



January 2015

10 Tevet - 11 Shevat 5775

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

January 2015 10 Tevet - 11 Shevat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Siege of Jerusalem 586 BCE	2 Erica Lieberman- Garrett Amelia & Steve Kasinof	3
4 Sisterhood Meeting Installation of Officers 9:30 a.m.	5	6	7	8	9 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner Natalie & Barry Dorf	10
KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16 Bernie Ginsberg Lynn Nobil 6:30 Advertisers' Dinner	17
18	MLK Federal Holiday	20	Rosh Chodesh Shevat	22	23 Steve Steinbock & Steve Hartz Steve Steinbock	24 Rabbi Agler Service 10 a.m.
Ken Nedimyer of CRF to speak at KJCC 7 pm	26	27	28	29	30 Gloria Avner & Sy Gelbard Sy Gelbard 6:30 service	31

2014 - 2015 Officers and Board

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Yardena Kamely

Librarian Medina Roy

Historian Mary Lee Singer

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Newsletter

Lisa Richardson Rutherford

CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332

Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Bernard Ginsberg

have recently been upset by the stabbing of a young Chassidic lew at the Williamsburg, Brooklyn headquarters of Chabad. This was the act of an isolated madman, but others are not. In France and other parts of Europe, deadly anti-Semitic attacks are becoming more common. In Great Britain, France and even in the U.S.. economic divestiture from Israel (a cover for anti-Semitism) is discussed and acted upon by various organizations.

Tablet magazine stated: "And Jews are leaving. A survey in 2013 by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights showed that almost a third of Europe's Jews have considered emigrating because of anti-Semitism, with numbers as high as 46 percent in France and 48 percent in Hungary. Quietly, many Jews are asking whether they have a future in Europe."

About 5,000 Jews have left France in the last year due to anti-Semitism. This is one percent of the French lewish population. How would you feel seeing one in one hundred of our Jewish friends or fellow congregants leaving our country for an unknown future in Israel?

We must work to maintain our strength as a people and to maintain our Jewish identities. The front line in the fight for Jewish survival is the KJCC's religious school. Jewish organizations are the second line. We



must support Israel as a haven for those like the French Jews who need a refuge. Don't throw the Chanukah solicitation letters from JNF (Jewish National Fund). ZOA (Zionist Organization of America) or AIPAC in the trash. Put some gelt into the reply envelope! If you are angry with someone in the Jewish community for some perceived slight or hurt. "suck it up." We need to save our energy to fight battles against our true anti-Semitic enemies.

On a more positive and upbeat note, we have a great religious school, and by the time you read this they will have led us through a beautiful Chanukah service and mass menorah lighting. Congratulations to Erica Lieberman-Garrett, newly elected Sisterhood president, who orchestrated the Chanukah dinner, and thanks to Barbara Knowles for her service as president. Thanks to Rabbi Agler for continuing his Shabbat morning Torah services.

Happy New Year to all of you and may we continue to find happiness, security and prosperity together with all our fellow citizens in this country, and may Israel and all of the Middle East also receive this blessing from G-d.

With love, Bernie

Nosh

Rabbi Agler's Winter Service Schedule

The great gift by Rabbi Richard Agler to KJCC of his Saturday morning Torah learning sessions continues. We have his schedule for the next three months: January will be on the 24th, February on the 28th, March on the 21st. All services take place in the KJCC sanctuary and begin at 10 a.m. The meditation is mind-clearing; the readings from the siddur and Torah are enlightening. And the discussion of that week's parshah will, we promise, be the most interesting on the subject you've likely ever been part of.

Jewish Summer Camp Support

If your children have been or are now part of our Religious School, there may be KJCC funds to help you with the cost of Jewish summer camp. Our family synagogues supported some of us this way as children. The fun and learning gained in the Jewish camp experience has stayed with us, deepening our commitment to Judaism as adults. Call Susan Gordon (305-766-3585) or David Gitin (305-393-4979) for information or an application.

—Gloria

Oneg Sponsors for January 2015

2nd - Steve & Amelia Kasinof in honor of their anniversary.

9th - Natalie & Barry Dorf in honor of KJCC.
 16th - Lynn Nobil is sponsoring the Advertisers' dinner in honor of her parents, Joel & Sarah Cohen.

23rd - Steve Steinbock in memory of Carol's Birthday.

30th - Sy Gelbard in honor of all the KJCC Menschen.

Stuart Grossman Wins Prestigious Award

The Keys Jewish Community Center is pleased to congratulate long-time KJCC member Stuart Z. Grossman, who has received the Florida Justice Association's highest award, the 2014 Perry Nichols award, in honor of his lifetime contributions and in recognition of his distinguished service to the cause of justice in Florida and in the nation.

Farewell to a Naval Hero Dad

Early on the morning of December 17th, 2014, a very courageous and loving man left to soar with the angels. Candace Stanlake lost her dad, a

WWII
naval
fighter
pilot with
the USS
Essex.
With him
went
many
wonderful stories that
all of us

will

treasure.



Candy and dad J.D. Stanlake while on vacation in Scotland.

He was truly of The Greatest Generation of very brave people who kept our country safe and free. In honor of his life and service there will be a 21-gun salute at the National Cemetery in Fort Custer, Michigan on January 8, 2015.

Rest in peace, sweet Dur (J.D.) Stanlake.

-Your loving son-in-law, Alan Beth

BOOK PLATE

In memory of
Carol Steinbock
by John and Arlene Line

January Birthdays

	-
lst	
lst	Laura Goodman
lst	
2nd	Stanley Rosenberg
2nd	Sherrie Willner
3rd	Crue LaMarche
4th	
4th	Howard Gilson
6th	
6th	
8th	Matthew Barrett
8th	Roger Levy
9th	Deborah Beinfest
9th	
9th	Sarah Kamely
10th	
IIth	Michelle Zinner
I2th	
12th	Meredith A. Cline
13th	Amy Nobil
15th	
15th	
15th	Heather Gilson
16th	
l6th	
17th	
17th	
17th	
18th	Barry Alter
19th	
19th	
19th	
20th	
20th	
22nd	
24th	
24th	
26th	Marshall Kaplan
27th	
27th	
28th	
29th	
29th	
30th	Kristen M. Schur

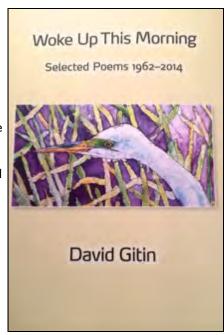
January Anniversaries				
		Years		
lst	Sanford & Nancy Yankow	25		
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof	34		
12th	George & Muriel Swartz	35		
17th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg	22		
23rd	Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld			
26th	David & Pamela Marmar	30		
27th	Michele & Ed Riley	42		

David Gitin Donates Volume to KJCC

David Gitin has donated a copy of his newest and largest poetry collection to the growing KJCC library. The volume is titled "Woke Up This Morning, Selected Poems 1962-2014." Bor-

row it. You can read David's poems and see Gloria Avner's evocative paintings on the front and back covers. This is David's eleventh book. The **KICC** library,

located



in the lobby just off the sanctuary, is now home to a great variety of books on Jewish religion, history, culture and humor, plus biographies and a number of tapes and DVDs. The library is curated by professional librarian Medina Roy.

Looking Forward and Back

A reminder from the Scholarship Committee: if your child is heading to college next fall and is interested in applying for a KJCC scholarship award, go to our website (keysjewishcenter.com) and look at the drop-down menu under "School." You will be able to download criteria and application forms which will be accepted between January 1st and April 1st.

Meanwhile, here's an old photo of KJCC students under a long-ago sukkah. Two of these children are now in university and one is



doing post-grad work. The others are excelling in high school. How many names can you put with these faces? We are very proud of our students, past and present. (The older guy on the right, in case you don't recognize him, is Prez Bernie when he was still clean-shaven.)

—Gloria

Yahrzeit Plaque

Charlie Temkin
10/21/41 — 9/21/14
Loving Husband, Grandfather,
Father, Brother.
Remembered by
The Temkin Family.

A Special KJCC Book Discussion

We're telling you now about a book discussion to take place at KJCC on April 12th, which you are cordially invited to join. Why bring this up so early, you ask? Because this discussion will be led by Rabbi Richard Agler, and he wants everyone who attends to have actually read the book prior to the discussion.

The book was written by famed Nazi hunter

Simon Wiesenthal and is titled "The Sunflower: on the possibilities and limits of forgiveness." It takes place during his days in World War II as a concentration camp inmate. A dying Nazi officer asks for a Jew, any Jew, to be brought to him. That Jew turned out to be Simon Wiesenthal. And what was the point of the request? The officer wanted absolution; he wanted a Jew to forgive him for what he'd done. So this is the question considered in the

book in a series of essays: can evil, especially unspeakable evil, be forgiven?

KJCC has ordered six copies of the book, which should be delivered around the time you receive this issue of Chai-Lights. There is of course no charge to those borrowing these or any KJCC books. But librarian Medina Roy will have a sign-out sheet operating on the honor system. This should be a moving and highly evocative discussion. So please take your turns reading the book and then join us.

We're All on the Membership Committee

As most of you know (or should), KJCC is sponsoring its annual Advertiser Appreciation Dinner on January 16th at 6:30. We want the people who support us to know how much their support matters to us. But this dinner is also intended as an introduction to KJCC for potential new members. Let us know about neighbors or friends or family who qualify, and they'll be our guests for a scrumptious dairy buffet dinner.

BOOK PLATE

In memory of Carol Steinbock by Dr. Robert Temkin

BOOK PLATE

in memory of **Carol Steinbock** by David Gitin and Gloria Avner

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 KICC, call Gene Silverman, 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 KICC section. Call Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

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 KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KICC 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, 305-451-0665.

KICC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Dave Mont, 305-393-9883, to arrange your donation.

KJCC BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 for information.

INF 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 Linda Kaplan, 305-396-7000.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, 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.

LIVE GREEN - RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, lap top computers, I devices, tablets and more. Call Dave Mont, 305-393-9883, or just bring your items to the KJCC. Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KICC, 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.

On Memoriam January 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Talia Agler **Bernice Bernstein Laurie Beth** By Richard & Mindy Agler By Paul & Barbara Bernstein By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Annette Bitton David Pearlman** Emma Kohlenbrener By Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurioly By William & Donna Bolton By Joan Boruszak <><><><> <><><><><> <><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Irving Kulick Betty Weinstein** Rita Zalk Cline By Thomas & Renée Brodie By Dick & Rita Bromwich By Meredith A. Cline <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **David Cohn** Carolynne H. Cline Yetta Hitzig By Meredith A. Cline By Nancy L. Cohn By Wes & Rita Conklin <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Lola Rosenberg Henry H. Rubin Nathan Weisberg By Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea By Foster Davidson & Carol Laskin By Gerri Emkey <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Marcus Weiss** Marvin Greenbaum Judy Lombardi By Janice Gorson By Marilyn Greenbaum By Marilyn Greenbaum <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Iris Jackson

By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman

<><><><><>

Louis Hartz

By Steven & Jan Hartz

<><><><>

Alvin S. Gross

By David & Patti Gross

<><><><><>

In Memory Of 2015

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Daniel Harvey	Ernest Isenberg	Sylvia Emsig	
By Mitchell Harvey	By Patricia Isenberg	By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs	
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In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Bernard Kaminstein	Irving Rosen	Walter Hankin	
By Beth Kaminstein	By Harvey & Joan Kay	By Richard & Barbara Knowles	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Goldie Schweitzer	Samuel Neubauer	Lila L. Line	
By Richard & Barbara Knowles	By Jackie LePree <><><>>>>	By Jonathan & Arlene Line <><><>><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
John Evans	Ann Netzman	Betty Weinstein	
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies	By Alan Netzman	By Jerry & Sheila Olsen	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
,	•	,	
Sylvan Oser	Anna Savage	Eta Brownstein	
By Marjorie Present	By Marjorie Present	By Pauline Roller <><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Nat Gulkis	Bea Gulkis	Joan Kaminsky	
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Joseph Cohen	Sally Sussman	Karen Hayhurst	
By Jules & Nettie Seder	By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	By Stephen Steinbock	

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Sn Memoriam January 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Abraham Raij Sofia Ojeda Sydney Zinner

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Talia Agler Laurie Beth Henry H. Rubin

By Richard & Mindy Agler
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake
System Davidson & Carol Laskin
System Davidson & Carol Laskin
System Davidson & Carol Laskin

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Louis Hartz Walter Hankin Karen Hayhurst

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 three 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. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute; an outdoor plaque is included in the price.

Sisterhood Barbara Knowles

It's January, which means it must be high season. I'd like to welcome all of our snowbirds back and let you know how much we missed your presence. We have a full season of activities and dinners and special events planned for you.

Friday, December 19th was our annual Chanukah potluck dinner, with a lovely presentation by our Hebrew School students, lots of latkes and outrageously delicious food. It was beautiful to see all of the different Chanukah menorahs shining brightly. Together with their teachers, the students also led that evening's services. As Bernie often says, it's so important to get the next generation involved. One nice part of our Chanukah dinners is that there is no charge for members. Joel and Linda Pollack have always generously sponsored this dinner, and I would like to personally thank them. The Oneg after services was sponsored by Art Itkin.

As I mentioned last month, this will be my final column as Sisterhood president, since we have voted in our Sisterhood officers for the year 2014-2015. The new officers will be as follows:

President Vice President Treasurer Recording Secretary

Erica Lieberman-Garrett Susan Gordon Linda Kaplan Marsha Harris

I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the wonderful ladies who made up our nominating committee. They were: chairperson Linda Pollack, along with Susan Gordon, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, and Linda Kaplan. The slate was brought to our December meeting, where it passed unanimously. Installation of the new Sisterhood board will be on Sunday, January 4th, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. This is a fabulous slate and "Stellar Stars" to boot. I know that everyone will ap -preciate what our new officers have to offer

and that everyone will support them in the coming months.

Sisterhood has been busy planning many events and we've put a lot of effort into seeing that there's something for everyone. For example, another Shabbat dinner is taking place on Friday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m. This will honor our Chai-Lights advertisers as well as new and potential KJCC members. It is a good chance to meet and to welcome them. This dinner was graciously sponsored by Jim and Lynn Nobil in memory of Joel and Sarah Cohen, so there will be no charge. Medina Roy and Erica Garrett are still accepting RSVPs and coordinating the potluck dairy dishes. Please contact them soon, as this fills up quickly.

