features,” as Apple competes with Google. Gross has not been back to Israel since emigrating to the United States. He would be subject to arrest by military police for avoiding his IDF service. (www.timesofisrael.com, 10-8-13)

Israel’s Technion Makes the Cut

After analyzing the educational backgrounds of 250 CEOs of tech companies in the United States with a market value of more than \$1 billion, *Bloomberg* found the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology tied for seventh place with MIT, Rice University and the University of Texas, Austin. According to *Bloomberg Rankings*, Israel is home to one of the world’s top tech hubs and Technion is where many of the brightest go to train. One of those brightest is *Stratasys* CEO David Reis, whose 3-D printer maker acquired New York-based *MakerBot Industries* for at least \$403 million earlier this year. The listing also cited the Technion’s collaboration with Cornell University to build a \$2 billion tech campus and startup incubator on New York City’s Roosevelt Island. (www.bloomberg.com, 8-29-13)

Gone Forever

Sometime earlier this year, *Beith Shalom*, Indonesia’s last synagogue, was destroyed. Situated in Surabaya on the island of Java, the synagogue had seen a number of anti-Israel protests staged in front of it. In 2009, it was sealed by Islamic hardliners. Dutch Jews had

built the small synagogue in the 19th century when Indonesia was still a Dutch colony. (Jews had first arrived in Indonesia in the 17th century with the Dutch East India Company.) The community grew in the 1930s and 40s with Jews fleeing persecution in Europe. According to *Beit Hatfutsot*, the Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv (and one of the sites visited by the KJCC Israel trip participants), there are now only about 20 Jews believed to be living in Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim nation. (www.jta.org, 10-4-13)

In Memoriam

- Muriel Siebert, the first woman to buy a seat on the New York Stock Exchange (as well as many other “firsts”), has died at the age of 80. She was also the first woman to head a member firm of the exchange, *Muriel Siebert and Company*, which she founded in 1968. In 1977, she was the first woman appointed superintendent of banking for New York State. In joining the exchange, Siebert had to ask ten men (a minyan?) before she could find one willing to sponsor her application. She remained the only woman on the exchange for the next decade. In 1983, she lost a bid for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate. Siebert donated millions of dollars to help other women get started in business and finance. (www.jta.org, 8-26-13)

- Yehuda Lev, journalist and veteran of both World War II and Israel’s War of Independence, who established an underground route to smuggle Holocaust survivors to Palestine, has died. He was 86. Born John Lewis Low in New York City, he was the son of a successful businessman and a mother who was one of the first women labor lawyers. He dropped out of Cornell University and enlisted in the U.S. Army during the latter part of World War II. At the time of his discharge, he was in Germany. Seeing Holocaust survivors languishing in Displaced Persons camps, Lev established a route, mostly by foot, to bring them to Mediterranean ports, where they were smuggled onto “illegal” ships, past the British naval blockade, into Palestine. He changed his name to Yehuda Lev and joined the Israeli army when the sur-

rounding Arab states invaded in May 1948. Lev remained in Israel and established himself as a highly popular radio host of “Jerusalem Calling,” a daily variety and discussion program in English on *Kol Israel*, the country’s national network. Years later, as the only native English speaker on *Kol Israel*, Lev reported the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann to the outside world. From 1986 until 1993, he was associate editor of the *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles* and was best known for his column “A Majority of One.” (*The Forward*, 8-6-13)

- Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spiritual leader of Israel’s Sephardic Jews, has died at 93. Yosef headed the ultra-Orthodox *Shas* party, founded in the early 1980s. Under his leadership, *Shas* (a Hebrew acronym for Sephardic Torah Guardians) became a major political player in Israeli’s parliamentary government. By the end of the 1990s, *Shas* had become the third largest political party, and it has participated in most of the country’s governing coalitions for almost 30 years. A Torah scholar, Yosef was often described by followers as “the greatest of the generation” when dealing with *halacha* (Jewish law). Rabbi Yosef was born in Baghdad. He was four when his family moved to Jerusalem. He was ordained at 20 and began working as a judge in a religious court. At the age of 24, Yosef married the daughter of a respected rabbi of Syrian descent (she died in 1994). They had eleven children. Yosef moved to Cairo in 1947, ran a religious court there and headed a yeshiva before returning to Israel in 1950. He wrote Talmudic commentaries and volumes of *responsa*, answers to questions on religious law. In 1970, he was awarded the prestigious Israel Prize for rabbinical literature. Yosef was often bold in issuing his own, sometimes lenient rulings on delicate issues that other rabbis would not dare touch. In one landmark ruling, the rabbi permitted hundreds of women whose husbands were missing after the 1973 war to remarry, even though remarriage is traditionally allowed only after there is incontrovertible proof that a woman’s husband has died. In 1973, he was elected Sephardic chief rabbi of Israel, serving for a decade alongside Shlomo Goren, the Ashkenazi chief rabbi. (www.nytimes.com, 10-7-13) ◇

KJCC Gift Shop

*T'is the Time to Shop-
FREE Chanukah candles with a
\$20 minimum purchase!!*

Remember us for Chanukah



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

**See our new items from Israel
handpicked by our Mishpocha
on their recent tour.**



For further information contact:
Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585



On Friday, September 27th, Simchat Torah was the finale at KJCC as a special celebratory add-on to our regular service. Under Bernie's leadership, past presidents Jeff Schocket, Steve Steinbock and Stuart Sax carried our three Torahs around the sanctuary to clapping and singing. Since there are to be seven joyous circuits, the Torahs were then handed to other congregants to carry. We re-wound the

Torahs to the beginning, as the next week we would start over with B'raisheet. To show just how long a full Torah scroll is, we all participated in the re-winding of our (non-Kosher) student Torah. Once the scroll was fully unrolled, Rabbi Agler strolled along it, reading the entire Torah in just over seven minutes. (Not exactly every word, but from beginning to end.) Everyone went to the Oneg smiling.





October 11th saw the monthly Shabbat Dinner at KJCC. Since George Swartz was leading services that night, he led the Kiddush and HaMotzi. Pictured at bottom, Muriel Swartz, Pauline Roller and Linda Kaplan sat formidably at the front door collecting the money.





Saturday, October 12th saw Rabbi Agler's monthly Torah Study service. At top, the night

before, Gloria and Bernie presented him with his "aleph" shirt in gratitude for his wonderful work during the High Holidays. (He then took some time to explain to a rapt Oneg how the Jewish mystics regard the aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. You



know, the word the Greeks created by borrowing and combining the names of the first two Hebrew letters — aleph bet. They also borrowed our letter names and simply Hellenized them.)



Mazel Tov to (all) the Pollacks

It was one of the most anticipated events in recent KJCC memory. Linda and Joel expected about fifty people. Almost double that showed up, to honor KJCC's unofficial royal couple and share in the day.

by Gloria Avner

Our whole congregation had been looking forward to Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah for months. In honor of Will's grandparents Joel and Linda and parents Roy and Vippi,

the *ganssa* KJCC mishpocha (whole family) came out in force to support, celebrate, and *qvell*. Our family and theirs were alive with anticipation.

Rabbi Agler, with his customary ease, directness, and gentle teaching style, guided the morning's service in a way that gave every aspect meaning beyond the ritual, from the first moment when he asked us to pause and think about what we were thankful for, from body to soul to breath. My supportive role was to lead the congregation in enthusiastic

singing.

An especially moving moment came as Roy and Vippi gave alternating heartfelt blessings to their son as they gifted him with his *Tallit*, a symbol of



Our great thanks to Barbara and Richard Knowles for the beautiful photographs, and also for getting them to us so quickly.



his new full membership in the Jewish tribe. They expressed their pride in him and his efforts, encouraging him to lead a good Jewish life, and to continue throughout his life the humane and enriching discipline that he had made his *mitzvah* project: performing acts of kindness to strangers.



clearly, gave a well-thought-out "*dvar*" Torah and chanted his *haftarah*

portion with ease. In another special moment, Will and his tutor, Baruch Garcia, who had traveled from Texas to be part of this rite of passage, came to the *bi-mah* together to chant the *v'Ahavta*. It was lovely to see and hear Will give all credit to Baruch for his learning and preparation.



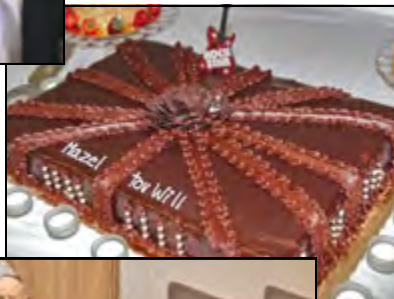
Our members and Will's family could not have been more eager to wish a hearty *mazel tov* as Will, Joel, Linda,

Roy, Vippi, and Will's beautiful sister Maddie paraded down the aisles with the Torah. Passing the Torah as well as the *tallit* down through the generations gives us all hope for the future. As Bernie often says, that one act – one generation teaching and guiding the next – is the main reason we have a synagogue.

Look at the whole Pollack clan standing joyous on the steps of the *bimah*. What a proud and happy assortment of grandparents, brothers,

sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. The photos (thanks to Richard and Barbara Knowles) tell the story.

The luncheon was enjoyed by all, as was the well written, well delivered, sometimes humorous, always heartwarming candle-lighting ceremony after the lunch. We are all proud and grateful to have been a part of this joyous *simcha*. ♦



Angels in Judaism

by Joyce Peckman

We have just celebrated Simchat Torah and are again reading from *Breshit*, delving once again into the stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah and the generations following. In these chapters we keep coming across angels, beginning with those stationed at the entrance to the Garden of Eden. Just this week we read of angels who told a fleeing Hagar to return, because G-d has heard her prayers, and she would have a son, and that she should name him Ishmael.

Growing up in a conservative shul, I never really thought about angels. They weren't any part of my religious education.

As Elin Schoen Brockman pointed out in her Tablet magazine article entitled "Angels in Judaica," angels seemed more of a Christian concept. The invisible personal guardians who step out of a painting by Raphael or the little baroque cherubs who sit on your shoulder have nothing to do with Judaism. Nor does the comforting belief of your dear departed turning into an angel. As it turns out, the tradition of angels has never been as widely accepted among Jews (or Muslims, for that matter) as it has among Christians. So, even though according to a 2007 Gallup poll 75 percent of Americans say they believe in angels, most modern American Jews believe that winged imagery does not belong to their religious tradition. That may be because from the time of the Talmud, many rabbis discouraged belief in angels, fearing that they would become objects of worship, competing with G-d.

Yet angels have long been a part of Jewish culture. In *Breshit*, when people like Abraham or Jacob asked angels to disclose their names, they refused. The angel – *malach* in Hebrew – who blocked Balaam's donkey in the book of *Bamidbar* (Numbers) was similarly nameless. The Jerusalem Talmud comments that reference to angels by name only became common in the period following the return of the Jewish people to Israel in 348 BCE. Harold Bloom

traces the literary introduction of angels to our encounter with the civilization of ancient Persia. The first angels mentioned by name in the Bible are Gabriel and Michael, in the Book of Daniel. Also in this book, Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar relates a dream about a "watcher" who descends from heaven to foretell his downfall. Daniel is found in the Writings section of the Bible, and has been historically classified as prophetic, but the style of its Aramaic and Hebrew writing is apocalyptic, and anachronisms place it somewhere between 200 BCE and 100 CE. Apocalyptic writing, which deals with the end of days, is filled with the doings of angels. Although these texts did not become central in the Jewish tradition (though they did in the Christian), they reflect what ancient Jews were teaching and learning.

Angels are discussed in detail in the Talmud, Kabbalistic texts and in *midrash*, folktales, legends, prayers, and song. *Shalom Aleichem*, a kabbalistic poem from 17th-century Tzfat, comes immediately to mind. According to Jewish tradition, an angel is a spiritual being and does not have any physical characteristics. The angelic descriptions provided by the prophets – such as wings, arms etc. – are anthropomorphic, and metaphorical, referring to their spiritual abilities and tasks.

Maimonides, in his *Mishneh Torah* written in 1180, described ten different levels of angels in a detailed hierarchy. (The Kabbalah discusses them in even greater detail.) Maimonides ranked the angels from highest to lowest: here a few examples: The first and highest type of angels is called *Chayot Ha Kodesh*. They are responsible for holding up God's throne, and also for holding Earth in its proper position in space. The *Chayot Ha Kodesh* emanate such powerful light that they often appear fiery. According to Kabbalah, they are led by the archangel Metatron.

The *Hashmallim* are known for their love, kindness, and grace. The archangel Zadkiel leads this angelic rank, according to Kabbalah. Zadkiel is thought to be the "angel of the Lord" who shows up mercifully in Genesis when Abraham is preparing to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Seraphim work for justice. The Torah records a vision that the prophet Isaiah had of angels near God in heaven: "Above him were *seraphim*, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'" (Isaiah 6:2-3.)