The main focus this year will be a new event that is headed up by our soon-to-be president, Erica Lieberman-Garrett. We will be holding a Jewish Food Festival. I know there's going to be lots of great food, Jewish music and fun for everyone. This will be Sisterhood's major fund-raiser for this season, scheduled for Sunday afternoon, February 15th.

I would like to thank Bernie Ginsberg, Lauren and Stuart Sax, Linda Pollack, Jane Friedman and everyone else who was involved in helping me get through two fabulous years. We have had auctions, dinners, musicals at Actors Playhouse, holiday gift sales and parties. Thank you to everyone who made these and all of our Sisterhood events such a great success. Please don't be afraid to volunteer for any of our upcoming events. Come to our first-Sunday-of-the-month meetings. Buy something from the gift shop. Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat. We can use everyone's help and it doesn't matter how much or how little time you can donate.

My last and final closing words as Sisterhood president are: Let's Make January 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.

Book Plates	In Memory of		
Gitin, David & Gloria Avner Carol Steinbock	Carol Steinbock		

General Fund In Honor of

Anonymous

Begam, Delores Pray for us, please

Beinfest, Bennett & Deborah

Bromberg, Howard Thank you - I really enjoyed the services and will be back.

Margulies, Stanley & Jenny

Stein, Richard

Holidays

Steamer, Donald & Ellen Eiss Thank you for the opportunity to share some time with the congregation.

Yahrzeits

Avner, Gloria Alex Avner Boruszak, Joan Burton Boruszak, Julius Kohlenbrener Kluger, Nancy Kurt Kluger

Meditation Garden In Memory of Agler, Rabbi Rich & Mindy tree - Carol Steinbock Boruszak, Joan tree - Carol Steinbock Cline, Meredith tree - Carol Steinbock Coltman, Barney tree - Carol Steinbock Gitin, David & Gloria Avner tree - Carol Steinbock tree - Carol Steinbock Goodman, Jamie & Laura Horn, Susan tree - Carol Steinbock Kamely, Yardena tree - Carol Steinbock Margulies, Stanley & Jenny tree - Carol Steinbock tree - Carol Steinbock Pincus, Linda Roy, Medina & Carl tree - Carol Steinbock Schur, Lee tree - Carol Steinbock Solas, Elaine tree - Carol Steinbock Vinicur, Sam tree - Carol Steinbock Roy, Medina & Carl Garden - Carol Steinbock

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Itkin, Arthur

Tree of Life Stein, Richard

YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



I've Finally Become a U.S. Citizen

omething wonderful happened to me on November 14, 2014. I became a citizen of the United States. The oath ceremony was a solemn and emotional event: I was so happy and enjoyed it so much, especially because my friends from the KJCC came to the ceremony to share and celebrate this important event in my life. Thank you for making this occasion so special.

Two days before the ceremony I had the last interview and test at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). For a month I have been studying the U.S.

civics lessons, learning about American history, the Constitution, government, laws, civil rights, geography, symbols and culture. So many friends from the KJCC supported me and shared with me this exciting last stage in the process of becoming a citizen. Linda Kaplan gave me a booklet with a hundred questions-andanswers to study from. Dave and Georgia got a Citizenship Kit from the Library

and we sat one Sunday afternoon with the hundred questions on flashcards from the kit. rehearsing the actual test, which would consist of ten auestions out of those hundred we had on the cards. My friends were so motivating and assured me that the test would be "a piece of cake" for me. (It made me wonder whether the test would include American idioms.) I was very excited and they were, too.

To no one's surprise but mine, the interview and test went very well and interestingly, during the interview, I was suddenly aware of how American and how integrated into American life I had already become in the past years.

I have waited so long for the citizenship, thirteen years. It all began when I decided to leave Chile and come to Florida to live with my family, my parents and brother's family, here in Miami and the Keys. The day I arrived in Miami was September 11, 2001. It was in the morning between the time when the first

> tower in New York and the Pentagon just outside Washington were hit. We were the last flight to land at Miami's airport, which was being evacuated in a big rush. Coming from Chile, a long flight to Miami and with little fuel left, our plane could not change course and be sent to another airport. The situation was dramatic, bizarre, surreal. The first months after my arrival. I staved with my

parents in the Keys. We were in shock, trying to apprehend how America had changed. Then reality slowly started to sink in and I had to start taking care of immigration issues.

After September 11th, the process to obtain U.S. citizenship became more difficult than in the past. First I needed to find a job with sponsorship in order to obtain a working

The day I arrived in Miami was September 11. 2001....The situation was dramatic, bizarre, surreal.

visa. My friend Medina was so helpful, giving me advice about where to start looking. She put me in contact with a friend in Miami who informed me about the possibilities to work as psychologist. (I am a family therapist; my psychology training was in Santiago and I had a practice there.) Then the Jewish Federation of Miami contacted me about Jewish institutions and communities where there might be an opening for a Judaic Studies teaching posi-

tion. I had been teaching Iudaic Studies in Chile for many years: I loved it and wished to continue with teaching.

The search was tedious: most lewish Dav Schools and Religious Schools didn't need new teachers or told me that I was over-

qualified. But my parents and their KJCC mishpoche were determined to find a solution. No way are we letting you go back to Chile, they said. You came here to stay; America is now your place, to be with your family, your *mishpoche*. The support gave me such a good feeling, the kind only a true community can give. Linda Pollack jokingly said: "We'll have to find a nice American husband for you." Jim Boruszak (z'l) brought me

tion and stay near my parents in the Keys. The KICC made everything possible. It was under Joel Pollack's presidency that the KJCC sponsored me as the religious teacher and

a book about "how to date in today's modern

society." I told them that I was not interested

in that, and besides, I'd been married about

thirty years and was totally out of practice. I

preferred to find a good job in Jewish educa-

Director of Adult Education of the community. Joel himself followed through with all the formal documentation and paper work we needed. A wonderful experience as community teacher and leader had started, a mutual giving and receiving of Jewish learning, an enrichment in Jewish tradition and values. My job and involvement at the KICC continues today, thirteen years later. The KICC presidents that followed continued to help me in

> the nowdifficult process of aetting American Citizenship. I am grateful for their steady support. I especially would like to acknowledge the efforts of Steve Steinbock and Alan Beth. Thank vou.

After finishing the interview and test, know-



Seven friends from KJCC made the trip to Miami to witness and be part of Yardena's first day as an American citizen.

ing that I was becoming an American Citizen in two days, I immediately made calls to family and friends, giving them the exciting news. Talking to Linda Pollack, the emotion was strong; I wanted her to tell Joel the good news, to tell him that together we had done it...mission accomplished! She assured me that she would give him the news we all worked for and awaited for such a long time. And then, some minutes after talking with Linda. I received a wonderful surprise, a phone call. It was Linda. She said: Joel wants to talk to you. Tears came to my eyes when I heard his voice. He congratulated me. He was so happy for me...the tears are back while I am writing these lines. All I can say is: THANK YOU. IOEL. I love you. I will be a good American Citizen. You and all my American friends are the best models I could have. >

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



"Yes, Ma'am!"

The Israeli Navy has selected its very first woman commander of a ship. Captain Or Cohen, a graduate of the Israeli Naval Academy, currently serves as navigation officer on a missile boat on patrol along the Gaza and Lebanon coasts (which two thousand years ago were called Philistia and Phoenicia, respectively). She is awaiting confirmation of her promotion and will then be transferred to a warship as a deputy commander and eventually will be commanding her own ship, one bearing missiles and other weapons. Cohen fought in Operation Protective Edge (the war with Hamas in Gaza this past summer) and participated in a mission that intercepted a cargo ship that was smuggling advanced weaponry from Iran to Gaza. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-27-14)

Israel's Latest Rescue Mission

Like most of the rest of the world. Croatia has a problem with the Mediterranean fruit fly. (By the way, the insect's name is a misnomer: they've been seen in South America.) An emergency shipment of 380 million Mediterranean male fruit flies (who counted them and how do they distinguish a male from a female?) were recently sent from Israel to Croatia in order to help that country fight fruit fly infestations in their citrus orchards. The flies were grown at Biobee, an insectbreeding company located in Kibbutz Sde Elivahu. Under the supervision of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission, the company uses a radioactive process on the fly larvae that renders them sterile. The larvae were flown to Croatia and spread in orchards along the Bosnian border. Fruit flies have very short lives, a week at most. The sterilized fruit flies mate with females, who then produce barren

eggs. The farmer's problem is thereby solved, because what actually damages orchards are the larvae, not adult flies. Biobee also sells a variety of other insects, which often enable farmers to use nature's insects to get rid of "bad bugs" instead of dangerous pesticides. (www.haaretz.com, 12-4-14)

He Only had One Regret

According to Dr. Efraim Zuroff, leading Nazi hunter of The Simon Wiesenthal Center, Alois Brunner, an SS captain who was responsible for the deaths of over 128.000 lews. most likely died in Syria four years ago. Because of the Syrian civil war, there has been no official forensic confirmation of his death. Brunner was one of the world's most-wanted criminals and a chief lieutenant of Holocaust architect Adolf Eichmann. He sent thousands of Jews to concentration camps before fleeing Europe at the end of World War II. Sentenced to death in absentia in 1954, Brunner reportedly fled to Syria in the 1950s and survived two assassination attempts by the Mossad. Israel's intelligence agency. Zuroff noted that Brunner, who at the time of his death was a ripe-old 98, had been advising the Assad regime on torture techniques. In the only known interview with him. in a German newsmagazine in 1985, he was asked if he had any regrets. He said, "My only regret is that I didn't murder more Jews." (www.time.com, 12-2-14)

A Scholarship in his Name

The family of Steven Sotloff, the journalist beheaded by ISIS in early September, has established the 2Lives Steven Joel Sotloff Memorial Foundation to provide scholarships for

journalism students so they might "...tell the stories of people in conflict-torn regions around the world." The foundation will be managed by the Greater Miami lewish Federation. The name of the foundation comes from a statement in one of the two letters Sotloff, 31, smuggled out to his parents: "Everyone has two lives. The second one begins when you realize that you only have one." Sotloff grew up in Miami. He was abducted in August 2013 after crossing the Syrian border from Turkey. He had published articles in a variety of publications and freelanced for The Ierusalem Post and the Jerusalem Report magazine. After his death, it was revealed that Sotloff held Israeli citizenship. The grandson of Holocaust survivors, Sotloff had made alivah in 2005 and studied foreign relations at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliva. (www.jta.org, 11-12-14)

The Verdict...Abraham NOT GUILTY!

A mock trail of biblical patriarch Abraham took place in mid-November at Manhattan's Fifth Avenue Temple Emanu-El. one of the country's most eminent Reform synagogues. The "iurors" - there were over 1.500, most of whom claimed to be descended from the accused - found the defendant "not guilty" of attempted murder and endangering the welfare of a child. The facts of the case were undeniable: The defendant, Abraham (no known surname) attempted to stab his son Isaac to death on Mount Moriah only to be stopped by divine intervention. Abraham even forced Isaac to haul the wood upon which he would be sacrificed. The two litigators fought hard to make their cases: Eliot Spitzer, former governor and attorney general of New York, for the prosecution and Alan Dershowitz, former Harvard Law School professor and prolific author (and one of Spitzer's law school professors), for the defense. Spitzer proposed that hearing the voice of G-d "simply doesn't hold up these days." Dershowitz claimed that "Abraham and G-d were simply playing a game of chicken. [Abraham] would never have plunged that knife." The audience/jury apparently agreed. (www.tabletmag.com, 12-2-14 and www.nvtimes.com, 11-16-14)

The Little Jewish Bear and Injustice

Over fifty life-size statues of Paddington Bear, the beloved children's book character, have been placed at a variety of locations around London to coincide with the feature film debut of the loveable bear. Michael Bond. 88, creator of Paddington Bear, has revealed that his inspiration for the accident-prone bear came from his experience seeing Jewish evacuee children in the train stations of London during the Kindertransport of the late 1930s. "They all had a label around their neck with their name and address on." Bond said, "and a little case or package containing all their treasured possessions. So Paddington, in a sense, was a refugee, and I do think that there's no sadder sight than refugees." The Paddington books also suggest that Mr. Gruber, the Portobello Road antique dealer. also fled Nazi-occupied Europe. He and Paddington Bear often thwart Paddington's nextdoor neighbor, the mean-spirited, intolerant, xenophobic Mr. Curry. According to Bond, that portrayal of Curry was not by accident. The Britain of the late 1950s and early 60s. when the first Paddington Books were published, was experiencing an influx of nonwhite immigrants from the West Indies. These new immigrants were treated with hostility and often violence as they struggled to adapt to their new, unfamiliar surroundings. (With xenophobia on the rise once again in Europe. it seems not enough has changed since the publication of the Paddington books two generations ago.) (www.tabletmag.com, 12-3-14)

Restoring the Venice Ghetto

Jewish fashion designer and philanthropist Diane von Furstenberg is leading a \$12 million project to restore and preserve the Jewish ghetto in Venice, Italy. Von Furstenberg was born in Belgium in 1946 as Diane Simone Michelle Halfin, to a Romanian Jewish father, Leon Halfin, and Greek Jewish mother, Lily Nahmias. Her mother survived thirteen months in both the Auschwitz and Ravensbruck concentration camps. The Venice ghetto is believed to be the first European Jewish ghetto ever built. It was constructed in 1516. That was the year the Republic of Ven-

ice issued a decree declaring that the city's Jewish population had to live in an enclosed area. It remained that way until the republic fell to Napoleon in 1797. (It was not the only medieval ghetto whose walls Napoleon tore down.) Today the former ghetto, about the size of a city block, remains the heart of Venice's small Jewish community. Clearly marked on tourist maps - both in Italian and Hebrew - it's a stop on the city's popular water taxi route. Von Furstenberg's project will restore the city's five synagogues along with its Jewish museum. It is expected to be completed by 2016, the 500th anniversary of the ghetto's creation. Once the restoration project is completed, the former ghetto will be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. (www.tabletmag.com, 11-20-14 and nytimes.com. 11-11-14)

Bullets Instead of Q-tips?