Malakhim angels are known for their beauty and mercy. In Kabbalah, the archangel Uriel leads them.

The *Bene Elohim* focus their work on giving glory to God. Kabbalah says that the archangel Michael leads them. Michael is mentioned in major religious texts more than any other named angel, and he is often shown as a warrior. The Book of Daniel describes Michael as "the great prince" who will protect God's people even during the struggle between good and evil at the end of the world.

Cherubim help people deal with sin so they can draw closer to God. The famous archangel Gabriel leads the *Cherubim*, according to Kabbalah. *Cherubim* angels appear in the very first Parasha of Bereshit, during the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden: "After [God] drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden *cherubim* and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."

God can presumably accomplish anything, so what is the function of an angel? The Hebrew word for angel, "*mal'ach*," means messenger. Angels are functionaries who carry out God's will. Angels are used to distance God from the action. Some medieval Jewish commentators propose that angels are necessary

because they perform tasks that are beneath the dignity of God's "personal involvement." Since it is too anthropomorphic to have God wrestle with Jacob, an angel serves the purpose. Some angels are created for one specific task, and upon the task's completion cease to exist. According to the Kabbalah's *Zohar*, one of the angels' tasks is to transport our words of prayer and Torah-study before G-d's throne.

Angels are God's entourage. A famous example is in the scene from Isaiah 6, where God is described as seated on a throne with the angelic host arrayed on both sides.

Throughout Jewish history, even during the Talmudic period, there were always rabbis, scholars, craftspeople, and artists who portrayed angels. They are found in the third-century frescoes of the Jewish catacombs in Rome; and around the world on Torah valances and ark curtains; illuminating ancient *Haggadahs*, and *megillahs*; on *ketubot*, Hanukkah menorahs, mezuzahs, kiddush cups, Seder plates, dreidels, challah covers, tombstones and kabbalistic amulets. Jewish depictions include what might be called the *halakhically*

correct school, in which angels are faceless or symbolized by birds, often eagles, or wings (sometimes a single wing). But figural representations are surprisingly frequent. Angels are everywhere in Italian Jewish art. Angels also have been a consistent theme for 19th- and 20th-century Jewish artists such as Marc Chagall, Ben Shahn, and Mark Podwal. The 1946 Frank Capra classic film *It's a Wonderful Life*, which is as indispensable to Christmas as Irving Berlin's ballad, and which features a klutzy but deeply wise angel (whose name, you'll surely recall, is Clarence) was based on "The Greatest Gift," a short story by Philip Stern, son of a Bavarian Jewish peddler who settled in Pennsylvania.

It is hard to resist the allure of angels as the colorful and humanly compelling representative of God. Judaism is rich and multi-layered. There is always more to learn. ◇

*The Hebrew
word for
angel,
"mal'ach,"
means
messenger.*

Dreamers and Doers

Kislev – The Month of Dreams

by Gloria Avner

In all of Genesis, there are ten dreams. Nine of them occur now, during Kislev, when the days are short and nights are long. In tribal times, nomadic and agricultural people like us knew that this dark time of the year was ripe for sleep, dreaming, and going within. Like the ladder in Jacob's first vision, with angels passing up and down from earth to sky, the dream links earth, the material everyday world, to the divine.

Dreaming on his rock pillow, Jacob sees a stairway to heaven and is told by God that the land on which he lies is to belong to him and his descendants. "Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." What a huge promise.

Jacob wakes the next morning, fearful and awestruck. He names the place Beth-El, the house of God, and sets up the stone that was under his head as a pillar consecrated with oil.

Sometimes the dreamer understands immediately. Sometimes not. It took Jacob twenty years after dreaming about scores of speckled sheep, the flocks that his father-in-law Laban had promised him, to realize that it was time to stop focusing on accumulation of personal wealth and go back to Canaan, the promised land, as he had vowed.

Our ancestors Jacob and Joseph act out their personal destinies and established our roots by paying attention to dreams. Jacob had three dreams: the ladder and God's promise, the wrestling match with the angel, and the multitudes of speckled sheep and exhortation to return. Joseph had six. Though the first two of Joseph's dreams win him the

jealousy of his brothers and upset of his father (his brothers' eleven sheaves of wheat bowing down before Joseph's sheaf in one dream; and eleven stars, moon and sun bowing down before Joseph in the other), later rabbinic commentary says it is possible these dreams had been misunderstood and that what was really happening was the working out of a grand cosmic plan to keep a giant area of the ancient world from starvation. Joseph needed to be in place in Egypt to interpret Pharaoh's two dreams.

Joseph, sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, takes every opportunity that comes his way to do the right thing, no matter how difficult his circumstances. He refuses to be tempted by the advances of Potiphar's wife and because of it ends up in jail. There he is consistently helpful to those around him. Interpreting correctly the dreams of Pharaoh's butcher and his baker leads to the call to decipher Pharaoh himself's dreams. Hearing one dream of seven fat ears of corn eating seven skinny ones and another of seven skinny cows eating seven fat ones, Joseph understands and reveals that seven years of plenty will be followed by seven years of drought; he recommends the creation of storehouses during the seven good years for distribution in the seven lean ones and is immediately lifted to the position of Pharaoh's right-hand man.

Absolute famine is averted, Joseph reconnects with his family when his brothers come asking for food, and he forgives what had seemed an unforgivable act: being sold into slavery by those brothers.

It is not the dreams themselves but the connection between dreaming and doing that makes a difference, betters our world and drives our destiny. The Hasmoneans, two thousand years ago, dare to dream they can recapture the sacred Temple from Antiochus'

Syrian/Greek troops. They become warriors and achieve what seems outwardly impossible. Cleansing and re-dedication are the order of the day. A miracle happens and the eternal light stays lit.



Theodor Herzl had a dream. No one could have worked harder. He sacrificed his health and the happiness of his family to bring the dream to fruition. Circle back to Jacob and his third dream: Jacob wrestles with an angel. He receives a new name: Israel – he who struggles with God. Herzl struggles with huge political and economic forces opposed to his dream, but as a result of his protean efforts, a new country is born: Israel.

Our congregation has had months of loss, including three long-time members, espe-

cially gifted dreamers, who held visions of *tikkun olam* close to their hearts all their lives. Hospitals, schools, the arts, music, sports, religious life – every aspect of community that makes a place worth calling home – have been enriched by the contributions of Gerald Hirsch,

Ron Levy, and Michal Kamely. They were indomitable spirits and generous human beings. We miss them terribly and know that their memories will be a blessing forever.

Soon we will emerge from this dark time. Continuing to dream (and do) will make the absence of our loved ones easier to bear. Let the lights on our Chanukah menorahs this year be emblems of commitment to acts of loving kindness and *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) that will brighten the world as our friends have done. ◇

A Tribute to My Treasured Friend

By Muriel Swartz

It was an honor and a pleasure to call Michal Kamely my friend. About twenty years ago, Michal began adult education classes at the KJCC (along with Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation for our religious school students approaching that milestone). I enrolled in the classes Michal offered — what a knowledgeable, patient, and engaging professor she was! Driving Michal to and from the sessions provided us the opportunity to get to know each other better. Michal suggested that we get together for lunch, which naturally evolved into weekly visits for long conversations about family relationships, American culture, Israeli history and politics, Jews and Judaism, and U.S. politics. There was always lots to laugh about and plenty to learn from each other.

At the time of the second annual Women's Seder in 2005, Beth Kaminstein asked me if there was someone I'd suggest as our special honoree. I had the perfect candidate: Michal Kamely. After Beth ran my suggestion by her committee, she asked if Michal would accept. The answer was "yes," making me truly happy that a totally deserving, talented *mensch* would be the second honoree for our blossoming new tradition, the Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood's Women's Seder. I was glad that Michal would be sharing her amazing life's journey with our Seder participants, including the fact that the Israeli government had selected Michal to be instrumental in reintroducing Jewish education into Germany in the early 1960s for returning German-Jewish families.

As my favorite NYU professor would say: I have in me a part of all that I have met. How satisfying for me to have absorbed and benefited greatly from my treasured friendship with dear Michal. Her memory will be a blessing to all who were fortunate to know her. She will always be in my heart. Michal, I will miss your warm and welcoming smile...rest in peace.

Blessing over Candles

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam

Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ

asher kidishanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu

Who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us

לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה: (אָמֵן)

I'had'lik neir shel Chanukah. (Amein)

to light the lights of Chanukkah. (Amen)

Blessing for Chanukkah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam

Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה: (אָמֵן)

she'asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baziman hazeh. (Amein)

Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time

Shehecheyanu (first night only)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam

Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

שֶׁהַחַיָּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה: (אָמֵן)

shehecheyanu v'kiyimanu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh. (Amein)

who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season (Amen)

A Trip Home to Jerusalem

*When I travel to Israel,
the feeling is that I'm
going home.*

-Michal Kamely



Michal (standing, far right) with her family in Jerusalem. The man in the center is her father. Her mother is seated between them holding a purse. This photo could not have been taken too long before her father died.

Some time in the late 1920s, near the city of Mashhad in far northeast Iran, close by the borders of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan (the latter then part of the new Soviet Union), a Muslim family named Chabibolayov began preparing itself for the arduous journey that is the sometime duty of all practicing Muslims – a pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest city of Islam located in Saudi Arabia.

Only the family didn't really intend to travel to Mecca. Its name wasn't really Chabibolayov. Most importantly, they were not, in fact, Muslims.

The family's real name was Levi, though that had been a closely guarded secret for generations. To reveal that they were in fact a large, extended family of Jews would have been dangerous. So they all lived as Muslims, conducted business and social relations as Muslims, and went to school as Muslims. The secret, and how to keep it in order to protect the family, was taught sternly to every child. They learned this vital family secret just as they learned to walk and talk and play and identify the trees and animals that surrounded them and the foods that were available for them to eat.

The ruse was so elaborate that one of

Michal's uncles – her mother's sister's husband, in his true and secret life an extremely pious Jew – had actually himself made the pilgrimage to Mecca. He wore the yellow turban around Mashhad he'd received in Mecca to prove he'd been there, and daily acted the dutiful Muslim. He was thus accorded respect and honor and was a trusted man. Michal herself remembers that her father, also a prominent man locally, often would be invited to people's homes and public events. At each place, to be properly hospitable, he would have to eat. So he did, of course, and then would come home later, put his



A teenaged Michal inside the courtyard of The Fortress in Jerusalem.

finger down his throat and force himself to throw up all the un-Kosher food he had just swallowed.

We've all read books and seen movies about people living double lives. Those doing it endure constant, unrelenting tension; for some there's also danger. How many of us would have the wit and cool self-control to pull it off, not for a week or year but for generations? The simpler course for Michal's large family would have been to just shrug and quietly renounce the family Judaism. They already knew precisely how to live as Muslims. Why stay with a culture and tradition that, with the smallest slip-up in one careless, unguarded moment, could cost you your life? Conversion was easy and the path to full acceptance. (This is one of the enduring questions of Jewish history. The British historian Toynbee is said to have hated the Jews precisely because they are the sole group whose path through history defied his formula for the emergence and then inevitable demise of a culture.)

Michal's family had once been in the fur business. Through it they became



wealthy enough to be able to buy land around Mashhad. They eventually accumulated enough to encompass several villages. This land provided them an income. Somehow, amidst the strains of maintaining a family and the elaborate everyday deceptions and rigors of his livelihood, Michal's father had become a Zionist. The father Michal had always heard called by his Persian name of Chabib Chabibolayov and his brother, whose Muslim name was Abdelrachman Chabibolayov, hatched a plan whereby they would leave Mashhad and emigrate to Jerusalem. For some 400 years, until a mere five or six

The photo at top, though undated, has to be from the early to mid 1930s. The photo below is with fellow female members of the secret Hagganah. Michal is seated lower left in the white dress.

years before, Jerusalem had been a dusty and fetid provincial outpost of the Ottoman Turks. No one really cared about it, including virtually all Muslims. It was a mostly ignored former place of glory and an ancient dream, sung about



daily in European synagogues but having only the faintest pulse of actual Jewish life. It had only recently, since 1918, come under British rule, at the end of World War I. It was not at all a modern city. There was virtually no electricity, or plumbing; sewage typically ran not through sanitary pipes but down the streets.

Still, the determined work of Herzl and Weizmann had led to the Balfour Declaration. The Jewish soul was stirring and seeking its wholeness, like a ball of sacred mercury that has for centuries been continuously smashed into pieces by a relentless hammer yet somehow, as if by some invisible force of nature, is finding its way back together. So Jerusalem it was. They would be pioneers, and life would be difficult, but at least they could live there openly as Jews.

The uncle left Mashhad first, went to Jerusalem and built the large stone house that would become the center of the family's life for many years, and the place where all the

Lacking papers, or permission, or any legal premise whatsoever, they crossed illegally into Palestine.

family came for shelter upon arriving. The house was large, and sturdy, and secure, so much so that it became known as "The Fortress." The house was planned well. Muslims still controlled Jerusalem, de-

spite the British Mandate, and there was a large family to be protected, most of whom would eventually make aliyah.

Once the house was built, and could offer security, it was time for Michal's family and her uncle's family to leave. Under normal circumstances any journey to Jerusalem would have been difficult. But this large group couldn't travel a sensibly direct route, because they couldn't travel as or yet reveal themselves to be Jews. The only way for the group to be allowed to leave Iran would be as Muslims making a family pilgrimage to Mecca. And that ruse probably allowed so many to leave together only because Michal's father and uncle were prominent and respected and wealthy, and because the authorities saw that two other brothers were staying behind. (Someone had to stay to man-

age the family's properties and source of income; a generation later the properties were lost anyway when expropriated by the Shah.)

The first leg of the journey was about 800 miles to Karachi on the Arabian Gulf, a city now in Pakistan but then controlled by India. They stayed there some three months. From there they took a ship to Basra on the southern coast of Iraq, then overland up to Baghdad, and from there in a convoy across to Damascus in neighboring Syria. They had to hire an armed escort for the convoy from Baghdad to Damascus, because no travelers on that road could pass safely, even supposed Muslims. From Damascus they made their way to Transjordan (newly created by the British in 1922), and from there to the famous bridge at Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Lacking papers, or permission, or any legal premise whatsoever, they crossed illegally into Palestine.

Landing in Israel with my son Uri, the first place I wanted to go, as always, was to the Kotel, the Wailing Wall. Now I'm standing in front of it and just looking at it for hours. So many memories come back to me. It's just something you feel. The stones say something.

The plan had worked. They were all safely in Jerusalem, living within the thick stone walls of The Fortress. Soon Michal's father began to build his own house, in *G'oolah*, one of first neighborhoods outside Jerusalem's walls, just to the west, and abutting the ultra-orthodox neighborhood of *Meahsherim*, which is still there today. It was in that house, in *G'oolah*, that Michal grew up and lived until she met and married a fellow member of the then-secret Hagganah, David Kamely.

As a small child, Michal's parents would take her to the *Kotel*. She remembers that each time it felt like a festive day – an outing with her parents! – but as she got

older also one of sadness. It was a holy site that had, in essence, been denied the Jews, and though there was always a stream of Jewish visitors and pilgrims (until the area was closed off by the Jordanians after the War of Independence), they were never made to feel welcome there.

The only available route to the *Kotel* was a walk through the narrow streets of the Arab quarter, then through the Jaffa Gate. British troops always lined the streets, and Jews could only go during daylight hours. There was always a fear, earned by painful experience, of being attacked by the Arabs. Unlike today, where a fairly large plaza in front of it welcomes busloads of visitors, at that time the *Kotel* stood on one side of what, in essence, was but an alley, perhaps fifteen feet wide. On the other side, directly across, were the walls of Arab homes. There were no vendors and no welcomes. But there was always at least a trickle of visitors coming to open their hearts and pray. Michal remembers even then the notes being left in crevices along the wall, the pious in the belief and the desperate in the hope that the God of Israel would be there and listening.

Every year at *Tisha B'av*, until 1948, Michal and her friends would mount the walls of Jerusalem and walk completely around the city. During her childhood there were no barriers or neighborhood divisions in *G'oolah*, so Jewish children played with and alongside Arab children, as Michal well remembers doing. But Arab resistance to the influx of Jews into Palestine began in the 1930s to express itself with more organization and more vio-

lence, and after the massacre of the synagogue in Hebron, Michal's neighborhood was separated into Jewish and Arab sections and she never played with Arab children again.

Michal's mother never learned to speak Hebrew, and her father – he of the strength to uproot his family from a financially secure life and take them on an arduous and circui-

tous journey to the Holy Land, facing a future of no guarantees, and who each evening would happily gather his family in the courtyard of The Fortress to study – died three years after arriving. But Michal did grow up speaking Hebrew, a language that had only recently been resurrected to full life. Among the first and most important things the Zionists had done was to establish their own schools, which were taught only in Hebrew. Her childhood school, in the *Buchara* quarter, had once been the Governor's house. Michal attended that school until going to university, the teacher's seminary, which was the first of its kind in Israel.

Most of the teachers came from eastern Europe. Michal remembers that, while in seminary during World War II,

world-renowned scholars, refugees from Hitler's Europe, were among her teachers. One teacher, a woman named Leibowitz, was her favorite, and gave Michal a life-long love of Rashi. Anyone who has ever attempted Rashi will understand immediately what a wonderful, literate, and inspiring woman this teacher must have been. A sad memory of Michal's seminary days was when a group of professors, all European refugees who had escaped



The formal wedding photograph, in 1942, of David and Michal Kamely.

the Nazi death machine, was headed by bus to the university on Mt. Scopus. The bus was attacked by Arabs and all aboard were killed.

At 16, Michal joined the Hagganah because, well, everyone joined the Hagganah. Everyone knew everyone else was in, but because the organization was banned by the British (functioning right under its nose), no one knew anything about anyone else's role or who, other than their immediate contacts, the leaders were. Everyone learned first aid and how to handle a rifle. Once, when standing guard outside a meeting, a man asked entry but didn't

know the password. So Michal brandished her rifle and would not let him in. He asked her to consult the man she knew to be the highest officer in the meeting, who quickly ushered him in and later told Michal he was in the high command of Hagganah. (No, she wasn't punished.) But Michal's main job was as an ob-

server. She was trained in Morse code, and would sit up at night at assigned posts, to read and relay flashing lights as to whether anything was going on militarily. Hagganah training was, no exceptions, three times a week. Everyone was on permanent call, every day, no off days. If you were called, no matter what time of the day or night, you went. Her last experience in Hagganah was during the 1948 war. Her house in Haifa stood directly across the street from the Arab sector. So the Hagganah used it as a guard post. There was occasional shooting, at Arabs trying to infiltrate and from Arabs across the way. When one

bullet came very near her baby daughter Dafna, that was the end of that, and from then on Michal left any Hagganah work to her husband.

Michal Kamely has now lived in the United States for 25 years. Before that she lived in Europe. She has raised three children and has six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. (*Six years after the original publication of this article, there are now six great-grandchildren.*) Before coming to the Keys, she and David lived in the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., just down

the road from Hickory Hill, Robert Kennedy's estate. All her children live in the United States now, and she knows she will never reside in Israel again. But ask her where *home* is and the answer will come quickly and firmly: Jerusalem. Each time she travels to Israel, she insists – no one can deny her this – on going immediately to the *Kotel*. It is, symbolically, the essence of Jerusa-

lem: the place her parents sacrificed so much to get to, the focal point of her childhood memories, the place she bore a rifle to defend, the place she saw so many of her young colleagues die defending, the place where she married. Is there any place that has that much meaning and quite so passionately defines *home* to the rest of us? ♦



Michal with son Uri in the Swiss Alps in the late 1980s.

(This article first ran in the October 2007 issue of Chai-Lights. We re-run it here in loving memory of Michal — Ed.)

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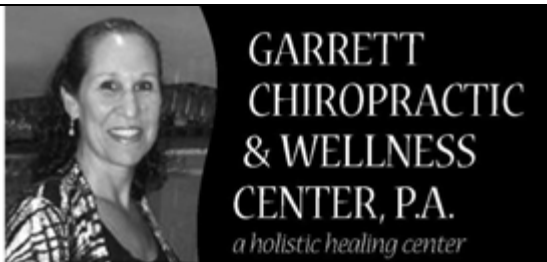
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Chai~Lights



December 2013

28 Kislev - 28 Tevet 5774

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Seeing the Light - page 25

Our Trip to Vienna and Prague - page 27

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December 2013

28 Kislev - 28 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Menorah Lighting 6 pm	2	3	4 8th Chanukah candle lit Men's Club Game Nite 7:30 p.m.	5	6 Ken Atlas <i>Steve & Jane Friedman</i>	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting 9 a.m.	9	10	11	12 Frank Sinatra's birthday	13 Joyce Peckman	14 Westley Silverman Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Susan Ellner</i>	21
22	23	24	25 Steinbock's Open House	26	27 Bernie Ginsberg & Cantor Irwin Gelman 6:30 Service <i>Steve & Barbara Smith</i>	28 Rabbi Agler & Cantor Gelman service 10 a.m.
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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Keys Jewish Community Center

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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



The old year of 2013 is almost gone and it's time to take stock. We have been shaken by the loss of many members and relatives, but the mood around our synagogue is brightening a little. The smiling faces of our snowbirds are starting to appear around KJCC.

Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah was wonderful in all aspects, from his performance to the amazing KJCC turnout. It made up for some of the sadder events. Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler participated in a talk at Mariner's Hospital on organ donation. It was advertised to all religious groups in the Keys, but everyone there were KJCC members who turned out to support the Aglers. I am proud of the help and sustenance we offer each other at such events and in times of need.

Sisterhood had a successful Chanukah bazaar in our Social Hall, sponsored by The Chosen, an online Judaica outlet. It was so successful that a sequel is now planned for Passover. Brava, Sisterhood.

Once again, I thank Richard Knowles, our just-appointed House chairman, for all the work he's forced to do to keep our physical plant running.

It's always a question, what do Jews do on Christmas? Of course, there's always the Chinese restaurant, but in the Keys the answer has long been Carol and Steve Steinbock's open house. There you will find good

food and drink and even better company. It'll be from 2-6 p.m. (Thank you as always, Carol and Steve.)

The weekend of Dec. 27th, I think, will be one of true and fascinating religious experiences. The service Friday night will be led by visiting Cantor Irwin Gelman, whose voice brings tears to my eyes. Rabbi Agler will lead a Shabbat morning Torah service the following day along with Cantor Gelman. Sisterhood will host a brunch afterward. Immediately after *that*, we have been invited to join our neighbor Burton Memorial Church in a peace celebration by visiting Buddhist monks, who will once again create a peace "mandala" (sand painting). I remember the monks visiting KJCC one year. When their head lama heard the story of our Holocaust Torah he bowed before the Ark and lovingly placed his forehead against the Torah mantle.

You won't want to miss any of this mini-shabbaton (Sabbath retreat) weekend.

Finally, if you want to improve your Hebrew, we will be organizing two adult Hebrew programs, both beginning and intermediate Hebrew. Please let me know if you are interested – don't be shy. We all help each other in the classes.

- With love, Bernie

Nosh

Welcome to New Members

KJCC is pleased to welcome Steve and Marsha Harris of Long Key as official members of our Mischpocha. We hope that you become an integral part of our community here.

Rabbi Agler's December Torah Service

Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning Services (and discussion) are always special, memorable days. Everyone leaves with a deeper appreciation of our teachings and heritage. (Really.) His service in December will be on Saturday, December 28th, at 10 a.m. But this particular service will also have a bonus. And what a bonus. Cantor Irwin Gelman will be visiting South Florida and has agreed to join Rabbi Agler in a joint service. Those fortunate enough to have heard Cantor Gelman chant Kaddish the first time he visited us all remember the moment with awe. This will be a KJCC moment you definitely will want to be part of. Afterward, Sisterhood will be sponsoring a Kiddush brunch. Please contact Bernie or Gloria in advance if you wish to bring guests.

Notice to Military Veterans

If you are a member of the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) organization and are interested in participating in a special event that will take place in the Upper Keys in April, 2014, please contact me at hiitsmedee@gmail.com or call 305-852-3872. My husband Carl is bringing the Traveling Vietnam Wall to the Key Largo Community Park and is hoping some of our Jewish veterans will participate. The project will run from April 11-14, 2014. Thanks.

-Medina Roy

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Goodbye Wishes From Stuart and Lauren

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our mishpocha for ten incredible years with the Keys Jewish Community Center. We felt very much at home back in 2003 when we came to the Keys and joined the KJCC. Our love and affection for the center and its members led to increased involvement on our parts and culminated with our leading the congregation and the Sisterhood as presidents. While many of you have thanked us for our involvement and commitment to the synagogue, it is our thanks to all of you for your support and love that made our experience as fulfilling as it was.

We are now settled in our new home in Texas and spoiling our grandson as often as we can. Needless to say, the entrance to our home is blessed with the beautiful mezuzah from all of you. We see Joan Boruszak and her family on a regular basis, which makes our separation from the Keys that much easier to endure. While we are attending services here to continue our Jewish growth, we are fully aware that nothing can compare to the religious experiences we shared at the KJCC.