Dr. Eran Eilat, an Israeli doctor, found himself treating several soldiers with outer ear infections. It seems that the soldiers, during the boredom of quard duty, would remove a bullet from the rifle magazine and use the pointy end to clean their ears. Often the metal would scratch the skin, leading to infections. Since soldiers are not always in a position to lie stationary for several minutes while ear drop liquid seeps in, Eilat would jam wads of cotton into their ears, an imperfect solution sometimes causing pain but keeping the cotton in place. This led Eilat to create FoamOtic, a way to administer ciprofloxacin. a safe antibiotic, in foam form. The foam expands to fill the ear canal cavity and stays put. Within an hour, the foam collapses but in the meantime the active ingredient adheres to ear canal walls. The clingy foam allows lower doses of medication to be used or the medicine can be administered less frequently. A phase three clinical trial is scheduled for 2015 at *Otic Pharma*, the Israeli company founded in 2008 that develops foam-based treatments for a variety of ear disorders. Under consideration is the development of the foam for dogs and cats. Future plans are to develop foam for the middle ear. (www.jewniverse.com, 12-4-14)

In Memoriam

- · Mike Nichols, renowned comedy innovator and prolific director who easily moved from Broadway to Hollywood and back, died in November. He was 83. A nine-time Tony Award winner on Broadway, Nichols directed Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton in Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," "along with "The Graduate," "Carnal Knowledge," and "Silkwood" to name a few of his many films. He was among the very few people to win Oscar, Tony, Emmy and Grammy awards. His career, which spanned over sixty years, blossomed with a comedic partnership in the 1950s with Elaine May. Together, they won a Grammy Award in 1961 for best comedv album. Nichols was born Michael Igor Peschkowsky in Berlin, where his parents settled after leaving Russia. Fleeing the Nazis, his family came to the United States in 1939 when he was seven. In the mid-1960s, Nichols collaborated with Neil Simon and directed Simon's "Barefoot in the Park," "The Odd Couple," "Plaza Suite" and "The Prisoner of Second Avenue." He was one of the honorees at the Kennedy Center honors in 2003. At the time of his death. Nichols was married to former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer. (www.reuters.com, 11-20-14)
- · Gil Marks, acclaimed Jewish food writer and historian, has died in Jerusalem. He was 62. Marks wrote five books dealing with Jewish food. In 1986, he was the founding editor of Kosher Gourmet (who knew there was such a thing?) Magazine. In 2005, his cookbook "Olive Trees and Honey: A Treasury of Vegetarian Recipes from Jewish Communities Around the World," was a winner in the James Beard Foundation Awards, an annual show often referred to as the "Oscars of Food." In 2010, Marks published "The Encyclopedia of lewish Food." a comprehensive reference guide for lewish food. The critically acclaimed volume was nominated for another James Beard Award and earned Marks a spot on the Forward 50, a list of the 50 most influential American Jews of that year. Mr. Marks was also an ordained Orthodox rabbi. He lived most of his life in New York, but made *aliyah* to Israel in 2012. (www.ita.org, 12-5-14) ◊

Photo Gallery

At right, Gerri Emkey proudly displays the trophy she was given in recognition of her providing the best physical education for elementary schools in Miami-Dade County. She was deeply honored and very grateful. Congrats from all at KJCC, Gerri.



On 11/21 KJCC celebrated the birthdays of Gloria **Avner and Georgia** Landau with cake and camaraderie. At left Gloria poses with fellow award-winning artist Natalie Dorf. The photo at right is from the next day (Gloria's actual birthday) at a luncheon set up by friends.



KJCC Thanksgiving Festivities

(Left) A group of KJCC members gathered for **Thanksgiving** dinner. As a surgeon, Bernie was logically asked to do the honors and carve the turkey.

> (Above) Gloria spent Thanksgiving with her mother in West Palm, alongside her sister and brother-in-law plus mom Bea's (at 94) boyfriend Sheldon and some of his family.

At right, Mary Lee Singer with son Jim and daughter Debbie on Thanksgiving in the Berkshires.

(Below) Mary Lee with Jim and pooch Lexie.

> (Below) Thanksgiving dinner with Luz and Steve and Rachel Levine, at right.



Right and Below, On December 6th Gloria and Joyce attended Art Basel in Miami. The people in the photo below were actually practicing what their signs offered. Joyce joined in the fun

for, as you can see, a group.... smile.



In case you're wondering, the painted statue won the staring contest with Gloria, above. But it didn't have as much fun.

At left, Commander Joshua Nelson, U.S.N. (ret.), a member of Temple Hatikvah in Homestead, before a December 6th showing of the film "In Harm's Way" to honor Pearl Harbor Day. The 1965 film was shot aboard a Navy cruiser for which Commander Nelson was the Executive Officer. He began a life-long friendship with actor Kirk Douglas during the making of the film, bunking together during shooting. On at least one Friday night they led services together, which somehow managed to unearth the other lewish members of the crew.



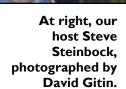
On December I Ith Erica Lieberman-Garrett celebrated a Holiday Open House at her chiropractic office. At left, Erica with Medina Roy. At right, Susan Gordon with Pauline Roller and Sylvie Coeurjoly.

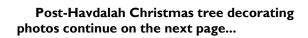


On Saturday, December 13th, Rabbi Agler offered another of his Torah learning services. His discussions are always fascinating, and he always strips the intimidating Biblical wrapping away to reveal both very real people and very real human circumstances like a gifted literary critic, which in a way he is.

That same evening saw a Havdalah service at Steve Steinbock's house, led by Gloria and Bernie. After Havdalah, in

memory of Carol, we all stayed to help decorate her beloved Christmas tree, something a number of us had never done before.







Top left, Steve and Jan Hartz. Top right, Gloria delightedly adds adornments to the tree. At left, seated at Carol's tour-deforce glass mosaic Keys wall sculpture, Joel Bofshever ab-

sorbs wisdom and KJCC lore from our matriarch, Pauline Roller. At left, Steve and Marsha Harris laugh with host Steve Steinbock. Below left, Medina Roy is caught looking suspiciously like the little kid who just figured out what Dad and Mom (in another life, obviously) have in store for her under the tree.



At left, the end of the meal after the first meeting, on Sunday, December 14th, of KICC's new Tikkun Olam Committee, chaired by Linda Kaplan. Please see the article in this issue beginning next page.

Repairing the Seas

(Tikkun HaYam) KJCC-Style

by Linda Kaplan

There's a wise old adage that says "As go the oceans, so goes the planet." The unpleasant reality is that our oceans are dvina. But all is not lost. With concerted action, change is possible. In that spirit, KICC is beginning a new program to join in the important work of helping to repair and revitalize our seas.

ewish activism has long been a force for positive change. For sev-J eral thousand years we have had the words of Deuteronomy ringing in our ears: "Justice, justice shalt thou pursue." Once the rabbis assumed Jewish leadership a thousand years after that, they began to challenge us with the idea that as lews we were responsible for *Tikkun Olam*. literally the repair of the world.

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, the Hillel director of five Tampa-area colleges (and a KICC member), several years ago combined his love of the sea (God's special domain, he says the Torah teaches us) with the marine science interests of many of his Eckerd College students and the ongoing rabbinic mandate of Tikkun Olam to create a program he dubbed Tikkun HaYam, meaning repair of the seas. Amazingly, what Rabbi Ed whimsically calls his Scubi-Jews program, where he and his students regularly drive to the Keys to help in the re-planting of decimated Keys coral, is the only official program by a Jewish organization in all of the United States dedicated to repair and sustenance of the oceans. (The only other official Jewish program in the world dedicated to the oceans is in Israel.) For the last few years. Rabbi Ed and his students usually camp out for several days in the KJCC classroom when they come

to the Keys, spending their days under water at various reefs planting and tending to recently planted coral and their evenings in our kitchen.

As you've probably read in various of Bernie's e-mails, KJCC has recently created a formal Tikkun Olam Committee, largely inspired by the dedication and years of Tikkun Olam activism by the leaders of the KJCC



Harvesting coral from the CRF underwater nursery for planting on the reef.

Women's Seder, now run by Sisterhood. The first major project of our Tikkun Olam Committee will be our own efforts at Tikkun Ha-Yam, repair of the sea. Why this? Because though others come to study and research and do restoration work on our reefs, the only living coral reefs in North America, we live here. The ocean is our neighbor. We at the KICC are uniquely suited to be the first Jewish congregation to take action to help repair the seas. By doing so we will join the long history of Jewish efforts to create positive change. Please join us. Perhaps we can set an example for other Jewish organizations, and then they, too will join us.



All the coral seedlings are carefully marked and tracked in each CRF nursery.

Coral Restoration is not just an issue for environmentalists or those seeking to honor religious mandates or impassioned and quirky lovers of the sea. It is an economic issue as well as a cost-effective defense against storms and sea level rise. The Nature Conservancy has recently published a report about nature-based coastal defenses in Southeast Florida. This report tells us that "more than 33,000 jobs in Monroe County are supported by ocean recreation and tourism. accounting for more than half of the local economy," and that intact reefs are also our guardians (we live at sea level, after all), providing a barrier for ocean waves and causing them to break offshore rather than hard on the coast. A global study by The Nature Conservancy shows that "coral reefs that crest at the surface reduce up to 97 percent of wave energy and are a cost-effective option" for coastal defense compared to other options like breakwaters and seawalls. Their study clearly states that "active restoration of coral populations is now a feasible and costeffective way to reestablish live coral reefs."

As Jews we can easily combine our concern about the economy and the protection of our homes with our higher religious obligation to repair the world. Among many of our teachings, the *haftorah* for Yom Kippur tells us to restore foundations laid long ago. to restore what has fallen. With our new program, the KJCC is taking this religious man-

Volunteers in the process of delivering and planting new coral on Keys reefs.

date to heart and is asking you to join us in learning about and being part of the continuing success story of restoring the reefs of the Kevs.

The locally based Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) has developed simple, effective coral nursery and restoration techniques that are working and making a difference. The KJCC is honored to be hosting Ken Nedimyer, CRF's founder, for a presentation about Repairing the Seas on January 25th at 7 p.m. in the KJCC sanctuary. Ken and the CRF have received many awards and much-deserved recognition, both here in this country and internationally. In 2014 alone, Ken has received the Hero of the Seas award from Scuba Diving Magazine as well as the Disney Conservation Hero Award. In 2014 the CRF hosted the first annual Art Contest for our local schools. One of the goals for 2015 is to develop traveling "marine boxes" to help enrich marine curriculums in schools around the country.

The coral restoration and re-planting techniques developed by Ken and the CRF have been so successful locally that they are going global. In 2010 the CRF was invited to assist with reef surveys in Colombia, South America. In 2012 CRF was invited to take a lead role in the coral restoration initiatives around the Caribbean island (and dive mecca) of Bonaire. This year the CRF will be expanding the coral





Above, a Coral Restoration Foundation volunteer cements new coral growth into a reef where the coral was once plentiful. At right, a close-up of the new coral (literally) cemented onto its new place on the once-thriving reef.

colony inventory in all five of its Keys coral nurseries and out planting 20,000 coral colonies in the Florida Keys, from Key West to Carysfort Reef as well as working in five Caribbean countries to assist them in establishing their own coral nurseries.

Obviously Ken is a busy man with many demands on his time - locally and internationally. We are honored that he has found

time to meet with us on January 25th. KICC's own Patti Gross is an active Di-

Ken Nedimyer, CRF's founder, does the work of coral reef restoration, one coral plant at a time.



rector of the CRF board and has been instrumental in both helping to bring Ken to the KJCC and in providing ideas for our burgeoning KICC Tikkun HaYam initiative.

This is a wonderful opportunity for KJCC members to educate ourselves, our children and our friends about locally developed techniques that are making a difference, delivered in person by the man who developed those techniques.

Please join us on January 25th at 7:00 and yes, do bring your non-member friends so that we can show our commitment to our Jewish tradition of repairing the world - Keys style. There are many ways for everyone - not just scuba divers - to assist in our Tikkun HaYam program. Come and listen, and ask.

> For questions or additional information please contact me at Linda@lindakaplan.com or 305-396-7000. ◊

Chai-Lights would like to thank those who graciously supplied the photos for this article. Photo of Ken Nedimyer by David Gross; all other photos courtesy of Tim Grollimund. These photos are even more striking in color. Please look up the online version of Chai-Lights once it's posted to see for vourself, at keysjewishcenter.com



This Month in Jewish History — **January**

49 B.C.E. – Julius Caesar crosses the Rubicon, signaling the start of civil war against fellow triumvirate member Pompey, who had defiled the Holy of Holies, mocked the Jewish religion and shipped thousands of Jewish slaves to Rome. Once Caesar wins the war, he allows the walls of Jerusalem to be rebuilt, institutes a taxation system that takes the sabbatical year into consideration and makes it possible for Jews living in the Italian peninsula to form into communities. Romans of the time note the unusual grief displayed by Jews when Caesar is assassinated by Brutus and his cohorts.

548 C.E. - The last year the Eastern Church in Jerusalem observes the birth of Jesus in January. The Western Church had adopted December 25th as Jesus' birthdate in the late 300s C.E., more than two centuries before.

1180 - Philip Augustus, the new king of France, arrests large numbers of Jews while his father, Louis VII, a sometime protector of the Jews, is still alive. All Jews found in synagogue on the Sabbath are arrested. Philip agrees to free them, however, for 15,000 silver marks.

1232 - In London, The *Domus Conversorum*, known in English as the House of the Converts, is founded by order of Henry III - a weak and extravagant grandson of the Lion Himself, Henry II, and son to King John of Robin Hood fame - to provide a home and free maintenance for Jews converting to Christianity.

1301 - Andrew III of Hungary dies, ending the Arpad dynasty in Hungary. While king, Andrew reverses the anti-Jewish practices of his predecessor, insisting that Jews in Posonium (Bratislava) should enjoy all the liberties of citizens. Things go downhill for the Jews of Hungary after Andrew's death. They are expelled from the kingdom in 1349

under the belief (not restricted to Hungary) that Jews were responsible for the Black Death that wiped out a third of Europe.

1600 – The 400 Jews of Verona complete their synagogue after their move into the ghetto. The occasion is actually celebrated as a "Purim" until the 1789 French Revolution, since many feel that the ghetto provides some protection, and since in an unusual move the keys of the ghetto are given to the Jewish leaders.

1606 - The Governor of Puerto Rico reports that one-fifth of the white population of the island is Portuguese. Many of these "white" Portuguese are most likely *conversos*.