We wish each and every one of you good health and happiness in the years ahead and don't be surprised if we drop in occasionally to visit and maybe even lead a service! And if you find yourself heading west to Texas, y'all drop by and say howdy!

With love, Stuart & Lauren Sax

Oneg Sponsors for December 2013

December 6th - Steve and Jane Friedman to honor our newest members.

December 20th - Susan Ellner because she's happy to be back!

December 27th - Steve and Barbara Smith to honor Steve's birthday.

December Birthdays

1st.....	Paul Hudson
1st.....	Rachel Levine
2nd.....	Joseph Burke Grossman
2nd.....	Marshall A. Field
3rd.....	Jackie LePree
3rd.....	Rick McNew
4th.....	Jan Hartz
4th.....	Jogi Yeager
4th.....	Judith Klein
5th.....	Joseph Beth
5th.....	Stuart Sax
6th.....	Haley Borisoff
6th.....	Kevin Gershowitz
6th.....	Leslie Boruszak
6th.....	Neal A. Jacobson
7th.....	Franklin Rose
7th.....	Vada Charity (Bella) Greenbaum
9th.....	George Swartz
10th.....	Harvey Robins
10th.....	Susan Greenbaum
11th.....	Sara Rose Friedman
13th.....	Robin Margulies Juenger
13th.....	Sarah Boruszak
13th.....	Susan Widrich
15th.....	Stephan Ban
16th.....	Diana Lal
16th.....	Samuel Klimpl
17th.....	Bruce Forman
17th.....	Jeffrey Schocket
17th.....	Lilian Forbes
18th.....	Emelyn Anne Juenger
18th.....	Jerome Horowitz
19th.....	Aaron Stuart
19th.....	David Gitin
19th.....	Lorena Kaufman
20th.....	Alan Schulberg
20th.....	Jennifer VanArtsdalen
20th.....	Teresa Kwalick
21st.....	Roberta McNew
22nd.....	Laura Molly Friedman
22nd.....	Lisa Miller
23rd.....	Roger Hernstadt
25th.....	Lori Kay
26th.....	Steven Smith

27th.....	Steve Kasinof
28th.....	Elaine Schulberg
28th.....	Emily Sherman
28th.....	Ira Krieger
28th.....	Michael Klimpl
29th.....	Joan Stark
30th.....	Ellen Bloom
31st.....	Elliot S. Schenker
31st.....	Michele Riley

December Anniversaries

	Years
8th	Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs.....60
11th	Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner.....48
11th	Jamie & Laura Goodman.....8
14th	David & Pat VanArtsdalen32
17th	Roger & Jessica Hernstadt7
17th	Larry & Stephanie Gilderman.....47
27th	Dave Mont & Georgia Landau.....2

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Westley's Bar Mitzvah

December 14, 2013

Jane Silverman, Dr. Michael Berman, Cole Silverman and Peter Silverman are delighted that Westley Chance Silverman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at KJCC on Saturday, December 14th, 2013, at 10 a.m. Westley moved to Key Largo from London a year ago and felt genuinely welcomed by the KJCC family. He has worked hard with mentors



Yardena and Gloria to be ready for his big day!

Westley is an avid fisherman and loves languages, reading, computers, karate, bike riding, singing, and swimming. He is delighted that friends and family will be converging on the KJCC from London, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Texas, California, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Florida to celebrate!

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 Gene Silverman at 305-664-3316.

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.

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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.

Christmas Day with the Steinbocks

Once again this year, in a now annual tradition, Carol and Steve Steinbock cordially invite all of KJCC to join them at their house on Christmas Day. (It's better than Chinese food.) The open house hours are 2-6 p.m. All manner of delightful food and drink will be available, as usual. Their address is 147 Gardenia Street, in Plantation Key Colony, almost directly across the highway from Coral Shores High School.

Annual Channukiah Lighting at Pauline's

We will have our annual Channukiah lighting ceremony at our matriarch Pauline Roller's house, Sunday evening at 6:00 on December 1st, so bring your Chanukah menorahs and candles as well as latkes and other refreshments if you can. We will light, sing, play dreidel, enjoy our own children as well as Yardená's twin granddaughters from Chile and have a wonderful time. All are invited. (We will miss Natalie, but we wish her and her whole wonderful family a grand time in Peru. Bring your channukiah, Tali, and light your candles at Macchu Picchu. We want pictures of you, Lili, Hannah and Chanukah for Chai-Lights! If llamas are in the foreground, that's fine :-)

Love, your morot - Gloria, Yardená and Susan

Our Garden Needs Volunteers

The dry season is approaching, and with less rain our wonderful Meditation Garden will need more tending. If you have some time and labor to spare, please contact Steve Steinbock at 394-0143. We really do need a full committee for this. Gardening is work, and we can't expect Steve to do it all.

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
Carol and Steve Steinbock
and their family on the death of
Carol's mother Marianne Cimkowski

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Open House at Dr. Erica's Office

As has also become her annual holiday tradition. Dr. Erica Garrett invites all of KJCC to her Tavernier Chiropractic office on Wednesday, December 11th for an Open House Holiday Party. She promises "delicious food and drinks, holiday gift bags and more." The hours are 4-7 p.m. Garrett Chiropractic is located in the Turek Building at MM 90.2 bayside. Please R.S.V.P. at 305-853-1003.

The Kamely Family Offers Thanks to KJCC

Yardená, Daphne and Uri Kamely would like to express our appreciation to the Keys Jewish Community for your support and help during the difficult period of Shiva for our mother, Michal Kamely. We have seldom seen such a devoted and close-knit community; we felt like we were part of a warm and welcoming family. Moreover, we also want to thank you for organizing a minyan every evening, and for providing us with your hospitality, and above all, friendship and comfort. Our mother always said that of all the places she has lived in the world, the Keys Jewish Community was not only the best congregation she ever belonged to, but that she also made long-lasting friendships with deep roots. She loved the KJCC.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks,
Yardená, Daphne and Uri Kamely

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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.

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Cohen, James & Janet				
<i>Meditation Garden</i>		<i>In Memory of</i>		
Avner, Gloria		brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		
Bofshever, Joel & Toby		Rosie Biskar		
Boruszak, Joan		Rosie Biskar		
Coltman, Barney		Rosie Biskar		
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin		Rosie Biskar		
Ginsberg, Bernard		brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		
Gordon, Susan		brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		
Graham, Bea		brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		
Hartz, Steve & Jan		brick - Bryon Stribley		
Hartz, Steve & Jan		brick - Kim Feinberg		
Hartz, Steve & Jan		Rosie Biskar		
Kamely, Yardena		Rosie Biskar		
Knowles, Richard & Barbara		brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		
Kwalick, Teresa		Rosie Biskar		
Mont, Dave & Georgia Landau		brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		
Peckman, Joyce		brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		
Pollack, Joel & Linda		brick - Michal Kamely		
Pollack, Joel & Linda		brick - Rosie Biskar		
Roller, Pauline		brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		
Sax, Stuart & Lauren		Jose Cohen, Ron Levy, Michal Kamely		
<i>Rabbi & Cantor Fund</i>				
Goodman, Jamie & Laura		with sincere appreciation		
<i>Religious School</i>				
Bofshever, Joel & Toby				<i>In Memory of</i>
Boruszak, Joan				Michal Kamely
Coltman, Barney				Michal Kamely
Davidson, Daniel & Diane Schwager				Michal Kamely
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin				Michal Kamely
Hartz, Steve & Jan				Michal Kamely
Kwalick, Teresa				Michal Kamely
Marcus, D & M Horowitz				Michal Kamely
Noorily, Morry & Sara				Michal Kamely
Schur, Lee				Michal Kamely
Swartz, George & Muriel				Michal Kamely
<i>Scholarship Fund</i>				<i>In Honor of</i>
Roy, Medina				Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah
<i>Scholarship Fund</i>				<i>In Memory of</i>
Mandelbaum, Leslie & Wendy				Ron Levy
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin				Ron Levy
Schur, Lee				Ron Levy
<i>Sisterhood Oneg Fund</i>				
Steinbock, Steve & Carol				
<i>Tree of Life - Leaves</i>				<i>In Memory of</i>
Berger, Carol				Rosie Biskar
Conklin, Rita & Wes				Rosie Biskar
Dillon, Leslie				Rosie Biskar
Gould, Maryon				Rosie Biskar
Gluger, Nancy				Rosie Biskar
Pearlman, Richard & Maddy				Rosie Biskar
Pollack, Joel & Linda				Rosie Biskar
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine				Rosie Biskar
Silverman, Morton & Gene				Rosie Biskar
Singer, Mary Lee				Rosie Biskar

Yahrzeits
Boruszak, Joan
Dorf, Barry & Natalie
Isenberg, Patricia
Krissel, Michael

Kwalick, Teresa

In Memory of
Lillian Goldstein
Jack Dorf
Helene Tulskey
Joseph Krissel,
Deborah Cannon
Barry Kwalick

Riley, Michele
Tallent, Lillian
Temkin, Robert
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Yizkor Book
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Abraham Travers
Samuel Tallent
Kenny Temkin
Diana Wolfe

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Shabbat Service

Saturday
December 28, 2013

10 am
followed by
Kiddush
Brunch



in the Ruth Richardson
Social Hall

Rabbi Richard Agler
and Cantor Irwin Gelman will
lead services.

Sisterhood Barbara Knowles



Now that it's almost December and the season is upon us, we have a lot that Sisterhood has been planning for this season. Some of our snowbirds are back and the others – who we really miss – are starting to trickle back.

I'd like to welcome all of our new members to KJCC. Steve and Jane Friedman will be sponsoring a special Oneg on December 6th in their honor. (We don't mean to neglect our year-round members. You're the stalwarts of our KJCC family and we're grateful to have all of you.)

We're planning for an upcoming Sisterhood Service some time in January, to be led by Erica Garrett. A "Sisterhood Service" means it will include all ladies of the KJCC who would like to partake. Contact me for further information on this.

Our Chanukah Bazaar early this month was a huge success. The Chosen Gift Shop did a wonderful job displaying all their Chanukah "goodies" and it went over great. Our gift shop was lit up and looked amazing as well, thanks to the hard work of Susan Gordon and Barbara Bernstein. It was a festive day, with lots of refreshments and a raffle to boot. We never figured out why we kept picking Paul Bernstein's name as the winner for gifts. After his first win, he decided to forgo the next five gifts and let others get their picks. It was truly a great day and we even made money. The Chosen was so happy with our turnout and hospitality that they have asked to do a Passover Bazaar here. Information on this will be upcoming in future Chai-Lights and e-mail.

As I write this, we're eagerly awaiting our Chanukah Shabbat Dinner, to be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 29th with a dairy dinner. Services will follow at 8. Erica Garrett will be our star again as she will be totally in charge of this event. Our traditional Chanukah menorah lighting will be held on Sunday,

December 1st at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Pauline Roller, our distinguished synagogue elder. Everyone is asked to bring a personal menorah to light and dairy food to share. If you haven't seen it, all the menorahs lit together create a magical effect.

Also scheduled in December is a special Saturday Shabbat Service and Sisterhood Brunch. This will be on Saturday, December 28th, 2013. Services will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a Kiddush Brunch in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall. Rabbi Richard Agler and visiting Cantor Irwin Gellman will lead services.

Additionally, as I'm sure you're all aware, the Philippines was hit by a terrible typhoon recently. It destroyed the homes of several of KJCC member Jane Friedman's family. We of KJCC are going to help provide things that her family might need. Jane has suggested bringing the following items to KJCC and she will arrange to have them shipped: light clothing; light linens and dry, light-weight food (rice and cereal); over-the-counter drugs, (aspirin, Tylenol etc.) and personal hygiene products. Checks for donations can be made to KJCC marked for the Philippines, and we will use that for shipping and additional purchases that they need.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone of the Sisterhood's "Count Your Blessings Fund-raiser" that's been appearing in Chai-Lights. The response has been so good that we're extending it. Here's an idea: we're taught that it's a mitzvah to count our blessings. Print off a few copies of the page in November's issue, then send in a small donation whenever you feel particularly grateful, either for something on our list or anything else that makes your life a little sweeter or richer.