1625 – John Milton, author of "Paradise Lost," is admitted to Christ's College, Cambridge, at the age of 16. During Milton's lifetime, Jews are still officially not allowed to settle in the British Isles. But like many Puritans living in the England of Oliver Cromwell, Milton sees a connection between his brand of Christianity and the Israelites. Until his eyes weaken, he reads the Hebrew Bible on a daily basis and expresses a positive view of Mosaic Law. Milton also serves as a secretary to Oliver Cromwell and, according to one of his biographers, is part of the group who negotiates for the return of the Jews to England.

1706 – Benjamin Franklin – printer, publisher, scientist, author, statesmen and vital American – is born in Boston. Franklin sees the American Revolution as a replaying of the story of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt, and suggests that the Great Seal of America depict Moses standing on the shore of the Red Sea, while Pharaoh drowns in his chariot in its midst. When the Jewish community in Philadelphia builds their synagogue, "Mikveh Israel," Franklin contributes to the building fund. On July 4, 1788, too sick and weak to get out of bed, Franklin instructs that the Philadelphia Independence Day parade in Philadelphia include the clergy of different

Christian denominations, "with the rabbi of the Jews," walking arm in arm.

1788 - Georgia becomes the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. A year later it becomes the third state to ban religious discrimination. The first Jewish families had arrived in Georgia in July of 1733. Two years before the ratification vote, the Jewish community of Savannah feels stable enough to reorganize Congregation Mikve Israel, elect officers and rent a house to be used as a svnagogue.

1815 - General Andrew Jackson defeats the British at the Battle of New Orleans. At his side fight two Jews famous for very different reasons: Pirate lean Lafitte, whose mother's Separdic family had fled the Inquisition, and Judah Touro, scion of the famed New England Touro family (the Touro Synagogue).

1836 - Mendele Mocher Sforim, "Mendele the bookseller," the pseudonym of Sholem Yakov Abramovich, lewish author and one of the founders of modern Yiddish and Modern Hebrew literature, is born to a poor family in Kopyl, near Minsk, Belorussia. His first article, "Letter on Education", appears in a Hebrew newspaper, Hamagid, in 1857. Initially writing in Hebrew, coining many words in that language, he ultimately switches to Yiddish in order to expand his audience. Like Sholom Aleichem, he uses a pseudonym because of the perception that, as a ghetto vernacular, Yiddish is not suited to serious literary work. It is an idea he will do much to dispel.

1852 - Mt. Sinai Hospital is incorporated in New York City by Sampson Simson and eight associates. It is the first lewish hospital in the United States.

1858 - Eliëzer Ben-Yehuda, the father of modern Hebrew, is born in Lithuania as Eliezer Yitzhak Perelman. His plan to restore Hebrew as a spoken language of Jews in Palestine is three-pronged: "Hebrew in the Home," "Hebrew in the School," and "Words, Words, Words." By the time of his death in

1922, Ben-Yehuda has almost singled-handedly transformed Hebrew into a revitalized and thriving modern language.

1876 - Konrad Adenauer, the first post-war Chancellor of West Germany, is born. Imprisoned by the Nazis during World War II, Adenauer as Chancellor seeks to return Germany to the world community. To make amends to the Jewish community, he offers war reparations to the government of Israel. Under Adenauer. Germany recognizes Israel and provides arms for her defense despite threats from Arab governments.

1887 - The Jewish Theological Seminary Association opens under the leadership of Rabbi Sabato Morais in New York. The idea is to train Rabbis who will help preserve lewish traditions being eroded by the "reformers" and their Pittsburgh platform. In 1902 Solomon Schechter reorganizes the Seminary and changes its name to JTS, or the Jewish Theological Seminary. It becomes the central foundation for the Conservative Movement, a role it still plays today.

1895 - Theodor Herzl writes of personally witnessing Capt. Alfred Dreyfus being "drummed out of the army in the courtyard of the [French] Ecôle Militaire as huge crowds outside shout 'Death to the Jews!'"

1908 - Abraham Goldfaden dies at the age of 67. Born in 1840 in what was then part of the Russian Empire, Golfaden is a driving force in the Yiddish theatre during its golden period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as author, composer (yes, there were musicals), director and producer. One of his early comedies is called Shmendrik, whose title hero is the proverbial gullible, good-natured schlemiel. The play is so popular that the word Shmendrik becomes part of the Yiddish language and survives today in American slang. Goldfaden is so famous at the time of his death that he rates an obituary in the New York Times referring to him as "the Yiddish Shakespeare." Some 75,000 people attend his funeral procession from the People's Theater in the Bowery to Washington Cemetery in Brooklyn. >

Shabbat Shirah - A Joyful Noise

bv Gloria Avner

et out your timbrels, ladies, your tambourines and your hand drums. Let's prepare to make a joyful noise. This month's Torah portions tell our best story ever, the hair-raising struggle between Moses and Pharaoh to orchestrate our escape from Egypt. The month concludes with a special Shabbat. Shabbat Shirah. literally the Sabbath of Sona.

The last parshah of the month, Beshalach, marks the God-given victory of the Jewish slaves: Pharaoh has allowed all of them to leave Egypt. In a cliffhanger of a dramatic finale. Pharaoh then reverses his decision to let our people go and orders his horsemen to bring the slaves back. Moses listens to God's coaching, touches the waters with his staff as the horsemen approach, and the waters which part to allow the Jews to escape - close over the heads of Pharaoh's army. They drown.

Judaism, a compassionate religion, valuing all life, says "no gloating." We are not allowed to rejoice at the death of any living being, not even our sworn enemies. We can praise our great God with poetry and exuberance. And we can dance the night away.

Picture the scene. Feel it, as our Passover haggadahs tell us to do. We ourselves are the



ones escaping, fleeing from the only life we've known, heading towards a freedom undefined. We make our wav to the opposite shore and look behind us. Oh no!

Miriam as envisioned by 19th century German artist Anselm Feuerbach.



On this page and the next are various artists' depictions of Miriam's moment of joy and leadership after the fleeing Israelites are saved from Pharaoh's pursuing army by the Reed Sea becoming suddenly unparted. The stylized print above is from an antique 1856 Christian Bible.

Those are our enslavers and enemies thundering toward us. We are hot with adrenaline and terror. And then Wait a minute. Who can believe this? Our enemies are being drowned by the same waters that parted before us?

We are so grateful to be alive! We need to sing praise! "Mi Chamocha . . . "

The prophetess Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, while all the women went out after her with tambourines, dancing; and she led them in the refrain: Sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea." (Exodus 15:20-21)

Some say that the song was sung in a calland-response pattern. Moses leading the men and Miriam the women. However it was sung, this song is key to our history, so important that generations of rabbis made its ecstatic praise of God, "Mi kamocha ba-aylim Adonai" part of every Shabbat service.

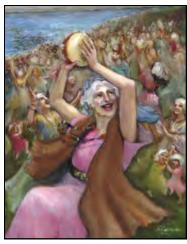
Visually, this song/poem is laid out differently from all the rest of the Torah (except for the song of Deborah). The pattern is known as "brick on brick," or "half brick over whole brick." It creates large, rhythmic spaces in the text, making the whole song instantly recognizable. Any modern poet would see it as a boundary breaker. If you saw it during Haabah (the lifting of the Torah after the reading), it would be obvious that this differently spaced passage was important.



A sample from the distinct look of the Song of the Sea — Miriam's Song — as it appears in the Torah.

We have so many reasons to honor Miriam. She encouraged her parents to continue having sex, to reject fear and maintain faith in life, after Pharaoh threatened to murder all newborn lewish boys. She brought her baby brother to the river in his basket of bulrushes and watched as Pharaoh's daughter

rescued him. then boldly spoke up to make sure that their mother Jochebed would be hired to be his nursemaid. The well of vital water that followed Miriam during our forty vears of wandering, appearing each night at her camping place in the



Miriam with the multitudes as depicted by modern artist Slavujac.

desert, was key to our survival. Without it, the Jewish ex-slaves could not have lived long

enough to become a people.

So warm up your vocal cords. Put on your dancing shoes. In honor of Shabbat Shirah. we will add more joyous singing to the early Friday night service on Shabbat Shirah, January 30th, at 6:30 p.m. Add



A version by Marc Chagall.

your prayers and thanks in song for the divine assistance in allowing us to shed our slavery and live as a free and sovereign people. Feel free to bring your timbrels. \Diamond

The Palace Gardens Difference

For nearly 25 years, The Palace Gardens Assisted Living Community in Homestead has been known as a leader in providing outstanding care to seniors. While our grounds and the campus are beautiful, there are more than a few reasons why The Palace Gardens is different from all others.



1. Continuum of Care -

The Palace Gardens is part of The Palace Family of Senior Living Communities which offers accommodations that meet everyone's needs, from Independent Living and Assisted Living, to Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, and even Home Health. You can rest assured that at The Palace, your needs will be met, no matter what may happen in the future.

2. Palace Training & Education Center

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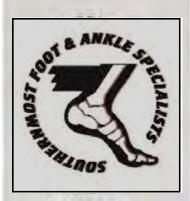
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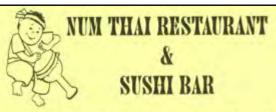
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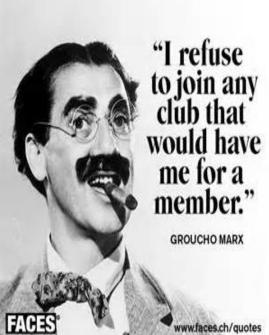
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February 2015

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Several Perspectives on Tu B'Shvat - page 41

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February 2015 12 Shevat - 9 Adar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Tu B'Shevat 10:30 a.m.	2	3	4 Tu B'Shevat New Year For the Trees Men's Club Game Night 7:30	5	Yardena Kamely & George Swartz Erica Lieberman- Garrett	7
8 KJCC Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m. Yardena lec- ture 7 p.m.	9	10	11	12	The Gross Family Patti Gross Joel & Linda	Jonah Gross Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m.
15 Sisterhood Jewish Food Ex- travaganza 5:00—7:30	President's Day	17	18	19	Erica Lieberman- Garrett Marsha & Steve Harris	21
Lecture "Jewish Magic" 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26	Sisterhood 6:30 Service	Rabbi Agler Service 10 a.m.
March 1st Yardena 2nd lecture 7 p.m.		Italicized nam	te leaders of Frid es are Oneg spon 8:00 p.m. excep	sors. Services		

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the

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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



t is hard to believe that my two years as president of the KICC have passed. Besides this being the end of my term, it's also about the end of the KICC 2014 fiscal year. so it's a good time for reflection on what we have accomplished in these two years.

We started with a wonderful congregation, a decent physical plant, wonderful officers, and a great Sisterhood. After two hard years we still have the same. That's not progress, you might say, but just keeping the wonderful organization that I "inherited" together is success enough. Keeping it together is a boon to the Jewish community of the Keys and in a tiny way to the world Jewish community. The only changes I wanted were to place more emphasis on our religious school and its education of our children and to have at least a monthly Shabbat dinner to promote our "fun and fellowship" just a little more. We have succeed ed in the religious school, as anyone who saw the joyful faces of our students leading Shabbat-Chanukah services could attest. Our students are being given a positive attitude toward Jewish education that will lead to their having a lifelong commitment to Judaism. It is hard to improve on the excellence of our education chairperson Susan Gordon, our teacher Yardena Kamely,

and ritual chairperson and "Bar Mitzvah" tutor Gloria Avner.

In regard to our fun and fellowship, we have had about three new memberships per month. All of them said they joined because of the joyful and welcoming atmosphere they found in our shul that they had never found before. This is a compliment to our whole congregation. I am proud of you all.

The little that I have done would not be possible without the wonderful Board of Directors and Officers of our congregation and our Sisterhood. There is not enough room to thank everyone individually, but I do want to especially thank Linda Pollack, who while constitutionally our treasurer, actually functions as the KICC's "executive director" and collective memory. I want to thank Sam Vinicur, our executive V.P., who encouraged me at any moments of uncertainty I had as president, and did yeoman work in organizing all the programs of the KICC. He will make a fine new president.

May G-d prevent any rancor between the members of our congregation and grant that our work at the KICC redounds to the benefit of our people and the survival of Iudaism.

With gratitude and love to all. Bernie

Nosh

Jonah's Bar Mitzvah

On Saturday, February 14th, 2015, our son Ionah Gross will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at the Keys Jewish Community Center. As a new member of the KICC, he was hon-



ored to blow the shofar alongside President Bernie Ginsberg at High Holiday Services this year and also play his trumpet at the KICC Hanukkah celebration. Jonah is a member of the Key Largo School Advanced and Elite Band along with being an active Ad-

vanced SCUBA Diver.

As his Bar Mitzvah project, Jonah has combined Tikkun HaYam, SCUBA lews and the History of Diving Museum. He has been collecting discarded items from the ocean, bay and marinas that will be used by artists and teens to make art that will be sold at the nautical flea market or at the KICC. The funds raised will

go towards an underwater coral garden in honor of the KICC Tikkun HaYam project and/or scholarships for Keys teens.

Please join Jonah and his extended family as part of this special day, on his journey to becoming a man and a mensch. We have family and friends coming in from around the U.S., Canada and even other parts of the world, and we would love our new KJCC family to meet all of them. Our thanks to Rabbi Richard Agler, who will officiate, and to the teachers and officers of KICC, who helped make this day possible.

-Tomar Gross and Randy Klein-Gross

A Lecture on Jewish Magic at KJCC

On Sunday evening, February 22nd, from 7-9 p.m., KJCC will present another in its ongoing series of speakers on the history and culture and religious practices of the full spectrum of lewish life. Michael Swartz, Professor of Hebrew and Religious Studies at the Ohio State University in Columbus – and yes, he's related to KJCC's own brilliant member of the Swartz family...he's George's nephew – will be here, in his own words, to "explore the history and sources of Jewish magic, and their surprising influence on lewish tradition."

Professor Swartz's academic specialty is Jewish mysticism, magic and ritual in Late Antiquity

> and the early medieval period. His research focuses on ancient Jewish mystical prayer and the ritual cultivation of memory. He is the author of numerous books and articles. This should be an amazing evening. It will be open to all, so invite anyone you know who'd be interested. Discussion will of course follow.