Let's make December "A Great Month"! ◇

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A Journey of Spiritual Healing

Heroes to Heroes is a New Jersey-based non-profit organization that brings groups of former U.S. soldiers to Israel, most suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). New Jersey native Judy Schaffer founded the organization in 2011, convinced that a trip to Israel could help them recover quickly, both emotionally and spiritually. "There are a lot of great veterans' organizations in America, and they are doing great things," said Schaffer. "But it's very hard to restore someone's faith and spirit...in New Jersey or Montana. I think that Israel is the only place where that can be done...quickly." Schaffer envisioned a Birth-right-type trip designed specifically for non-Jewish American veterans of the Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan wars. To date, the organization has financed three ten-day trips. The most recent trip, which took place in October, saw ten participants who: were baptized in the Jordan River, planted trees in memory of fallen comrades, walked the Stations of the Cross and prayed at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The most meaningful experience for them was a visit to *Yad Vashem*. They understood the message that the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust were people and not just numbers; it really resonated with them. Disabled Israeli veterans, also suffering from PTSD, accompanied the Americans during their ten days of intensive touring. The Israeli soldiers found it therapeutic to spend time with the Americans. Schaffer hopes that her organization will strengthen the bond between the two countries that have long been connected militarily, but whose people have very different relationships with their soldiers. In Israel, every Israeli has either served in the IDF or is likely to be related to someone who is in the army or has served. Many Americans don't personally know a single soldier.

(www.haaretz.com, 10-31-13)

A Nazi Buried in a Jewish Cemetery

According to a report in the German newspaper *Bild*, Heinrich Müller, the notorious head of the Gestapo, was buried in a Jewish cemetery in Central Berlin. Documents found in various archives indicate that he was buried in a mass grave during the last days of the war in 1945. It remains unclear exactly why such a prominent Nazi was buried there. Western intelligence agencies long maintained that Müller did not survive the war, but newly revealed documents show that his body was clearly identified. He was found wearing the uniform of a general, and in it there was a Gestapo pass with his photo. In 1963, a gravedigger told police that he personally had buried Müller, and that he had seen Müller's face. While his statement was not confirmed at the time, it turns out now that he was telling the truth. Müller had become Gestapo chief in 1939. He was involved in planning and executing the Holocaust, with Adolf Eichmann his immediate subordinate. The two men together planned key components of the deportation and extermination of Europe's Jews. Müller was last seen in Hitler's bunker in Berlin in May of 1945. To date, he is the most senior figure of the Nazi regime who was either never captured or positively confirmed to have died.

(www.worldjewishcongress.org, 10-31-13)

And The Winner Is.....

The 2014 *Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature* is Matti Friedman's "The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible." The Jewish Book Council announced the winner for the prestigious award (Friedman took home \$100,000) inaugurated in 2006 by the family of Jewish philanthropist Sami Rohr to

“recognize emerging writers who articulate the Jewish experience...as well as the author’s potential to make significant ongoing contributions to Jewish literature.” The Award switches yearly between fiction and non-fiction. “The Aleppo Codex” traces the thousand-year history of the codex, a copy of the Hebrew Bible written around 930 CE and preserved in Jewish communities throughout the Middle East. (www.tabletmag.com, 11-7-13)

For Your Netflix Queue

Academy Award-winning film director Quentin Tarantino has called the new Israeli movie “Big Bad Wolves” the best film of the year. At the end of the film’s screening at the South Korean 18th Busan International Film Festival, Tarantino said, “Not only is this the best film in Busan, this is the best film of the year.” It is the story of an act of revenge against a cruel murderer of children. Last month, the film won five awards, the second largest number at the prestigious Ophir Awards. Another Israeli film to look for is Yuval Adler’s “Bethlehem,” which won six Ophir Awards. That film was selected to represent Israel at the upcoming Oscars in the foreign film category. (www.haaretz.com, 10-13-13)

First-Ever Israeli Face-Off

Five years ago, a young Omri Casspi made basketball history by becoming the first Israeli to play in the NBA. Last month Casspi and another Israeli player faced each other for the first time when Casspi’s Houston Rockets went up against Israeli Gal Mekel of the Dallas Mavericks. (The Rockets beat the Mavericks 113-105.) The two have been playing together since they were young but now are pitted against each other in the NBA. (www.haaretz.com, 11-2-13)

Ebay Apologizes

Ebay, the online auction house, has apologized for listing Holocaust-related memorabilia on its website. They removed about 30 items saying, “We don’t allow listings of this nature, and dedicate thousands of staff to policing our site and use the latest technology to detect items that shouldn’t be for sale. We very much regret that we didn’t live up to

our standards.” Items that were offered for sale included a complete uniform worn by an Auschwitz inmate, yellow Stars of David armbands worn by Jews during World War II, a Holocaust victim’s suitcase and a pair of shoes belonging to a death camp victim. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 11-4-13)

“Politics has No Place in Sports”

Tunisia has been suspended from the 2014 Davis Cup competition after the country’s tennis federation ordered its number one player not to compete against an Israeli and thus default the match. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) imposed the suspension. ITF president Francesco Ricci Bitti said, “There is no room for prejudice of any kind in sport...The ITF Board decided to send a strong message...that this kind of action will not be tolerated by any of our members.” Israel and Tunisia do not have diplomatic ties. Relations were severed by the Tunisians in 2000 following the outbreak of hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. (www.reuters.com, 11-2-13)

Marriage Law Changes in Israel

Following a fierce debate that split members of the Knesset, the Israeli government raised the country’s legal marriage age from 17 to 18. The bill was passed (55-11) and infuriated ultra-Orthodox members of Parliament because the bill’s intention was targeted at the strictly Orthodox community. *Hareidi* members of the Knesset had argued that the law would violate the rights of religious teenagers. Violation of this new law will lead to a prison sentence of up to two years. (www.thjc.com, 11-5-13)

Update on the Jews of Dothan

Larry Blumberg, a wealthy Jewish businessman, was worried that his Dothan, Alabama synagogue was dying, and so five years ago he put up \$1 million to fund a program to recruit Jewish families to move to his corner of the Deep South. The plan was successful. The synagogue now has religious classes filled with children and a temple bowling team is in the works. Rabbi Lynne Goldsmith

moved from Connecticut to Alabama to lead the reform Temple Emanu-El about a year before the program began. When she arrived in 2007, she saw maybe 15 elderly people attending services. (There are now 30 and the average age is a lot younger.) The once thriving congregation, formed in 1929, was vanishing because young people were moving to larger cities. Blumberg, who owns a chain of hotels, came up with the plan to offer Jewish families \$50,000 in relocation assistance in exchange for moving to Dothan – a city of 65,000 people known for peanut production – and getting involved at Temple Emanu-El and committing to staying in Dothan for at least five years. According to Stuart Rockoff of the *Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life* in Jackson, Mississippi, other small-town Jewish congregations could benefit from adopting the Dothan plan. The Institute is helping to promote Southern Judaism by raising funds in places like New York and California to support congregations located in the Deep South. (www.ap.org, 10-13-13)

Another Update

In the November issue of *World Jewish Report*, we told of the late Mohamad Helmy, an Egyptian doctor recognized by *Yad Vashem* as “Righteous Among the Nations,” the first Arab to be so designated since the award’s establishment in 1963. It turns out that Mervat Hassan of Cairo, wife of Helmy’s great-nephew, said that the family would refuse the award because it comes from Israel’s Holocaust Memorial. “If any other country offered to honor Helmy, we would have been happy with it,” Hassan was quoted as saying. *Yad Vashem* has decided to search for other Helmy relatives so it can go ahead with a recognition ceremony. (www.jta.org, 10-31-13)

Did You Know...

- Mindy Pollak, 24, has become the first Hasidic woman to hold public office in Quebec, Canada. Her district, Outremont, outside of Montreal, is home to an estimated 5,000 Hasidim. Montreal has had Orthodox Jewish

councillors in the past, but all have been men. Pollak has been working to alleviate tensions in her neighborhood between the Hasidic community and the general population. She is a volunteer with *Chai Lifeline*, an organization that works with sick children and their families. (www.tabletmag.com, 11-4-13)

- Shimon Pepper recently returned “While Six Million Died,” a book about the Holocaust, to his hometown library in Fall River, Massachusetts. It was due some 40 years ago. Pepper, who now lives in New York, found the book when he returned to his home town to retrieve Torah scrolls and religious books from his childhood synagogue which were no longer being used. He was planning to donate them to synagogues in Israel, New York and New Jersey. In 1971, library late fees were 2 cents a day – at that rate he owed \$271 in fines. Pepper’s fine was waived. He did make a donation to the library. (*The Forward*, 10-15-13)

- Sergio Bergman, 51, has won a seat in Argentina’s national parliament, making him the first rabbi to be elected to national legislative office. Bergman is a prominent reform rabbi. He is the founder of the Judaica Foundation, a network that includes various organizations including synagogues, educational institutions, charitable and social programs. (www.thejcc.com, 10-31-13)

- Amir Lehavot, 38, a native Israeli now living in South Florida finished third in the *World Series of Poker*, taking home close to \$3.7 million. The tournament began in Las Vegas on July 6th, with 6,352 competitors who each bought in for \$10,000. (Lehavot, who plays under the Israeli flag, had asked the World Series organizers to play “Hatikvah,” the Israeli national anthem, if he won the tournament.) An engineer, Lehavot began playing poker in 2007. (www.jta.org, 11-5-13)

- “Heartbeats,” a youth orchestra comprised of both Israeli and Palestinian musicians, performed at the U.S. State Department in early November. The goal of the orchestra is “to build trust between Israeli and Palestinian youth through the power of music.” (www.jta.org, 11-6-13) ◇



On the Celebration of Chanukah: Jews and the Greeks

The story of Hanukkah, with the festival's laws and customs, is missing in the Mishna; it is told in the books of the First and Second Maccabees. These books are not part of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The story of the one-day supply of oil miraculously lasting eight days is first described in the Talmud, written about 600 years after the events described in the books of Maccabees.

Religiously, Hanukkah is a minor holiday. Except on Shabbat, restrictions on work do not apply. Aside from lighting the candles of the Chanukia, (Hanukkah menorah), formal religious observance is only in the changes in liturgy; we read in the Siddur: "On Chanukah add..." Our annual celebration tends to be informal and based on custom rather than law.

The interesting part of this holiday is its historical background, the internal civil war between the traditionalist Jews and the Hellenized Jews in Jerusalem. The dispute was over who would be the High Priest, traditionalists with Hebrew/Aramaic names like Onias competing with Hellenized High Priests with Greek names like Jason and Menelaus. What began in many respects as a civil war escalated when the Hellenistic kingdom of Syria sided with the Hellenizing Jews in their conflict with the traditionalists.

Before we get to the end of the Hanukkah story, let's explore how it began. It's about the Greeks and Hellenism. What were the cultural changes that Hellenism brought to the Near East? How did it influence the Jewish religious, political and cultural life of those

times? The historian Max I. Dimont gives us some interesting interpretations on these themes. In his book "Jews, God and History" he writes: "Though Greek thought dominated the Near East for 600 years, no original native contribution to art, letters, or philosophy ever grew out of this fusion between Occident and Orient. There was one exception – the Jews. Though most of them rejected Hellenism itself, Greek philosophy fell on fertile soil." The Jews absorbed everything intellectual which the Greeks had to offer. "To everything intellectual they borrowed, they added a Jewish touch. The Greeks then took these retouched ideas back from the Jews. The result was something neither had foreseen. The Greeks emerged in a Jewish-made mantle known as Christianity; the Jews wore a Greek philosophic tunic labeled 'Talmudism.' But in spite of this extensive borrowing from each other for six centuries, the Greeks regarded the Jews as barbarians without manners, and the Jews viewed the Greeks as heathens without morals."

When the Jews came under Grecian rule, their real enemy was Hellenism. The fight between Greek and Jew was the fight between two ideas, Alexander The Great's Hellenic culture, and the Judaic religion of the Prophets. The Prophets won. Hellenization of the Jews brought changes in their language, manners, and customs; then it "encroached upon their morals, ethics, and religion." But in spite of the strong influence of the attractive hedonistic Greek culture on Jewish culture, most Jews remained anti-Hellenistic. Dimont mentions two ideological reasons: one was the prestige and

power of the Mosaic Law, still considered divine by the people; the other was the firm belief that the Davidic line of kings would be restored. "Slowly these sentiments forge the anti-Hellenizers into a political party, whose members became known as the Hasideans, or pietists" (not to be confused with the Hasidists, Chasidim, the Jewish religious sect that appeared in 18th century Europe). As more Jews joined the Hasidean party out of protest against Hellenization, it gained political strength and came to play the dominant role in the events to come.

For 125 years the Seleucids (rulers of Asia Minor and Syria) and Ptolemies (rulers of Egypt and Palestine), each inheritors of one-third of Alexander's empire, fought over the control of Palestine. Finally the Seleucid king, Antiochus III, succeeded in taking Palestine from the Ptolemies. He continued the tolerant policies of its former rulers. Under the Ptolemaic kings, the Jews were left alone as long as they paid their taxes; they enjoyed self-government and complete cultural and religious freedom. Antiochus gave them even greater internal freedom because they showed how good they were with self-government. Matters changed with his son Antiochus Epiphanes, who inherited the throne in 176 B.C.; he decided that the Hellenization program, which included putting statues of Greek gods and the king everywhere, should be more intense. Dimont: "Antiochus Epiphanes has been so entrenched in Jewish history as a villain that few Jews can see the war which ensued for what it really was – not an uprising against tyrannical Seleucids, but a revolt by Jewish anti-Hellenizers against Jewish Hellenizers. Nothing anti-Jewish was imposed on the Jews by the Seleucids. The same laws, just or unjust, had been applied to everybody. All complied, except the Jews." The rebellion was started by the Jews. Dimont notes that it was the rebellion that brought the reprisals of the Greeks, not Jewish noncompliance with the Hellenization program.

*Under the
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What followed was a bloody period of brutal killings and slaughter from both sides, the Hasidean party leaders and Antiochus Epiphanes. A new set of statues was installed in the Temple and a new set of High Priests was appointed to tend to them. And pagans were invited to come and settle in Jerusalem as a way to dilute the Jewish population. Dimont points out that when Antiochus then repressed religious practice, outlawed the Sabbath day and forbade circumcision, "a second uprising was inevitable, and again a totally unforeseen event sparked it." In a little town outside Jerusalem, a Greek official attempted to force an elderly Jewish priest to sacrifice to Greek gods. The name of the priest was Mattathias, of the Hasmonean

house. Rather than commit this sacrilege, Mattathias killed the official. Antiochus ordered new reprisals, and the Jewish population rose en masse to the defense of Mattathias, who with his five sons now took leadership of the war. They became known as the Maccabees (from the Hebrew word for hammer). It was the beginning of a new kind of war, the world's first religious war.

Dimont summarizes: "With amazement, the Seleucid Greeks watched how this people stoically and heroically died for ideas, not possessions. Their disdain for the 'barbarian' Jews changed to respect and awe. They could not understand this kind of war." Other people, when their capital was occupied, its king captured, its temple and gods destroyed, would submit. But these Jews did not submit; each Jew carried his temple in his heart. The legend of the Maccabees spread throughout the Hellenic world. The war with the Seleucids lasted 25 full years. Antiochus Epiphanes died without realizing his dream of selling the Jews in the slave markets of the world. His successor offered the Jews religious freedom and full independence, and the Jews, worn out by the long war, accepted. "Simon, the only survivor of the five sons of Mattathias, signed the peace treaty in 143 B.C. After an incredible war, the impossible had been achieved – a new Jewish Kingdom of Judah had again been established." ◇

Photo Gallery



Some photos from the monthly chai-yaking expedition for KJCC members and their guests run by Dave Mont, this one on Saturday,

October 26th. You don't even need your own kayak, since loaners are available. Contact Dave if you're interested.



Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler are working with Rev. Pam Feeser of Mariners Hospital to sign up organ donors. On November 6th they spoke at Mariners (to a crowd of mostly KJCC supporters.) Organ donation was a cause of their daughter Talia; after her death, five people received her organs. The woman hugging Mindy at top is alive because she has Talia's heart.





Many of you likely remember The Chosen Book Store in Miami. They're now strictly online or by appointment. On Nov. 3rd they came to KJCC to

stage a Chanukah Bazaar in conjunction with KJCC's Sisterhood. It was such a success that

plans are underway to hold another bazaar for Passover.



A Joyful Baby Naming

by Gloria Avner

Wouldn't it be wonderful if history books a hundred years from now revealed that a Jewish man named Sean Suarez was responsible for bringing the Jewish people to the cusp of a Messianic Age? It is a possibility, as we learned with Rabbi Agler on November 16th. We celebrated in advance with the family of Michael and Lorena Kaufman on that bright Shabbat



Hebrew name, *Simcha ben Mordechai*. Rabbi Agler pointed to the empty chair carefully placed

in our Sanctuary's center aisle. If one had not attended many circumcisions, how would we know

that there always is a seat for *Eliyahu HaNavi*, the prophet who, according to tradition, will announce the coming of the Messiah?

Over fifty people, family and friends of the Kaufmans from as far away as Texas and New York, as well as

many supportive KJCC *mish-pocha*, listened as Rabbi Agler spoke elo-



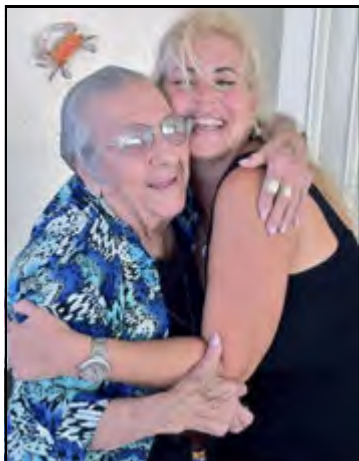
morning in mid-November as we gave their grandson his

quently of the hope and commitment involved in welcoming a new being to the tribe. When we give a Hebrew name, he explained, we are vowing to pass on shared Jewish values, ethics, rules of right behavior and passion to make the world a better place.

The photographs tell the story. A beauti-



fully behaved baby boy, embraced by loving extended family, held center stage – while being held alternately by his mother and grandmother – in a story of commitment to Jewish upbringing. After a typically stimulating, Rabbi-Agler-led discussion around Jacob’s wrestling with an angel and his encounter with brother Esau, the Torah was paraded down the aisles, carried like our own new child, both bundles precious. Grandparents, great-grandparents, and mother Jessi were all congratulated.



After the service at KJCC, a delicious luncheon was served, hosted by the Kaufmans at their beautiful oceanfront home in Key Largo. A highlight of the afternoon was the meaningful candle-lighting ceremony honoring key people in the baby’s life, including our president, Bernard Ginsberg, representing on-

going connection with the KJCC. Michael’s words about *tzedakah* and repairing the world, *tikkun olam*, were inspiring. The baby-decorated cake was adorable. Music, by a Miami Sound Machine founder, was so dance-able



Pauline nearly threw away her cane. (She was also the baby’s favorite “auntie” – look at his twelve-week-old expression as our 98-year-old matriarch holds him in her arms, at bottom.)

It is a pleasure to wel-



come *Simcha ben Mordechai* (Sean to his friends and family) into our lives and the world. May he, his family,



and the message of joy his name proclaims be frequent visitors to our synagogue and shining lights to our people. *Mazel tov!* ♦

Our appreciation to Barbara Knowles for most of the photographs here, but also to Gloria Avner, Erica Garrett and Susan Gordon.

Coping With Holiday Stress

A professional offers tips on managing non-joyous feelings.

by Mindy Agler

This time of year we seem to be bombarded with messages telling us to be happy, and to spend a lot of money on gifts to make others happy. But what happens if we aren't feeling happy or we need to stick to a budget that doesn't seem to be working? What if we're grieving someone or something important that we lost in the past year? How can we get through the holidays in a way that honors our true feelings and doesn't add to our daily allotment of stress?

- Just admitting out loud that this is a difficult time of year for you can be beneficial. You're not the only one who is struggling, and it helps to share the struggle. Tell a friend or a family member your true feelings. You might be surprised to learn that they are also having a hard time. Together, you can get through it!

- Start a journal, or diary, about your thoughts and feelings. Writing about what's going on with you can help organize your thoughts, ease decision-making, and decrease depression and anxiety.

- Keep a daily gratitude list. It's easy to focus on what's missing or wrong in your life. Remembering what's present and right will help balance the pain. Research shows that cultivating an "attitude of gratitude" leads to better health, sounder sleep, less anxiety, higher long-term satisfaction with life, and kinder behavior toward others! And it doesn't cost a cent or take a great deal of time or energy.

- If the stress of shopping and choosing the "perfect" gift for everyone from your family members to your dog sitter is overwhelming, consider making contributions to your favorite charities in their honor. Better yet, choose causes that would be meaningful to them!

- Don't spend too much time alone. Join a

club, volunteer, come to services, call old friends. But keep things in balance; don't over-schedule yourself!

- If you're prone to drinking or over-using medication when you're stressed, be careful. Alcohol is a depressant, and will not ease those holiday blues. Pills are also not the answer.

- Exercise and eating well are tried-and-true tools for managing stress any time of year. Make sure you're attentive to your body's needs and honor them.

- If you know you're going to have a hard time on a particular night, such as the first night of Chanukah, or New Year's Eve, practice acceptance and don't celebrate this year. Go to a movie, buy a book, eat a nice meal out, but don't get caught up.

- If your usual holiday rituals are too painful this year, create new ones. If lighting your *Chanukiah* is painful, perhaps counting the first stars in the sky each night, the right numbers for each night of the holiday, could be the way you fulfill the *mitzvah* this year.

- Remember that the message of Chanukah is miracles. Take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the Keys, and the miracles that are so abundant here. A good prayer to help with this is: "Help me to see wherever I gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed." (Or this time of year, the oil in the Maccabees' *menorah* burns unconsumed!) Allow this beautiful place we call home to bring you peace and healing; visit the Wild Bird Center, go kayaking, watch one of our beautiful sunsets.

- Remember to breathe. We humans tend to hold our breath when we feel stressed or anxious. This only adds to the anxiety! Catch yourself doing this, and take a deep, calming breath.

- If the stress becomes overwhelming, consider seeking professional help.

Wishing everyone in my KJCC family a holiday season filled with peace, blessing, and whatever healing you might need. I am grateful for this welcoming congregation!

Mindy Agler is a Licensed Mental Health

Counselor. She has a private practice, and is the primary therapist at ABC's for Success in Islamorada. To contact Mindy, call her confidential number: 561-866-9066, or send her a confidential e-mail: maglerlmhc@gmail.com. Further information about her services can be found at www.mindyaglerlmhc.com.



KJCC SISTERHOOD SHABBAT DINNER

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17,
2014**

6:30 PM

**COVERED DISH
~DAIRY~**

*Contact Joyce @ 305 451-0665
joycepeckman@gmail.com to reserve your
spot and coordinate your covered dish.*

Sponsored Dinner - no charge

-This Month in Jewish History-

December

519 B.C.E. – Supported by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, the foundations for the Second Temple are laid during the second year of the reign of Persian ruler Darius The Great. It will take four years to complete the project.

220 C.E. – Rabbi Judah Hanasi (Judah the Patriarch) dies. Born in Eretz Israel in 138 (three years after the last rebellion against Rome, the one led by Bar Kochba), Judah's greatest claim to fame is as the compiler of the Mishna, the compilation of Oral Law, which will serve as the basis for both the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds. It served, and still serves, as a code for regulation of all Jewish life. Some of his more famous sayings include: "Be as punctilious in observing a light as a weighty commandment, for you do not know their relative reward." And the favorite of all who teach: "I have learned much from teachers, more from my colleagues, but most from pupils."

321 C.E. – A letter from Emperor Constantine the Great regarding special taxes provides the first evidence of Jews living along the Rhine in central Europe.

771 – Charlemagne becomes sole Frankish king upon the death of his brother, King Carloman. Contrary to typical historical patterns, the consolidation of political power in the hands of one monarch actually helps the kingdom's Jews. Charlemagne is favorably disposed to his Jewish subjects, even to the point of defying edicts of powerful prelates.

1254 – Pope Innocent IV dies. During his papacy, Innocent denounces Blood Libels against the Jews as "unfounded." In 1247, Innocent issues a declaration on behalf of Jews stating that the Talmud is an absolute necessity for the Jews, if Judaism is to continue to exist as a separate religion; and that

burnings of the Talmud are to cease. This is not a position taken by many medieval Popes.

1655 – Oliver Cromwell convenes a gathering of English notables at Whitehall to decide if the Jews should be readmitted to England. Cromwell is a strong proponent of readmission, as are most of Cromwell's military and government leaders. Opposition comes from merchants and the mainline Christian clergy. The council is stalemated, and eventually disbanded. But conferees do agree that there is no legal reason not to re-admit the Jews since they had been expelled by royal decree and not by an act of Parliament.

1787 – Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. It abolishes all religious tests for public office in 1792.

1847 – Solomon Schechter is born in Rumania to a Chabad Chassidic family. His Chassidic upbringing does not satisfy him, and in 1879 he goes to study at the *Hochschule fur die Wissenschaft des Judentums* at the University of Berlin. He quickly rises to prominence as a rabbinic scholar and spokesman for Jewish traditionalism, gaining international fame as a scholar when he discovers and brings back to London more than 100,000 pages of rare manuscripts from the Cairo Geniza. In 1913 he is instrumental in founding the United Synagogue of America, the umbrella organization of all Conservative congregations. Though a staunch traditionalist, Schechter admits that there can be change in modern Judaism. He is supposedly quoted as saying, "Gentlemen, in order to be a success in the American rabbinate, you must be able to talk baseball."