Rabbi Agler's February Service

Speaking of Jewish magic, Rabbi Richard Agler's ongoing gift to KJCC — his monthly Saturday morning Torah Learning services — will continue in February at the end of the month, on the 28th. The parshah for that week is Tetzaveh,

from Exodus. It deals mostly with God's instructions to Moses about how to dress priests and how to properly sanctify them. Pretty much of a snooze, right? Well, if you don't think Rabbi Agler will find fascinating parts of it that will stimulate a full and rich discussion, you just don't know Rabbi Agler. Join us and prepare to see anew something you once thought was boring.



February Birthdays

	Roy Pollack
	Evan Grossman
	Caeleigh Stuart
3rd	Dick Bromwich
3rd	Leslie Janowitz
	Rebecca Smith Strasser
6th	Martin Field
6th	Evan Harvey
7th	Erica Lieberman-Garrett
7th	Larry Jacobs
9th	Ron Garrett
9th	Linda Pincus
12th	Paul Roberts
12th	Johnny Knowles
13th	Jerrold Benowitz
I4th	Debbie Madnick
15th	Judith Weber
18th	Beth Hayden
	Stephen Harris
21st	David J. Marmar
	Tomar Gross
22nd	Harry Friedman
	Sienna Rose Lebofsky
24th	Suzie Greenman
24th	Muriel Swartz
25th	Rita Conklin
26th	Jim Williams
	John D. Schur
	Betsy Grossman
	Arlene Line

Yardena's 2015 Lecture Series

This year's lecture series by KICC Adult Education Committee chair Yardena Kamely will begin on Sunday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. in KICC's David Kamely classroom. The second lecture will be March 1st. Last year's lectures delved into the life of Jews under Muslim rule in northern Africa and Spain during what historians call the "Golden Age of Judaism," until the expulsion of all Jews in 1492. This year's series will follow the Jews of Spain as they filter into Europe and become part of very different cultures. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. All are invited, including interested non-KJCC members.

Purim is Coming: It's The Gansa Megillah

It's coming on March 4th at 6:00 p.m. We are fortunate this year, as we were in the past two years, to be able to perform our reading of Megillat Esther (scroll of Esther) on the very evening that the holiday begins. Men's club will provide the schnapps and will feed us, all will contribute to filling our blue tzedakah boxes and the whole congregation, young and old, will participate in reading the whole Megillah. Rumor has it that last year's Purimspiel was so much fun that "Here's Looking at You, Esther" may be brought back by popular demand. Contact Steve Friedman or loyce Peckman to see what you can bring. Here's hoping our students will bake their delicious hamantaschen again with help from Savta Nettie Seder.

—Gloria

KICC Welcomes New Members

We are please to welcome five new members to the eclectic and wonderfully diverse group that is KICC membership. Newly approved by the Board for membership are Dana Grace of Key Largo; Richard Kaufman of Tavernier and Highland Park, IL; Sherry Zwerdling of Islamorada; and Barry Neumann and Ellen Ecker of Key Largo and Jasper, GA. It is also a special pleasure to announce the return to KICC from Israel of Zoe Berk-Moshe. We hope to see all of you often, and that you will fully avail yourselves of the unique combination of religious, cultural, educational and social events offered by KICC to its members. (These four categories often overlap, by the way, and many include various forms of food, usually homemade.)

Oneg Sponsors for February 2015

February 6th - Erica Lieberman-Garrett to celebrate Ron and Erica's birthdays.

February 13th - Patti Gross for her Valentine David; Joel and Linda Pollack for their Anniversary.

February 20th - Marsha and Steve Harris for Steve's birthday.

Art News Brewing in the Halls of KJCC

Women artists take note. Past donors of art currently on KJCC walls also please take note.

The KICC Art Committee is planning a new look for our synagogue walls this year. Most of the paintings currently hanging in the hallway and social hall are focused on old world rituals being carried out by old world men. We are appreciative of them and their donors' generosity in gifting these pieces to us over many years. We hope you donors will be just as generous in reclaiming them, or at least taking responsibility for storing them while we create a new look. This year marks the 35th year of the Keys Jewish Community Center's existence. Next year we will be marking our "double chai" year with a grand celebration. We say "I'chaim," to life intensified. When you enter our special lewish place your eyes and soul will be uplifted by vibrant, colorful life on our synagogue's walls.

Over the next few weeks, KJCC's own women artists will create an exhibit for our synagogue that will put on display the products of their creative minds, hearts, and hands.

It will be a revolving exhibit, possibly changing with each season. It will allow space and encouragement for special projects as the artists envision them. The focus on women artists will last for at least a year. We encourage input from all women in the congregation. Tell us what you do and what you'd like to do. Or show us. There could be a large mural brewing that could use many hands. We may not know who all our talented people are. Contact Natalie Dorf or Gloria Avner if you wish to be involved. We want to welcome you and we want your art to be part of the beautiful welcome awaiting all who enter our community "home."

-Gloria

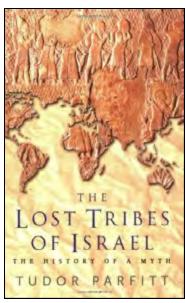
BOOK PLATE

In Memory of J. D. Stanlake by Joel and Linda Pollack

Don't Miss This Upcoming Talk!

Meet Tudor Parfitt, a modern-day "Indiana Jones" in search of the Lost Tribes of Israel. Come to the KJCC sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15th. (Yes, it will be the Ides of March, but no one other than Caesar need be-

ware.) You will hear this distinguished British professor, author, explorer and valued member of England's famed and exclusive Royal Geographic Society, tell tales of his quest, a mission that has taken him from the remote corners of South America to India to the far reaches of New



Guinea. Our past and future presidents, Bernard Ginsberg and Sam Vinicur, along with Rabbi Richard Agler, as guests of Kathy Shabathai, heard Professor Parfitt speak at FIU some months ago. They assure us that the evening will be both educational and fascinating. Tell your friends. We will be opening this to the full Keys community, and all are welcome. There will be Q and A afterwards, and of course, wonderful refreshments. This is a real coup for us, and we are very excited.

—Gloria

February Anniversaries

		Y ears
9th	Uri & Liliam Kamely	23
llth	Joel & Linda Pollack	53

A Reminder from Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Committee chairman David Gitin reminds all that the deadline for submitting college scholarship requests for children of KICC members is April 1st. We no longer have printed forms. If you're interested, go to the KJCC web site (keysjewishcenter.com) and look at the dropdown menu under "school." There you will find both criteria and applications, both of which you can download. Again, we must receive your applications by April 1st. Please send them to KICC, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Or scan your filled-out application and e-mail to president@keysjewishcenter.com.

Meditation Garden Brick

Remembering Carol, Her work, love And commitment to the KICC. Alan & Candy

A Special KJCC Book Discussion

We're telling you now about a book discussion to take place at KJCC on April 12th, which you are cordially invited to join. Why bring this up so early, you ask? Because this discussion will be led by Rabbi Richard Agler, and he wants everyone who attends to have actually read the book prior to the discussion.

The book was written by famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal and is titled "The Sunflower: on the possibilities and limits of forgiveness." It takes place during his days in World War II as a concentration camp inmate. A dying Nazi officer asks for a lew, any lew, to be brought to him. That lew turned out to be Simon Wiesenthal. And what was the point of the request? The officer wanted absolution; he wanted a lew to forgive him for what he'd done. So this is the question considered in the book in a series of essays: can evil, especially unspeakable evil, be forgiven?

KICC has ordered six copies of the book,

which are now in the KICC library. There is of course no charge to those borrowing these or any KICC books. But librarian Medina Roy will have a sign-out sheet operating on the honor system. This should be a moving and highly evocative discussion. So please take your turns reading the book and then join us.

Meditation Garden Brick

In Loving Memory of **Our Dear Parents** Sidney and Mae Stark. Joan and Joel Bernard

Lights, Camera, Action!

There's been a lot of, um, discussion in the past few years about the inadequacy of the KICC classroom or the Ruth Richardson Social Hall as venues for films or slide shows or Powerpoint presentations. The sound is poor, the folding chairs not very comfortable (certainly for the length of a movie or a full lecture) and the projection quality rudimentary. Many have felt that attendance would be far better, with many more being able to enjoy the truly high level of activities we offer, if the experience was more engaging and convenient.

We heard you. By the time you read this, KJCC will have installed a professional audio/ visual system in our sanctuary, with a motorized drop-down screen, and that will play audio, from a film or from live presenters, through our fabulous new sound system. You're going to love it, for many years to come.

Meditation Garden Brick

In Honor of Bernard Ginsberg, M.D. Carol and Foster

A Tu B'Shvat Birthday Celebration

Join our KJCC Religious School children on Sunday, February 1st. We will gather outdoors to celebrate one of our favorite and most unique holidays: Tu B'Shvat (the 15th day of the Hebrew month Sh'vat), one of the four Jewish New Years and the Birthday of the Trees.

Meet outside the schoolroom at 10:30 a.m. and see what the children are planting this year. Have a tour of the fruit trees planted in previous years. Join in the blessings, the plantings and our traditional singing and dancing of "Mayim Mayim

(Water Water)." When the planting ritual is finished, all are welcome to join students, parents and teachers in the tasting and blessing of seven sacred species, the fruits of Israel's trees. The Tu B'Shvat Seder, devised by the mystics of Tz'fat hundreds of years ago, is a meaningful symbolic journey through the seasons, with stories, poems, delicious samplings of fruit, nuts, and, oh yes, four cups of wine – from pure white to blush to rosy red. Don't miss it.

-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 KICC, call Gene Silverman, 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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, 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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KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Dave Mont, 305-393-9883, to arrange your donation.

KJCC BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 for information.

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 Linda Kaplan, 305-396-7000.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, 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.

LIVE GREEN – RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, idevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

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.

⊗n Memoriam February 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Lou Roazen Sunnie Bernstein Sue Steinberg By Sylvia Berman By Richard & Mindy Agler By Paul & Barbara Bernstein <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Kitty Nyman Ted Nyman **Marvin Galanty** By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake By Marc & Ellen Bloom <><><><> <><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Sarah P. Zalk Reuben L. Zalk **Eve Greenstein** By Meredith A. Cline By Meredith A. Cline By Barnet O. Coltman <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Robert Kinney Barry Feinberg** William Feinberg By Gerri Emkey By Arthur Feinberg By Arthur Feinberg <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Manya Gelbard Rose Gilson Charles Gilson By Sy A. Gelbard By Michael & Suzanne Gilson By Michael & Suzanne Gilson <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Dr. Joseph Goldberg Joseph Gorson A. James Weiss By Susan W. Goldberg By Janice Gorson By Janice Gorson <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Frances Weiser

By Andrew & Randi Grant

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Nicholas Goldenberg

By Mrs. Marty Graham

<><><><>

Leila Horne

By Andrew & Randi Grant

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On Memoriam February 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Robert Greenbaum Ilona Ban **Nella Gross** By Marilyn Greenbaum By Franklin & Judy Greenman By Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Chalom Haviv **Ida Ratchik Fannie Phillips** By Leo Haviv By Susan Horn By Patricia Isenberg <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Lillian Janowitz Pinchas Kamely Sylvia Kay By Sam & Leslie Janowitz By Yardena Kamely By Harvey & Joan Kay <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Samuel Marmar Joseph Krissel Joseph Kaufman By Michael Krissel By David & Pamela Marmar By Jeff & Lisa Miller <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Sara J. Cohen Irene Nobil William Pollack By Lynn Nobil By Lynn Nobil By Joel & Linda Pollack <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Malka Frank Ida O. Present Amos M. Present By Joel & Linda Pollack By Marjorie Present By Marjorie Present <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Shirley Horowitz** Al Roller John A. Schur

By Pauline Roller

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By Lee Schur

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By Pauline Roller

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⊗n Memoriam Sebruary 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Miriam Blinder Sara I. Cohen Ann R. Kapulskey

By Steven & Barbara Smith By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By George & Muriel Swartz <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><>

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Morris Estrin Minnie Berger David C. Willner

By Lillian Tallent By Mark & Sofy Wasser By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><>

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Morris Feinberg Samuel Wolfe Jerry Oshinsky

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe By Sherry Zwerdling <><><><><> <><><><><>

How Certain Contributions to KICC 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 three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KICC 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. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute; an outdoor plague is included in the price.

JEWISH FOOD EXTRAVAGANZA



Sunday February 15, 2015 5:00 pm-7:30 pm KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Mile Marker 93 Oceanside \$20.00 per ticket Raffle/Silent Auction~~~Jewish schtick & kibitzing

Enjoy a scrumptious smorgasbord of authentic delights including: Matzoh Ball Soup, Brisket, Cabbage Rolls, Knishes, Challah, Kugel, Chopped Liver, Gefilte Fish, Tabouli Salad, Kishka, Babka, Mandel Bread & more ...

Limited number of tickets available at:

- * KJCC gift shop MM 93 Oceanside
- * Garrett Chiropractic MM 90 Bayside

Email for further information:Hippiejap@hotmail.com

Sisterhood Erica Lieberman-Garrett



riting my first column as your new Sisterhood president, I am excited and honored to be leading an exceptional group of women who selflessly spend endless time and energy to help make our little shul the incredible place that it is today. Barbara Knowles has done a fantastic job as our Sisterhood president for the past two years, leading us through many events, onegs, and fundraisers. Her generosity, energy and tireless capacity for work have brought us to this new year, and we all thank her for everything she has done. I believe that 2015 is going to be even more amazing than we can imagine.

Over 100 people (including 20 visitors) attended a night of dinner and menorah lighting so big that we needed two tables to hold all the menorahs! The children sang Chanukah songs, accompanied by Jonah Gross on his trumpet. We had seven scrumptious latke choices and a huge assortment of delicious dairy options made available, as always, by the incredible efforts of our members. Linda and Joel Pollack graciously sponsored the dinner again this year. We had our first outdoor seating area with lights and lanterns. courtesy of Susan Gordon, who decorated the event in a joyous and festive spirit.

KJCC president Bernie Ginsberg motivated our commitment to monthly Shabbat dinners with his mantra "If you feed them, they will come." My mantra for the next two years will be "If you feed them scrumptious food, they will come more!" With that, I am excited to tell you about our Jewish Food Extravaganza on Sunday, February 15th, from 5 p.m. till 7:30 p.m. We will have a selection of traditional lewish food including matzoh ball soup, chopped liver, brisket, potato kugel, knishes, tabouleh salad, babka, mondel bread, and more. The event will begin with some silent auction and raffle items, followed by a short program of shtick, kibbitzing, and

lewish food fun. Tickets are \$20, and we are

selling only 90. Please don't miss out, and get your tickets early. They are available at the KICC Gift Shop as well as at my office, Garrett Chiropractic at MM 90 bayside. We are asking all Matzoh Ball Mensches who would like to help underwrite this fundraising effort, either through a donation or an item for auction or raffle, to please contact me at hippiejap@ hotmail.com. This event is a prelude to what will be our big event in 2016, the first-ever Keys Jewish Heritage Festival, which will celebrate the 36th (double chai) anniversary of the KJCC.