1861 – An edition of the *Louisville-Nashville Courier* gives the following details concerning the burning of a bridge at Whippoorwill on the Memphis Branch Railroad: "A detachment

of fifty or sixty federal soldiers under the command of a Dutch Jew peddler named Netter fired a volley of over one hundred rounds from Sharp's revolving rifles" at the Confederates guarding the bridge. "Netter" is probably Gabriel Netter, a French-born Jew (not Dutch) living in Kentucky, who within a year would rise to the rank of Lt. Colonel before being killed in fighting near Owensboro.

1864 – A meeting is held in Philadelphia, which results in the establishment of the first Jewish theological seminary in America. The seminary is established under the joint auspices of the Hebrew Education Society and the Board of Delegates of American Israelites, and is named Maimonides College. The school begins operations in 1867. It ceases operations in 1873 due to lack of support and funds.

1864 – William Tecumseh Sherman's Union Army reaches Savannah, Georgia in what history will call "Sherman's March to the Sea." Fighting alongside Sherman is Major General Frederick Knefler, a native of Hungary who is the highest-ranking Jewish officer in the Union Army during the Civil War.

1875 – Father Bernhard Lichtenberg, anti-fascist German priest and outspoken defender of the Jews of Germany, is born. After *Kristallnacht*, Lichtenberg is the only prominent Church figure to raise his voice publicly and fearlessly against Nazi brutality. "We know what happened yesterday, we do not know what lies in store for us tomorrow. But we have experienced what has happened today: Outside burns the temple. This is also a place of worship." He is arrested in 1941, but continues to speak out. In 1943, Lichtenberg asks to accompany the Jews being sent to the Ghetto at Lodz, Poland. The Church refuses, but the Gestapo orders him sent to Dachau. Not yet seventy, Lichtenberg dies while awaiting shipment to the concentration camp.

1889 – Poet Robert Browning dies. Browning's poem "Rabbi ben Ezra" is based on the life Abraham ibn Ezra, a leading figure in the

Golden Age in Spain and second only in fame to Rashi as a Torah commentator. The poem begins with the famous line "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be..."

1891 – Rachel Sasoon Beer, granddaughter of David Sasoon and daughter of Sasoon David Sasoon, is named editor of *The Observer* in London, making her the first female editor of a national newspaper. During her tenure *The Observer* achieves one of its greatest exclusives: the admission by Count Esterhazy that he had forged the letters used to condemn innocent Jewish Captain Alfred Dreyfus to Devil's Island. The ensuing international outcry leads to the release and pardon of Dreyfus and court-martial of Esterhazy.

1915 – Albert Einstein publishes the general theory of relativity, from his seat as Director of Theoretical Physics at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin. He is 36.

1917 – British troops under General Allenby fight their way into Jerusalem, defeating the Ottoman Turks and freeing the ancient Jewish homeland from hundreds of years of Ottoman rule. The whole city turns out to greet the General, as do the Chief Sephardic and Ashkenazi Rabbis. The Jaffa Gate is opened after years of disuse to enable Allenby to enter on foot, but also to enable him to enter the city without having to use a gap in the wall created for Kaiser William in 1898.

1917 – Corporal Louis Isaac Salek, a Gallipoli veteran from New Zealand entering Jerusalem with General Allenby, hoists and flies the first Jewish flag to fly over Jerusalem since the city's fall to the Romans almost two thousand years ago. The flag is made by an Egyptian-Jewish department store owner named Moreno Cicurel with the assistance of a tailor from Alexandria named Eliezer Slutzkin. Salek's flag design is blue and white – the top half blue, the bottom half white – with a Magen David in the center. Salek plants Moreno's flag atop the Tower of David – the Citadel – where it flies for twenty minutes before being removed by the British. ♦

To See the Light

The opposite of darkness and other meanings

by Gloria Avner

Have you noticed? Sunset is coming earlier every night. We retire to our caves. In a few weeks we'll reach a pivot point, the Winter Solstice, a day held sacred and mysterious by tribal peoples for thousands of years: longest darkness, shortest light. And then everything will change. Sun will begin its journey back to equilibrium of light and dark. For the next half a year the light in our lives will increase, and at the Summer Solstice we'll turn, turn and turn again. We've talked about life cycles and Ecclesiastes before. This year, one verse, "a time to be born, and a time to die," looms especially large for us.

We've lost many good friends this year: wives, husbands, fathers, moms; some in sudden, unexpected, startling ways, others after lingering illness. My father left on New Year's Eve fifteen years ago, a year in which Chanukah came late. He went out with the last candle. When December 31st comes this year I will do as Jews have done for at least the last hundred years and light a *yahrzeit* candle in remembrance of the light he shined on me, my world, and his community. I will make a donation to KJCC, giving *tzedakah* in his honor. Our rituals and tradition help us find light in loss that could otherwise send us into darkness of despair. (There are many reasons why the syndrome for seasonal affective disorder is called SAD, describing peoples' reaction to lack of light.)

In Judaism, we talk about our people as shining lights. We celebrate the "*ner tamid*," the everlasting light, weaving stories about miracles into time-appropriate Chanukah ritual, beating back the dark. We re-dedicate ourselves as well as an ancient Temple, when we put special menorahs, *Chanukiah*s, in our windows to remind ourselves and others that light equals survival when we fight for the right to pray and practice as our heritage re-

quires.

Every artist knows what makes a good, true, and lively painting – light against dark, dark against light. We see and appreciate all things by recognition through contrast. Light illuminates and dispels what is hidden in shadow. Light equals holiness, creation, life itself. How do we deal Jewishly with darkness, life and death? We console the bereaved, visit the sick, sit *shiva*, perform acts of kindness and *tzedakah* as memorials to our departed. We plant trees in a meditation garden, create places of comfort and beauty.

We notice and are grateful for signs of light and life. When we celebrate Tu B'Sh'vat (the birthday of the trees) in another month we will celebrate our mystical seder with a pure white first glass of wine, acknowledging the cycle of death symbolized by winter. Slowly we will add drops of red until light and life rebound in full swing.

Familiar customs help, but there are untapped sources, too. One rich possibility is guided conversation using ancient Jewish texts and modern poetry, taking turns reading, similar to our activity in the middle of Yom Kippur this year, when the balance of contemporary materials and traditional texts was inspiring.

A future program is in the works. Rabbi Steven Sager, friend and colleague of KJCC member and High Holy Day leader Rabbi Rich Agler, will be instrumental. Founder and facilitator of a website called sichaconversation.org, he will help us tap a deep well, our legacy of tools, words of wisdom, insight and inspiration. It will happen on a special day, the Vernal Equinox, March 21st, when dark hours and light for one day are in balance, equal. Let's keep each other company in a guided process as we deal with each new stroke of grief, each burst of joy.

We offer condolences to all who've suffered losses in these last months. We say Mazel Tov to the Silvermans on Westley's upcoming Bar Mitzvah and to the Kaufmans on their baby naming. Our "*simchas*," or joys, like hours of daylight, may sometimes seem outweighed by loss, but they can lead to balance. There will always be shifts, twists and turns, "a time for every season under heaven."

Here in the Keys, the livin' seems easy. It's not just that fish are jumping. Our trees have

leaves and flowers all year, we don't fill furnaces with oil, and our bodies don't require layers beyond a few rare 50-degree days. No matter the weather, though, we all have to deal with light and dark, joy and loss, even if we're not talking about the outer world but the development of our inner souls.

Let's mine our tradition, get through the dark, and welcome more light. Bless Chanukah candles, welcome miracles, and save the weekend of March 21, 2014 for learning, fun, and shared exploration. ◇

To our KICC Family -

Our sincere thanks to all of you for lending us your love and support during our recent mitzvah. Will's Bar Mitzvah was attended by family from near and far, and by KICC mishpocha from near and far as well. Our boy was so very happy to see you all and to have your congratulatory wishes. What a wonderful demonstration of love from our community!

Special thanks to Rabbi Agler, Gloria, Stuart, Susan, Bernie, Barbara, Richard and to all who helped to make this destination event a meaningful one.



The Pollack Family



Our Cruise in Central Europe

We started in Vienna, sailed west on the historic Danube into Germany and then motored overland to Prague.

by Gene Silverman

We thought we'd planned everything. But little did we know that our trip would start with the airline losing all of Mort's checked luggage. It didn't turn up in Vienna (Austria, not Virginia) for three days. It was hysterical (to everyone but Mort) to watch him having to go shopping there. (All he had were the clothes he'd worn on the plane; no extra anything.) Not only were we working against a falling U.S. dollar, but Vienna in itself is very, very expensive. Take, for example, trying to buy Levi's, which Mort purchased at home right before we left: two pair for \$80. When we started to shop we very rapidly learned that Levis, with *buttons* on the fly and not zippers, were the equivalent of \$160 U.S., *PER PAIR*. So much fun. But now on to our travels and no more travails!

Alan and Elaine Schulberg (our partners in travel) met us at our Viennese Hotel a few hours after we arrived. The weather was sunny and cool, so we all (well, three of us) unpacked and started out to investigate the local neighborhood. Our hotel, The Hollmann Beletage, was strategically located in the heart of the old Imperial City, which made it convenient to wander and explore on our own. We had tours booked for Friday and Saturday but *really* wanted to investigate Vienna. And since this was just Thursday, off we went. We didn't have a clue



In Vienna, shortly after the adventure began. Of note: cobblestone streets, heavy wooden doors, and a French (!) café.

where to go first, but we did have a hotel map. And we did find out what time our hotel served complimentary wine and *hors d'oeuvres*, so what more did we need?

What a beautiful city. It's charming, old, graceful and full of history - but not everything is talked about. We found our way to Mariahilfer Straße, which is the main shopping avenue in the Old City. What a beautiful street.

We walked for what seemed like miles and then back to our new hotel home. Just in time for cocktails and little bites. Then a change of clothes (for three of us, anyway) and back out for a light dinner. Then we all crashed because we had to be up and ready by 9:30 for our tour of Jewish Vienna.

Wow - what an experience. Our guide, Christian, is half-Jewish (a surprise for us, considering his name) and very informative. We were off, in his van, to see the memorials at Helmut Zilk Platz and Morzinplatz (once the headquarters of the

With the half-Jewish guide Christian (only in Europe), just outside the Judenplatz Holocaust Museum, at one of many large sculptures.



Gestapo) and the Holocaust memorial in Judenplatz as well as the Jewish museums and the Eskeles Palace (once home to the noble Jewish Eskeles family, and now the world's oldest Jewish museum) plus a drive to Leopoldstadt to see a few Jewish modern sites. This was supposed to be for four hours, but we took Chris to lunch so it ended up being much longer.

Jews have a mixed history in Vienna, one ranging from prosperity to persecution. The children of Israel began arriving in Vienna late in the twelfth century. By the early 1400s we comprised about five percent of the city's population. But in 1420 we were expelled by Duke Albrecht V, who destroyed the synagogue and confiscated all Jewish property. In 1451, we were allowed to return and given special protection by the Hapsburg emperors.

In 1624 we were granted our own quarter, which became known as Leopoldstadt, and two synagogues were built there. In 1669, we were again thrown out, but that caused a great economic depression, so the emperor invited wealthier Jews to return. That started a third wave of immigrants and in 1683 Mr. Stamson Wertheimer and Samuel Oppenheimer became Jewish Imperial court agents; their task was to provide financial support for the Austrian army, which at the time was fighting off an invasion by the Turks.

The Judenplatz, in the heart of Vienna, was the main square of the Jewish community for nearly 500 years. The museum we visited there has the remains of the synagogue that

was destroyed more than 500 years earlier. Ten minutes away is the Sigmund Freud house with memorabilia, books, cigar boxes, letters, photographs, etc. From there we walked to the memorials at Helmut Zilk Platz and Morzinplatz and then to the Eskeles Palace.

We stopped at a seemingly randomly chosen house and Christian asked us if we knew who had lived here. Without thinking, I re-

plied, Mozart. He wanted to know how I knew and the only thing I could tell him was that I must have been here in a former life. We all laughed at that.

Under the reign of Maria Theresa, who was a rabid anti-Semite, many laws were passed that worsened both lives and business prospects for Viennese

Jewry. Finally, in 1782, tensions once again eased under her son and successor, Joseph II, who considered her policies toward the Jews "unjust, impious, impossible, harmful and ridiculous." (Maria Theresa was also the only female sovereign of the Holy Roman Empire. Her youngest child – of a total of sixteen – was Christened Marie Antonia, but when married by proxy to the French dauphin she became known to history as Marie Antoinette.)