All are welcome at the Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, February 1 at 9:30 a.m. We always have a lot to talk about!! Sisterhood will lead services on Friday February 27th. All women are invited to be part of this wonderful experience. Please contact me. No Hebrew is necessary. Our new Sisterhood creative arts group will be getting together weekly on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m for knitting/crocheting. Nettie Seder says no experience is necessary, and to contact her at ngseder@yahoo.com for more information.

We look forward to a busy March. Events will include: Shabbat across America/Canada on Friday March 13th, pottery for the Women's Seder, and the Women's Seder itself at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 22nd.

The camaraderie and enthusiasm of our KICC Sisterhood make me feel like I am doing all of this with my own sisters (I have three), and the fun and simcha we share is incredible. This shul has added so much to my life, and I feel that this year will only take it to the next level. I invite all the women of the KICC to come the first Sunday of each month to share your ideas, eat some scrumptious food and be part of what has become my "Keys Mishpocha." ◊

Contributions to KJCC

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

Book Plates In Memory of Pollack, Joel & Linda

J.D. Stanlake

General Fund

Begam, Delores Margulies, Ben & Sue Williams, Iim & Rita

Pray for Us

Meditation Garden

Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

In Memory of

brick - Joan's parents Meyer Cohen, Samuel Wainer, Erwin Wainer

Peter Steinberg

Meditation Garden

In Honor of Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin brick - Bernard Ginsberg, M.D.

Sisterhood General Fund

In Honor of Pollack, Joel & Linda **BarbaraKnowles** Wolfe, Larry & Dotty towards shabbat dinner

Sisterhood General Fund Goldfinger, David & Toby

In Memory of Carol Steinbock

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Dorf, Barry & Natalie Gelbard, Sy Harris, Steve & Marsha

Tree of Life

Margulies, Ben & Sue

In Honor of Stan Margulies

In Memory of

Kohlenbrener

Loa Rosenberg

Daniel Harvey

Betty Weinstein

Ruth Greenwald

Norma Robinson

David Cohn

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan Cohn, Nancy

Dandrea, Robert & Joni Sages Harvey, Mitchell

Olsen, Gerald & Sheila Roberts, Paul & Susan

Taramona, Hermine

Yahrzeit Plagues Steinbock, Steve

Steinbock, Steve

Yizkor Book

Karen Hayhurst Hayden, Beth

Carol Steinbock

Have You Seen Me?

Lost at Chanukah Dinner If anyone has seen or mistakenly taken the platter that matches this plate (after the Chanukah dinner at KJCC), please contact Natalie Dorf (dorfnatbarry@aol.com) or Sisterhood.

Thank You.



YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



Sephardic Jewry

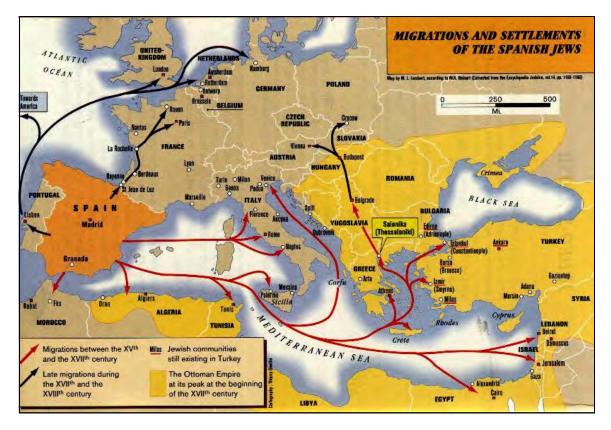
History of the Sephardim and the Sephardic Communities

n last year's lecture series we learned about the life of the Jews under Islamic Rule and during the Golden Age in Spain. In this year's new lecture series we will explore the Sephardic emigration from Spain (Sepharad in Hebrew) after the expulsion of 1492, the Sephardic communities themselves and the paths of later emigration as the great lewish culture in Spain was forced to find new homes and lives elsewhere. In his book "The Other Jews," Daniel J. Elazar, himself a Sephardi, studies the Sephardim and the rich heritage of this important part of Judaism. Those of us who are Ashkenazim, or have been educated in the Ashkenazic culture. often know little about the Sephardim or Sephardic communities and cultures. (For those who might wonder. I am neither Ashkenazi nor Sephardi, but as a Persian am what is called *Mizrachi*, an "eastern" Jew.)

Elazar's family background and experience is an example of the history of the Sephardic Jews that we will study in this lecture. "Sephardic lewry." His family members are descendants of exiles from Spain, from the Kingdom of Aragon, who settled in the Ottoman Empire at the end of the 15th century, concentrating in Salonika (the Jerusalem of the Balkans, in north central Greece on the Aegean, and now called Thessaloniki), and the Turkish coastal cities of Gallipoli and Izmir (whose ancient name was Smyrna, with a long lewish history). Members of the Abulafia branch of the Elazar family became pioneers

in Eretz Israel. They settled in Jerusalem. Another branch of the Elazar family fled from Spain to Portugal and there was forced to convert to Christianity in 1497. After living as Marranos for over 250 years, and in the aftermath of the great Lisbon earthquake of 1755, they fled to Newport, Rhode Island. There they lived until the American Revolution, then moved to Charleston, South Carolina, and then disappeared in the early 19th century.

At the end of the 19th century, other members of the Elazar and Abulafia families followed the paths of the Sephardic diaspora to Paris. New York, and Buenos Aires, where they became linked with other great Sephardic families, such as the Yohais, the Kattans, and the Chicorels. The family in Israel became linked to the Baruhielis, the Tocatlis, and the Elhasids. Connections by marriage have been made with Persians and Moroccans. Iragis and Bukharans. Bessarabians and Litvaks. Elazar's neighbors in Jerusalem are Sephardim who have lived there for generations, some since 1485, seven years before the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. There are also the Eliachars, the Valeros, the Kimchis, the Sitons, the Elhananis, the Angels, and the Russos, just to name some of these old Sephardic families. They meet for prayer at the Yisa Bracha synagogue, the home of the Rishon Le-Zion, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, and the leading congregation of the old Sephardic families of Jerusalem.



In this lecture series we will learn about the decline and revival of Sephardic Jewry in Europe, the Sephardim in Africa (north, central, and south), the survival of Sephardic communities in Asia, the Sephardim in Latin America and also those in North America.

We will explore the term *Sephardi*, as it is used today, which describes that branch of the Jewish people whose roots are from the Mediterranean lands and western Asia. Who are the *Mizrachi* or Oriental Jews? What do the Sephardic and Ashkenazic communities have in common? What are the differences in their community organization? What are the old prejudices of Ashkenazim and Sephardim against one another?

Because of ignorance about the Sephardic Jews in general, there have been and still are false myths associated with them. The myth of backwardness of the Sephardim was a common belief among the Ashkenazim. This was a reference to the Jews from the Atlas Mountains or primitive villages of Southern Arabia or the tribal societies of Central Asia, who indeed were from a backward culture. But it was unfair and inaccurate to generalize and include in this portrait the Sephardic Jews who emigrated from Spain. In reality, as we will see, many of the Sephardim, especially from the old Sephardic families, were highly educated. They came from an urban society and brought a very rich culture with them wherever they settled. *Yitzhak Navon*, Israel's past president (1978), first Sephardi to hold that office, was one of them. His story tells about the Sephardic vision of Zionism.

Learning about the Sephardic Jews can help us understand how we survived as one people, the Jewish People, in different parts of the Diaspora and in Israel. This will be my focus in this year's four lectures, and I hope you will join me. ◊

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Obama Closes the Loophole

An Associated Press (AP) report that was published in October 2014 revealed that due to a loophole in the law, dozens of suspected Nazi war criminals were still receiving Social Security payments long after they agreed to leave the United States. In December, President Obama responded by signing legislation that officially ends the practice. Previously, a final order of deportation was required before an individual's Social Security benefits could be terminated. The corrective bill moved quickly and was unanimously approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The law targets suspected former Nazis who snuck into the U.S. after World War II and were later stripped of their American citizenship when the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations discovered them. Most of them chose to leave quietly before they faced deportation, and included in the deal was the promise of continued Social Security payouts. The revelation by the AP report was shocking: Since 1979, at least 38 of 66 of these war criminals who left the country had continued to receive Social Security benefits. (www.ap.org, 12-18-14)

A Game-Changer

StoreDot, a Tel Aviv-based company, says that it has developed a battery that is able to fully charge a cell phone in just a few seconds. According to the company, the battery can store a much higher charge more quickly, acting like a super-sponge that soaks up power and retains it. Currently, the prototype is too bulky for a mobile phone, but StoreDot believes that it will be ready by 2016: at that time they will market a slim battery able to absorb and deliver sufficient power to a smartphone for one full day in just 30 seconds. The concept is based around the creation of nanodots, which changes the way a

battery behaves, allowing

it to absorb power rapidly and, even more importantly, retain it. The number of smartphone users is estimated to have already reached 1.75 billion. This new innovation could end people's constant search for a power outlet. Doron Myersdorf, founder of StoreDot, said that a fastcharge phone would probably cost \$100 to \$150 more than current models. It should be able to handle 1,500 recharge/discharge cycles, giving it about 3 years of life. Myersdorf plans to use the same technology to also create a car battery that recharges in two or three minutes. Current models commonly need to be charged overnight. (www.reuters.com, 12-8-14)

It's on the Shortlist

"Ida," a Polish movie about a Catholic nun who discovers that she is the daughter of Jews killed during the Holocaust, made the Oscar Award short list for best foreign-language film. The film was one of nine that made that list. The Israeli entry, "Gett: The Trial of Vivian Amsalem," about the five-year legal struggle of an Orthodox wife seeking a religious divorce, did not make the list. The nine nominees on the short list were pared down to five finalists on January 15th, when the 87th Academy Award nominations were announced, and the Polish film made the list. The Oscars will be broadcast on February 22nd. (www.jta.org, 12-20-14)

Preserved Forever

The National Film Registry has selected "Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport," the Oscar-winning documentary originally released in 2000, for permanent preservation in the Library of Congress. The film chronicles the rescue of some 10,000 children - most of them Jewish - from Nazi-dominated Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia in the

months leading up to World War II. The children found refuge in Great Britain. Deborah Oppenheimer, the daughter of a survivor of the Kindertransport (most of whose parents did not survive), produced the film. "With the passing of so many eyewitnesses to that tumultuous period, the preservation of the film will recognize for all time the tremendous resilience of the children, the courage of their parents who were willing to entrust them to strangers, and the compassion of the British families who took them in at a time when so few would help," she said. Each year the National Film Registry adds 25 feature films. documentaries and even home movies to preserve for future generations. Among the films included along with "Kindertransport" as new additions this year are "Saving Private Ryan," "Rosemary's Baby," "The Big Lebowski," and two of my favorites, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." (www.jta.org and www.loc.gov, 12-21-14)

Keeping the Memory of the Holocaust Alive

The William Levine family of Phoenix. Arizona has donated \$25 million to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum - the largest gift the Washington, D.C. museum has ever received. The purpose of the gift is to increase the museum's educational programming, especially to young people. Levine is an investor and real estate developer. He was appointed to the museum's governing council by President George W. Bush in 2007. Levine's involvement with the museum began with his support of scholarly research. He created the *Ina Levine Scholar* so that leading academics could take advantage of the museum's archives. The Levine family's gift is part of the museum's \$540 million campaign being led by honorary chair. Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel. (www.ushmm.org, 12-3-14)

2014: The Numbers are in

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), 2014 came to a close with 8.3 million Israelis. Of that number, 6.2 million (74.9 percent of the population) residents are Jewish and 1.7 million (20.7 percent) are Arabs. Defined as "other" were 359,000. During 2014, approximately 162,000 people were added to Israel's population: that's a two percent increase, similar to the rate of population growth over the past decade. Some 23,000 new olim (those making alivah) arrived in Israel in 2014; 176,000 babies were born. The country's population has grown by 1,434,000 residents over the past decade. (www.ynetnews.com, 12-29-14)

In Memoriam

· Sy Berger, a chewing gum executive and creator of the modern baseball card, allowing millions of young boys to connect with their baseball heroes, died in December. He was 91. In the early 1950s. Berger turned the side business of baseball cards into a booming industry. By the 1970s, he made baseball card collecting synonymous with American boyhood. During the Depression, baseball cards had been used to increase sales of certain products, but it was in the post-World War II era that baseball cards came into their own. Berger was an executive at the Brooklyn-based Topps Company. He created the basic design of the color portraits of major league ball players along with a facsimile of the player's signature and statistics that were sold with packages of gum. Across the United States, the cards were collected, traded and won in card-pitching games by millions of young boys. In the 1980s and 90s, baseball cards became a billion-dollar industry, with an estimated 81 billion cards produced a year. (In April 2013, a card of Honus Wagner, the Hall of Fame Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop, sold for \$2.1 million, a record for a public auction sale of a baseball card.) In 1988, Berger was honored by the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. New York, for his role "in the development of the modern baseball trading card and for helping to introduce generations of fans to baseball for more than half a century."He also earned his own card, part of the 2004 Topps series called "All-Time Fan Favorites." Seymour Perry Berger was born on New York City's Lower East Side to Louis, a furrier, and his wife Rebecca. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. In 2012, Berger was inducted into

the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. Berger himself was not a baseball card collector. He called himself a "gatherer". (www.washinatonpost.com, 12-15-14)

· Harold M. Schulweis, influential rabbi and national leader in the Conservative movement, died in December at the age of 89. Schulweis spent his long career as a religious leader making Judaism more approachable to both non-Jews and Jews who had strayed from their faith. He was the founder of the Institute for the Righteous - known since 1986 as the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, the organization devoted to identifying and supporting non-lews who risked their lives and the lives of their families to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. During the 1960s, he was on the local board of the NAACP and was a spiritual adviser to many of the radical Jewish students at the University of California, Berkeley campus. In the mid-1980s, Schulweis helped found *Mazon*, an organization to combat hunger in the United States and Israel. Mazon asks affluent Jewish families celebrating simchas to donate three percent of the cost of the celebration to help feed the needy. In 2004, he co-founded Jewish World Watch, a synagogue-based organization that supports survivors of atrocities in the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. (There are some 60 synagogues and other lewish institutions across the country supporting this effort.) Schulweis served as rabbi at the Valley Beth Shalom congregation in Encino, California. The synagogue has 1,800 family members totaling some 10,000 people and is one of the largest congregations in the United States. Under his leadership, the shul was open to all seeking a spiritual home whether they were Jewish or not. In the early 1990s, he welcomed the gay community to the congregation.