The Jewish renaissance in Vienna began in 1848 and lasted until the start of World War II, at which point the Jewish population had



At left, the entrance to Vienna's Judenplatz (Jewish Square) Holocaust Museum, in an area that was the center of Jewish life since the Middle Ages. Above, we didn't think all four of us plus our luggage could fit into this small cab, but somehow we did.



grown to 185,000. Today, Vienna has fifteen synagogues, but only one survives from the pre-war period; it re-opened in 1963, after extensive renovations.

There were many Jewish Viennese who became famous in many fields and made lasting contributions. Baroness Fanny von Arnstein hosted the grandest salon of her time, attracting important personalities that included the emperor and Mozart. Vienna also produced Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler, Theodor Reik and Wilhelm Reich (all physicians and pioneers in psychoanalysis); Zionists Theodore Herzl and Max Nordau; Theologian

Martin Buber; composers and theater luminaries Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schönberg, Oscar Straus, Emmerich Kalman, Max Reinhardt, Fritz Kortner, Lili Darvas and Elisabeth Berner; and writers Arthur Schnitzler, Franz Kafka, Stefan Zweig and Felix Salten.

We saw a lot, and there was a lot to absorb and remember. By mid-afternoon our guide brought us back to the Hotel and we literally fell apart – until dinner. Since we had been walking all day, dinner around the corner of the hotel sounded, and was, perfect. Tomorrow we had to be ready for eight hours of sightseeing the Schoenbrunn Palace, The

Hofburg with the Treasury and the fine arts Museum.

Wow - what a palace and treasures. I had the feeling that some of the displayed "treasures" had been confiscated, from people who didn't give them up willingly. Just a feeling.

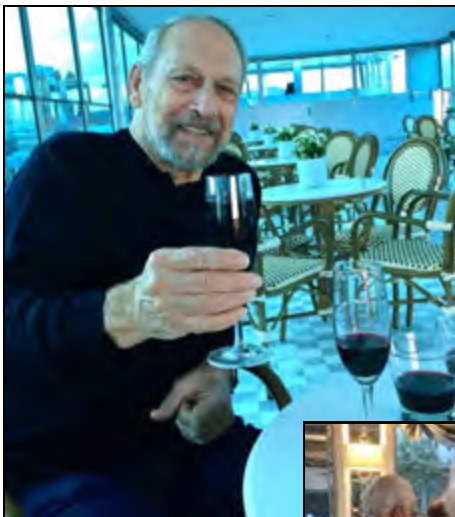
The rooms are mostly decorated in a "Roccoco style" and most of the walls and ceilings are decorated with white-lacquered surfaces and gold leaf ornamentation. There are Bohemian crystal chandeliers, white porcelain stoves and lavish living quarters, with rooms like the round Chinese room, the Blue Chinese Salon, and the room of Millions, which is paneled with rosewood and decorated from floor to ceiling

with priceless Indian and Persian miniatures. In 1772, a precocious six-year-old prodigy by the name of Mozart gave a concert in the palace's Hall of Mirrors.

Since we weren't checking into the ship until the early afternoon, Alan, Elaine and myself took off for the Viennese subway.

That was a great experience, especially trying to get Euros in the subway with our credit/debit cards. Hooray for Alan, who finally mastered the buttons. I hadn't had my strudel yet and was determined to get some. So we stopped for coffee. After a visit to the Albertina Museum, we stopped at a grocery store, where Alan bought wine for our cruise. We were now ready to leave for the ship. Great day.

Once aboard the cruise ship, we got to see Vienna again, this time from the water. We saw the Ringstrasse, the parks, the Art Nouveau clock, which each hour offers one of



We'd been walking for several days in Vienna, but the cruise ship had a private cocktail party waiting for us. It was time to sit and relax with a glass of wine and watch Vienna go by while drifting on the Danube.



twelve historical figures, ranging from Marcus Aurelius to Joseph Haydn.

Our next stop would be Melk. We cruised the Wachau Valley, which is 19 miles, and is a stretch of the Danube that

cuts through a rocky gorge in the Bohemian Forest between Krems and Melk. Melk is an interesting town with a very old history that starts with the Romans. It was founded in 1089 when Leopold II gave one of his castles to the Benedictine monks, who converted it into a fortified abbey. This 900-year-old abbey sits very high atop granite cliffs. It was one of the most important learning centers in the Middle Ages; the monks created more than 1,200 manuscripts, which are still there. Today, that library has some 100,000 volumes, among them more than 80,000 works printed before 1800.

Next onto Passau, where the three rivers – the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz – all meet.

Passau is famous for its ornate baroque cathedral and is relatively well preserved, as it was spared from the heavy Allied bombing during World War II. It is also famous for St. Stephan's Cathedral, which used to house the world's largest organ. It is now the second largest after the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles.

Next stop Deggendorf. Also known as Theresienthal, it is in the middle of the Bavar-



Above, Alan and Elaine on the balcony of the 900-year-old cliff-top abbey in Melk. Below, a sign in Regensburg commemorating Oskar Schindler's rescue of 1,200 Jews from that ancient Danube city.



ian Forest, so naturally we had to have a ride on a horse-drawn wagon. After the short ride we were treated to home-baked bread (from an outdoor oven) and a glass of Blutwurz (blood root) schnapps. That certainly seemed to warm us up.

Onto Regensburg tomorrow, where we will see "Jewish Regensburg." It'll be interesting to see who will be on the tour with us.

Surprise - there are about 25 of us on this tour, but not all are Jewish. Jews lived in Regensburg from the 8th century until Feb. 21, 1519 when they were driven out of the city. Excavations were done between 1995-1997 and the layout of the old Jewish quarter revealed itself.

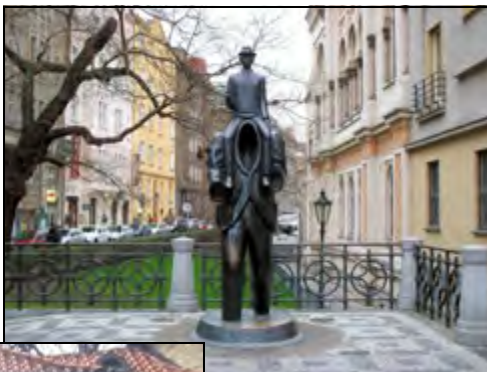
There had been 39 houses, the synagogue, a mikva, meeting house, hospital, bath house, bakery and a butcher shop. Scattered throughout modern Regensburg were brass plaques, set in the sidewalks, with the names of people who had perished in the camps. The plaques included names, addresses and dates of birth, plus the date of the last time the

person was seen alive. That way no one ever forgets. It seems that Germany, unlike Austria, reminds and teaches about the Holocaust so no one will ever forget or deny that it happened.

Next was Nuremburg. Wow - we thought we were prepared for it, but really nothing

can prepare you for reliving the worst memories of history. Nuremberg is the second-largest city in Bavaria (after Munich) with about 500,000 inhabitants. It has a history that goes back to 1050. Our first stop was to the grounds of the Nazi Party Rally which has an exhibition called "Fascination and Terror," which deals with the causes, relationships and the consequences of the Nazi era. On the grounds we were able to go directly in front of the stage where Hitler gave his infamous speeches, and learned that anyone who stands there and does the "Heil Hitler" salute is immediately arrested.

Next: Prague. Our



At top, the modern sculpture in Prague honoring Franz Kafka: a headless male figure in a suit with a smaller figure of Kafka on his shoulders. In the center is the Klausen Synagogue, built in the late 17th century. It was the largest synagogue in the Jewish Quarter, commissioned by one Mordechai Maisel, one of Prague's richest Jews. It is very close by the Jewish cemetery. Today it serves as Prague's Jewish Museum. (Note the Kosher catering truck in the photo's foreground.) At right is a weekly service schedule (in German) at the New/Old Synagogue nearby.

journey via motor coach took about four hours. We had a private tour scheduled for the next morning and were really looking forward to it.

We were supposed to be met at the Hotel by 9 a.m. Since it was

raining, we all waited inside for our guide and car. Lo and behold, the guide arrived a half-hour late and with no car. It was still raining but the Hotel supplied the four of us with umbrellas.

After walking for about 25 minutes toward the Old Town of Prague the rain eased up. We were headed to see the Prague Jewish Museum, The Maisel Synagogue, the Pinkas Synagogue, the Klaus Synagogue, the Spanish Synagogue, the Old Jewish Cemetery and the Old/New Synagogue.

There is, to say the least, lots of Jewish history in Prague. After four hours of being immersed in the Jewish history and

seeing five Synagogues and the Jewish Cemetery plus the Jewish Museum, I was finding it very difficult to remember which synagogue was built in which century. And at each synagogue we, of course, deposited some

Parashat Toldot	
Schabbatsbeginn, Mincha	- 16:21
Kabbalat Schabbat, Ma'ariv	- 16:35
Schacharit	- 9:00
Mincha	- 16:00
Sonder Schlicht	- 16:30
Schabbatsausgang	- 17:28

tzedakah and visited their gift stores; at one we bought a book on The Prague Golem for our library. And then there was the Kafka

statue. When we asked our guide about the story, all we received was a blank stare and then a very made-up story. I had to wait until we returned home to learn the history of this statue.

This bronze statue was unveiled December 2003 by Jaroslav Rona next to the Spanish Synagogue in the Jewish quarter. This little square, in the middle of Prague's Dusi Street, is what Franz Kafka probably saw each time he looked out his window. The image of a young man riding on another one's shoulders appeared in one of his early short stories, "Description of a Struggle."

Jews began to settle in Prague in the tenth century. Because the sovereign offered them relative safety and prosperity, Jewish Prague flourished. The Talmudic School was founded here in the 11th century and the Hebrew printing shop started in the early 16th century. The Old-New Synagogue was built in the last quarter of the 13th century, the Pinkas Synagogue was built in 1535, the High Synagogue in 1568, the Maisel Synagogue in 1592 and by the end of the 16th century the New Synagogue, which was later on known as the Wechsler Synagogue and in 1613 as the Cikan Synagogue and in 1627 as the Grand Court Synagogue and in 1694 as the Baroque Klausen Synagogue. A little confused? Now you can start to understand how overwhelmed we were.

Though they had internal autonomy and, by pre-Renaissance standards, a fair amount of freedom, Jews were still considered the property of the King. The second half of the sixteenth century is instructive. Jews enjoyed relative peace, because they helped finance

the Hapsburg empire's wars, and there was a long war against the Turks to the east plus the usual difficulties of keeping captive peoples quiet throughout their large central European empire. So they borrowed more and more from the Jewish bankers. Not long before, in 1541, the Jews had been expelled, but that proved to be a very bad business decision, so the Jews, at least the wealthier and more useful ones, were re-admitted.

Today there are about 3,500 Jews in Bohemia and Moravia, of which about 1,000 live in Prague. The Old Jewish Cemetery was started in the first third of the 15th century and is done in layers. There are now about 12,000 headstones, but because of the layers (yes, one buried on top of another), there are probably 50,000 interred there.

In the Pinkas Synagogue there are walls with the written names of the 77,927 Jewish Holocaust victims from Bohemia and Moravia written, by hand, and this is the most moving and heart-wrenching exhibit we had ever seen. Their names, biographic dates and last known residence (mostly the names of concentration camps) were written in alphabetical order.

We found out, by the way, that Czech beer is delicious. More of it is consumed there, we were told, than even water. We didn't even try to find out whether that's true or just a great story they tell

tourists. We did thoroughly enjoy the beer, and the local eateries, and even the strolls back to our hotel after each evening's dinner.

Tomorrow we say our goodbyes and leave Prague for home. Remembering Mort's luggage experience on the flight over, we all crossed our fingers about the return flight home. ♦



Look closely at this old clock. The numbers are all in Hebrew. This is on the Old/New Synagogue in Prague's Jewish Quarter, built in 1270 and the oldest active synagogue in Europe. The clock still works, too.

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For nearly 25 years, The Palace Gardens Assisted Living Community in Homestead has been known as a leader in providing outstanding care to seniors. While our grounds and the campus are beautiful, there are more than a few reasons why The Palace Gardens is different from all others.



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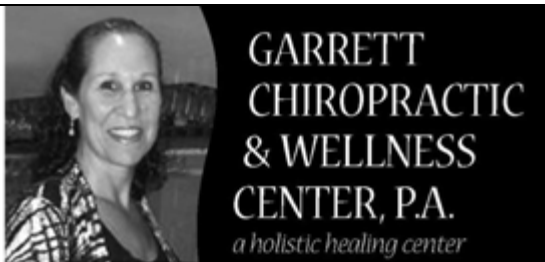
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