Schulweis is credited with having introduced the practice of *Havurot*, the gathering of small groups of families to share both religious and secular occasions. Schulweis was born in the Bronx. His father was a journalist and an anti-religious socialist who entertained like-minded Yiddish poets and writers. Young Harold did not even set foot in a synagoque until he was twelve. On a day off from school, he was passing one and heard music. He wandered into the synagogue - it was a Rosh HaShanah service - and he was captivated. His mother, Helen Rezack, was the daughter of a pious man. She brought Harold to her father for lessons in Hebrew and lewish history. The young boy gave his Bar Mitzvah speech in Yiddish (to please his father). English (to please his mother) and Hebrew (to please his grandfather). Rabbi Schulweis graduated from Yeshiva University and received his rabbinical ordination from the lewish Theological Seminary. His first congregation was in the Parkchester section of the Bronx. His book, Conscience: The Duty to Obey and the Duty to Disobey was named winner of the "2008 National Jewish Book Award: Contemporary lewish Life and Practice." (www.nytimes.com, 12-25-14)

· Bess Myerson, the first - and to date the only - Jewish woman to be crowned Miss America, died in early January. She was 90. Myerson was a spokeswoman for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), speaking to over 10,000 high school and college students, telling them that "you can't be beautiful and hate." Days after being crowned Miss America in September 1945, Myerson began a career in public affairs. She headed both New York City's Departments of Consumer Affairs and Cultural Affairs. She served on a variety of boards and commissions under Presidents Johnson, Ford and Carter and was an important asset in Ed Koch's New York mayoral campaign. In the late 1980s, she was romantically linked to wealthy sewer contractor Carl Capasso. She was involved in a series of legal controversies, including bribery of a New York City judge (she was acquitted) and was once caught shoplifting. Her troubles became known as the "Bess Mess." Myerson was born in the Bronx to Russian-Jewish immigrant parents. She attended the High School of Music and Art. She went on to play piano at Carnegie Hall. Myerson donated \$1.1 million to help found the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York. She was a staunch supporter of Israel and never forgot her Yiddish roots. (The Forward, 1-6-15) ◊







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Photo Gallery

Some photos taken at the Morada Way Artwalk of December 18th, which featured lots of KJCCers. At top,

Gloria Avner displayed some of her recent paintings. The beautiful photo in the center shows a home-from-collegebreak Nyan Feder with his Dad and musical mentor, Dave. Just below, Suzi Feder with a display of her handcrafted jewelry at its first public showing. At bottom left, Beth Kaminstein and pal Samantha from Morada Clay were that week's featured artists. Below right, Medina gets into the







A new tradition At KJCC, and one of the highlights

of each year's Chanukah celebration, is inviting everyone who comes to bring a menorah (well, technically a Channukiah), and then lighting all the candles on all of them at the same time. The effect is stunning. (We even had some oil lamps this year, just like at the original Chanukah celebration, which happened long before the invention of candles.) This all took place before the dinner on December 19th. The photos are a little dark because we turned out all the lights to enhance the effect of the candles.



The Chanukah celebration continued on December 19th. After dinner the service was led by the religious school teachers and students (plus Bernie, acting as KJCC zayde, who gathered all the students to hear the story and lessons of Chanukah on the bemah steps). At bottom, Max and J.B. Fink say the prayer and cut the challah for the HaMotzi.

Top left, Gloria and old pal Marilyn, visiting from Bar Harbor, Maine, took David Gitin to lunch on the water to celebrate his birthday on December 19th.

Honoring the Homeless

by Medina Roy

On December 21st, 2014, a group of some 25 residents of the Upper Keys - with the KJCC providing eight, the larg-

est contingent – gathered at Settler's Park in Tavernier. They were there to attend a solemn service led by Rev. Pam Feeser, Director of Baptist Health's Community Health Ministries. Joyce Peckman delivered one of several "Meditations on the Stories of Homelessness" before the actual service began. Candles were then lit for each of the twelve homeless and 31 indigents who died in Monroe County in 2014. Jules and Nettie Seder and Linda Pollack joined in lighting candles as each name was read. The youngest of all attendees was Maddy Pollack, 12-year-old granddaughter of Linda and Joel. The service ended with David Gitin, Steve Steinbock, Medina Roy and Joyce reciting the Mourner's Kaddish.

Since 1990, on or near the first day of winter – also the longest night of the year, the reason that day is chosen - The National Coalition for the Homeless has sponsored National Homeless Persons Memorial Day. Their purpose is to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember our homeless neighbors who, in the Coalition's words, have "paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to address this issue." \Diamond







Chai-Lights February 2015 27



The two top photos here were taken at the December 26th early service. At top, Gloria discusses KJCC history with Diane Boxer (on, ironically, Boxing Day), whose parents were early members

of KJCC. In the next photo, **Bernie leads** Kiddush after services. Helping with the grape juice is Libby Peckman, Joyce's granddaughter. The formal photo at left center features All of Mary Lee Singer's grandchildren (and

another is actually missing).

The photo below was taken at the swearing-in of this year's Sisterhood officers: Erica Lieber-Man-Garrett, president; Susan Gordon, VP; Linda Kaplan, Treasurer; and Marsha Harris, Sec'y.



Barbara Knowles receives her "Ahava" pin from Linda Pollack. The pin is given to all Sisterhood presidents as they finish their term in office.



Blessing of the Fleet on New Year's Day

KJCC joined the clergy of several other faiths at what has become an annual ritual in the Upper Kevs

bv Gloria Avner

t this year's annual "Blessing of the Fleet" ceremony, both commercial and private pleasure boats lined up patiently in an arc from the bridge to the horizon. January 1st seems unfailingly to be a gorgeous day, a blessing in itself. There was a plethora of blessers this year, representing Upper Keys faiths from Episcopal to Baptist, Methodist to Jewish, and Unitarian Universal-

ist. It was interesting that the two specifically lewish boats asking for Jewish blessings were the very first boat in line and the last. What a pleasure to bless the boat of David and Patti Gross - their family, friends and all who might board their vessel - with safe and peaceful journeys on (and beneath) Keys turquoise waters (which they and

others from Coral Reef Restoration work so hard to sustain). Steve Steinbock



and Shalom Too, last in line, asked for and received special blessings - for the well-being of the entire KICC community, for the healing of Pauline Roller, for Linda and Joel Pollack, and for the spirit of Carol Steinbock. surely looking down on this sparkling day, watching over Steve, their boat, and our "mishpocha."

There were lots of people on the bridge this year, watching, waving, catching up with friends on this warm, sunny, clear, spe-

cial day. Amazingly, there were few complaints from the barely moving bridge traffic. Many of the boats besides Steve's also asked for blessings and prayers relating to loss - captains, mates, old friends gone, a dying daughter. Prayers and blessings were offered as well as requested, with New Year good wishes coming from boat captains to the community along with expressions of support for our servicemen and women. Stalwarts who appear every year were ioined by new boats, and businesses praying for survival and success.

The morning held an archetypal quality.





Above, the assembled clergy (plus Gloria) atop the Whale Harbor Bridge waiting to convey blessings. From left: Father Tom Graf, St. James Episcopal Church; Rev. Kerry Foote, Burton Memorial United Methodist Church; Rev. Tony Hammon, Island Community Church; Rev. Dr. Pam Feeser, Community Health Ministries; KJCC's own wonderful Gloria Avner, Rev. Kerby Avedovech, Coral Isle Congregational Church, Rev. Marlin Simon, Spirit and Truth Ministries. At right, Gloria with Pam Feeser.

Here we are in the 21st century, in the face of the beauty and uncontrollable power of nature, doing what we can to mitigate danger, loss and fear. Sometimes we all feel a need deeper than one that jetties and flood control and weather forecasts can address. Similar ceremonies for human survival have probably been practiced for millennia. As Jews, we have a special Traveler's Prayer; in it we acknowledge our frailty and praise the God of

our Ancestors, asking for protection and giving thanks for God's gifts, watching over us, our goingsout and our comingsin. We ask that they all be in peace.

We choose to live in the Keys in partnership with forces that could easily destroy us. Think about the story of Jonah

resisting God's call to go to Nineveh. The fishing/diving/ pleasure boat industry is vital to everyone's survival on this skinny string of islands. Listening to myriad blessings given and received today heightened my awareness of our dependency on forces greater than ourselves. The awareness made me proud that the KJCC, under the leadership of Linda Kaplan and

Patti Gross, has chosen to contribute actively

to the health of our home, to repair the seas - Tikkun HaYam.

The day was marked with special punctuation. At least three times, a giant ray hurled itself out of the water and made a thunderous splash-and-return. It felt like an enthusiastic interfaith AMFN.



My Life in Israel - Part 1

by Zoe Berk-Moshe

grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and learned there never to take my safety • for granted. That's how it is in Israel. Life goes on normally, but signs of war are all around. All of the young people serve, and the country has their back. Soldiers ride for free on public transportation. No military kid ever goes hungry; most restaurants have a fund set up by patrons to pay for their meals. Hotels keep free rooms for soldiers on leave. Everywhere you go there are kids in military uniform, carrying rifles. Soldiers have to take their weapon with them wherever they go, even when not on duty; so you see girls in sundresses with rifles on their backs.

Before and during the Gaza War. there was hard bombing for sixty days.

The sirens went off at least once. but often six or seven times a dav. The Iron Dome

kept people from being scared crazy. It is an amazing system. It knew where the bombs were headed and didn't waste energy on something that would fall in a field, although a bunch of cows got killed once. On the bombs it went after, it had 98 percent success, exploding them in the air into tiny pieces of shrapnel too small to do a lot of damage. But the Iron Dome is like contraception; you want to be 100 percent sure. So inside every apartment house are shelters. Every supermarket and store has a shelter. When the siren goes off, you grab your purse. leave your shopping



friend. The cows are

on another Moshav.

cart and run to the shelter. It becomes a part of everyday life. You never get used to it. but vou know what to do.

When the rockets from Gaza hurt some Bedouin children, the Israeli military brought bia concrete pipes into the desert to try to protect Bedouins. They even placed portapotties next to the pipes.

There isn't a part of Israel

that isn't under surveillance. Even in the desert you hear sirens. In Tel Aviv there is a military department full of girls watching security monitors. (Most of the guys are in the field.) Josh's niece Mor Halili works there. It's tough. All of the kids are utilized and every parent knows that their children will serve. That's just how it is in Israel. ◊



A Memorable Evening

There was dinner, a touch of the sacred, and warm appreciation

by Gloria Avner

dessert.)

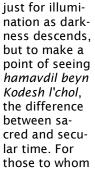
th an air of 99 percent celebration and one percent sadness, KJCC's Annual Advertisers' and New Members' Dinner got off to a breezy and elegant start. Organizer Medina Roy's decor, her arrangement of tables and variety of delicious food brought by member volunteers, were all delightful. Her primary helpers, Joyce, Sam, and Bernie, with the help of Steve Steinbock and Yardena Kamely, did a magnificent job of creating room for 100 people in a way that did not feel crowded.

We are always delighted to see each other and the schmoozing time before "fressing" (eating in Yiddish) is, as Sam pointed out, an important part of our social nourishment. The food kept coming while we talked and greeted, until the tables would hold no more. (And then there was

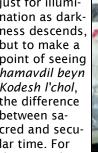
The ritual part of the evening began, as all Jewish holidays do, with the commandment to light the Shabbat candles. We bring in light, not

Preparation: Lee Schur and Gene Silverman at the welcome desk with name tags; Medina helps Elaine Solas cut up the food labels; Steve Steinbock at set-up that afternoon with ta-

bletop doilies.



Jewish customs may be somewhat mysteri-



Joyce, Medina and Gloria got the evening started by lighting the Shabbat candles. Using the new KJCC P.A. system, Gloria explained to our guests the meaning of every step.

ous. I was able to share some fundamentals, as I had been asked to lead the candle-lighting ceremony. Unlike most of the world, Jews begin the new day, every day, as the sun is setting.

night until sundown on Saturday night we are instructed to take a day of rest.

Why? Because God finished the work of creation in six days and, on the seventh day, rested. As above, so below.



Though not a showy multi-day holiday - like Passover, Chanukah, or Sukkoth - Shabbat, appearing once each week, is the most important of all Jewish holidays (or holy days, its antecedent and twin). From its beginning on Friday



Why is Shabbat so important? Because it celebrates not just the end of the noisily busy workweek, but on a higher level celebrates "shalom bayit," peacefulness in the home.

The Keys Jewish Community Center is





Bernie Ginsberg's major events. Bernie's two-year tenure would be complete in less than a month. It seemed fitting, before a large assemblage of KICC members and friends, to honor him, too, on this special night. His legacy



our home, and our members, guests, and supportive advertisers are our family, our "mishpocha." We celebrate the holiday as the fifth commandment

tells us - to observe it and keep it holy. Look at the faces in these pictures. We love sharing the peace and joy of Shabbat with our neighbors and loyal advertisers. Now, why was there a hint of sadness? Sam gracefully acknowledged in his moving introduction that this night would be the last of President



will be enduring and threefold: iov in the children's classroom (they come because they want to come), support of lewish learn-

This dinner was the last major social event of Bernie Ginsberg's KJCC presidency. This was fitting, because regular dinners, which foster friendship and community, will be a large part of Bernie's legacy.

ing on every level, and commitment to hosting a homey (haimishe) meal in our social hall every month. Feed them and they will come is the law of nature here. The corollary is that in the course of sharing food and talk, ceremony and song, we nourish our souls as well as our bodies and create the engaged faces and relationships we see on these pages. More than sixty people stayed for the Shabbat services that followed dinner, including Father Tom Graf from St. James the Fisher-

man
Church,
who joined
us as
Bernie's
guest. We
nourish
ourselves.
We nourish our
relationships and
our community.
And then

that strong and warm community we endeavor to build in turn supports us. It's a simple thing. But the act of doing that simple thing – Judaism teaches us to act, not profess – we approach the profound. L'Chaim. And thank you, Bernie.



Note: It is good to know that our supporters are not restricted to this skinny string of islands. A huge and heartfelt thanks goes to Lynn Nobil, daughter of KJCC founders Joel and Sara Cohen, living in Bar Harbor, Maine on another island at the far other end of U.S.1, for carrying on her parents' legacy and sponsoring this fine evening. ◊



Our sincere appreciation to Eve Knowles, who spent her evening taking the photographs you see in this article.

Keys Jewish Community Center, Inc.

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

To all KJCC members:

The KJCC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 8th, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the KJCC sanctuary.

The February Board meeting, in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, is scheduled for the same day at 9:00 a.m. All members in good standing are invited to attend both meetings.

The primary order of business at the Annual Meeting is the election and installation of Officers and the Board of Directors. According to our by-laws. nominations from the floor can be accepted at that time.

Light refreshments will be served to all present immediately following the installation of Officers and Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee has met as required and selected the following slate of 2015-2016 Officers and Board Members. This slate was approved at the January 11th, 2015 Board Meeting:

President - Sam Vinicur Executive Vice President - Steve Steinbock Vice Presidents - Glona Avner, Susan Gordon, Steve Hartz Treasurer - Linda Pollack Recording Secretary - Beth Hayden Financial Secretary - Dave Mont Corresponding Secretary - Joyce Peckman Directors. Ken Atlas.

Marc Bloom Dave Feder David Gitin Mitch Harvey Linda Kaplan Barbara Knowles Skip Rose Medina Roy Gene Silverman

(Note: Past presidents who maintain regular attendance are automatically voting members of KJCC's Board.)

Respectfully submitted by the 2015 Nominating Committee: Steve Steinbock (chair), Bernie Ginsberg, Linda Pollack, Sam Vinicur

The Missionary Position

There is "Good News" In Ethiopia

by Richard Kaufman

ast fall I taught at the brand new Myungsung Medical College, at the Myungsung (Evangelical) Christian Medical Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

My dear friend and colleague, the Reverend Jong Lee, Pastor Emeritus of the Hanmee (Evangelical) Presbyterian Church in Itasca, Illinois, is now Head Chaplain of the Myungsung Medical College, a part of the larger Myungsung (Evangelical) Christian Medical Center. He asked me to come there to teach neuroscience. I walked into a world I knew about but knew nothing about. In their Christian Evangelical perspective, all one needs to be re-born is faith. You don't need priests. You don't need nuns. You don't need saints. You don't need statues. You don't need sacraments. You don't need to suffer. You don't need to renounce this world. You don't have to worry about "transubstantiation" or "consubstantiation." You don't need Inquisitions. You don't need cathedrals. You don't need to "cross" vourself. You don't need intermediaries. You don't need Hebrew. You don't need Greek. You don't need Latin. You don't need Italians. You don't need the Pope. You don't need Rome. To be spiritually reborn, all one needs is faith; one is therefore cleansed and healed of original sin, in the Christ Jesus. Of course, it goes without saying, to them you also don't need *mohels* or circumcision. No need for rabbis, Torah, Eretz Yisrael, or mitzvot. Salvation to them is easier, granted as a gift by the grace of God.

I arrived in the fall of 2013 to begin a twomonth-long teaching assignment at the Medical Center. I was greeted and welcomed into a community of born-again Korean missionaries, born-again missionary doctors, and bornagain health professionals from around the



Richard in a typical low-key pose in front of the Korean Evangelical Christian Medical College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, an interesting place for a nice Jewish boy from Chicago to end up teaching.

world. The Myungsung Christian (no tobacco or alcohol allowed) Medical Center (MCM) occupies a square mile of landscaped, sparkling-clean meadow and garden within the sprawling urban shambles and the squalid shantytowns of Addis Ababa, which somewhat improbably means "New Flower" and is typically shortened to "Addis." There are several residential buildings there, a chapel, numerous outbuildings, the medical college, and a 150-bed hospital complex, all scattered around the perimeter of a large, grassy prairie. The rainy season is over. There are no bugs. There will be clear skies until next vear's rainy season. This is a bird-watcher's paradise in the center of the great African migratory flight pathway. We are at eight



Richard's colleagues at the Myungsung Christian Medical Center, who became friends, all affiliated with the Myungsung Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Seoul: at left, Rev. Jong Lee, Deacon Yohana Kim, M.D., Deacon Kuhn Hong, M.D.

thousand feet, so although we are on the equator, the climate is wonderfully temperate. "In Addis, never too hot, never too cold." This is not Kansas.

Addis is a blighted clot of alleys, yards, pathways, markets, fields, unpaved roads and open drainage, a shack-city made of "tin" (corrugated sheet metal), plastic sheeting, and rubble. Ethiopia looks like every other Third World country that I have seen in the Middle East, South America, China, India, Pakistan, Central America. Human misery and poverty look the same all over the world. Four million souls live in Addis. They call themselves lucky to eat a full meal once a day. It is, again, not Kansas.

Korean food is served at the Guest House. My first breakfast was a buffet of pancakes; kimchee; toast; fried eggs; cold cereal; oatmeal; rice; rice with red beans; fermented glutinous material; rice congee; spinach mystery soup; more kimchee; cheesy material in a...sauce: pickled vegetables: pickled other stuff; spicy, brownish unidentified substances; extra kimchee; fragrant sheep kid-

ney soup; boiled soy nuts; amalgamated pink medallions, and watery coffee. I had no trouble with keeping a vegetarian diet. In truth, many of the dishes were strange, but delicious. But definitely not Kansas.

Everyone here was born-again, except me. My hosts at the Guest House were Korean. Many did not speak English, or did so poorly at best. I was unable to communicate with many of them. English is, however, the *lingua* franca at the medical center. All classes at the medical school are taught in English. There were a number of missionary doctors from around the world who rotated through. Most were Canadian. I was the only Non-Korean American at the facility. And to the chagrin of Dr. Yohana Kim, the head of the Pathology Department, I beat him out of his honored first place as the oldest person on campus. I felt sorry, but not my fault.

OMG, HaShem, what had I gotten myself into? I had launched myself into six alternative universes that I previously did not know existed: the world of Korean missionaries: the world of medical missionaries: the world of Ethiopian medical students; the world of Ethiopian doctors; the world of the Myungsung Christian Medical Center Korean Hospital (150 beds), perhaps the best in Ethiopia: and the streets of Addis Ababa.

The Myungsung Christian Medical Center in Addis is the missionary project of the Myungsung (Evangelical) Presbyterian Megachurch in Seoul, South Korea, which has one million members. They allot eighty percent of their tithing for missionary work in fifty-six countries. They donate food to the poor in Korea with the remaining twenty percent.

There are 250 Koreans in Ethiopia. Half of that number live in Addis, with half of those at the medical campus and half off-campus operating dry cleaning stores. There are ten thousand Chinese in Ethiopia. All are in the countryside developing mining projects and railways. Addis has the second-most number of foreign embassies of any city, below only

New York. It is the headquarters for the Organization of African States; what they do there, and to what good, though, I have no idea.

Ethiopia is the secondmost-populous country in Africa at 98 million, behind Nigeria's 169 million and ahead of third-place Egypt's 81 million. Ethiopia is also the second-poorest country in the world, as measured by the Multidimensional Poverty Index. (Niger has the dubious honor of being in first

place.) Life expectancy is, at best, 60 years. There are approximately 150 languages spoken here. *Amharigna* (pronounced Amhar-in-ya), an ancient Semitic dialect, is spoken by most Ethiopians. One can get by with English in most tourist areas.

The MCM was founded eleven years ago as a joint venture between the Myungsung Church and the Ethiopian government. The government donated the site, a square mile of land on what, back then, was the outskirts of Addis. Although the government, in general, is hostile to foreign companies, NGOs, and missionaries, they have continued to support the MCM, based on a special relationship between South Korea and Ethiopia. During the Korean War in the early 1950s, several thousand Ethiopians fought on the side of South Korea. These ex-soldiers were impris-

"I had expected an onslaught of concern for my soul, a siege war of persuasion to convert me. It didn't happen. I was a bit disappointed."

oned or executed during a period of Ethiopian history known as "The Derg," a ruthless and brutal socialist-inspired dictatorship from 1974 to 1991, under the rule of Colonel Mengistu Haile Maryam. The surviving veterans of the Korean War are now given free treatment at MCM Hospital in honor of their service to Korea.

To me, at first, the Korean missionary community was strange, alien,

opaque, exotic, and incomprehensible. I did not understand their language, their culture, their ethos, their religion. I did love their food. Yet they were more welcoming, tolerant, generous and loving to me than most groups I have previously known. A caveat, though: they had no idea who I was, and utterly no knowledge or understanding of me as an individual or as a Jew. I got my first taste of the born-again attitude toward the stranger: In Him all are accepted. In Him all are loved. In Him all are saved. (Surprisingly, they were very nice to me even after we became better acquainted.)

I had expected an onslaught of concern for my soul, a siege war of persuasion to convert me. It didn't happen. I was a bit disappointed. I came well armed. I schlepped a lot of ordinance, but for naught. No

glory. What's the matter, my soul wasn't good enough for them? A reject?

The main religions in Ethiopia are Christianity, Islam, and paganism. Sixty million Ethiopians are Christian, primarily Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo. Twenty million of those Chris-

To give you a really good idea about the neighborhood surrounding the medical complex, this scene of a herd of goats is very close by.





Richard with his students at Myungsung Medical School. Just so we'd be sure which one was him, he helpfully noted that he "was the one with the gray hair." What's really interesting is noting how many of the students are women.

tians are Evangelical. Amongst these are the Evangelical Presbyterian Koreans who established the medical college and hospital, and who were my hosts for two months. And, by the way, there are more Lutherans in Ethiopia than in the United States.

An Evangelical Protestant is "a person who believes in the "Good News." And the "Good News" is that the essence of the Gospels consists in the doctrine of salvation by faith in the atoning death, burial, and resurrection of Christ lesus. Through faith in lesus, sins can be forgiven and humanity reconciled with God. One can be born again. The new birth is received by the grace of God through faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, without the need for either sacraments or good works. It's different than our Judaism.

Evangelical Christianity is a vital, growing, worldwide movement. There are 750 million Evangelical Christians. China is now the leading publisher of Christian Bibles, having just published its one-millionth. By 2030, if rates

continue, there will be more Christians in China than any other country. South Korea. by percentage, is a Christian nation.

Jesus is alive and well in Ethiopia. The missionary position is to be Christ Jesus' representative on Earth. Born-again Christians are diplomats for Jesus. This means that they care for the poor, the sick, the oppressed, the humble, the weak and meek, the downtrodden. The missionary position is to altruistically surrender to the welfare of others. This means that individuals donate their time and treasure to serve. Many of the missionary doctors and health care professionals work nine or ten months in Addis, then return to their homes to raise money to fund their next year.

The missionary position is to love unconditionally the poor, the rich, the oppressed. the sinners, the humble and humiliated, the proud and haughty, the spoiled and the saints, believers and non-believers. To them Christ Jesus died for all, suffered on the cross to save all humanity from damnation, and offers salvation for all who believe.

We spend hundreds of billions of dollars to learn about the oldest, the farthest, the largest and the smallest parts of the universe. With space ships and giant particle colliders we explore "what is above and what is below." Nothing escapes our curiosity - except ourselves and one another. We barely know who we are, and we know almost nothing about our neighbors. Our brains are wired to see the physical universe as a fascinating, majestic puzzle to be solved. Yet at the same time we are hard-wired to perceive those of our fellow human beings who are outside our community as "them," as "the other." Members of our species who are "they" or "those people" to us are regarded as enemies to fear and plunder. Religion seems to both alleviate and increase human destructiveness. Sad to say, walking through Jerusalem wearing my kippah, I had a bout of Jewish cognitive dissonance. I felt less like an outsider in Arab Abu Tor, where people smiled at me. than in Mea Sharim, amongst Haredi wearing Hassidic garb, where I was politely ignored.

The good news is that the "Good News" (that is, the Gospel of Jesus Christ) is expanding the most rapidly in those countries where human rights abuse is the most flagrant. The good news is that the "Good News" is growing the most rapidly in those countries where human life is the cheapest. Where there is the most oppression, fear, misery, starvation, sickness, injustice, tyranny, and hopelessness, the "Good News" is a force for societal and political change. In the hellholes and poverty-pockets of the world in failed nation-states, police states, in the anarchies and in the military dictatorships of Central and South America, of China, India. Africa, and the Middle East, of Central Asia -Evangelical movements are taking hold.

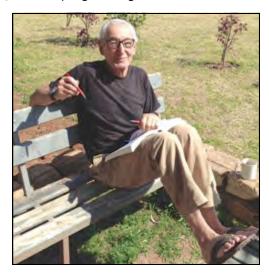
The Evangelicals I have met are quiet revolutionaries. They wage an asymmetric war

Richard's notes say that this was his official "office" at the medical school. Well, he had a cup of coffee, a book and beautiful weather. A person could do worse.

against suffering and injustice. Their weapons are medicine and food for both the body and soul. They are prepared to out-love the opposition, even to death, if need be. They have girded their loins with suicide belts of faith. In their view they represent "Him Who Conquered Death." They ask themselves, "What would Jesus do now?" Their answer: "Jesus would do now what he did back then, feed the poor and heal the sick."

Thank you, Rev. Jong Lee; thank you, Deacon Yohana Kim, M.D; thank you, Deacon Kuhn Hong, M.D., for your love and understanding and generosity, for your deep humanity and pious Christian grace and goodness. You never tried to convert me. You opened my eyes. May your examples inspire us to deepen our own faith and to pursue our own Jewish principles and values in lives of worthwhile service. ♦

Richard Kaufman is a new KJCC member and practicing psychiatrist in Highland Park, Illinois. His Oneg stories about being a Jew recruited to teach at a Korean Evangelical Christian Medical School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia were so interesting that we thought all of you might enjoy being part of the audience. (This, by the way, is the quality of conversation you miss if you aren't there at the KJCC Friday night Onegs.)



"Etz Chaim Hee" – Happy Birthday, Tree of Life

bv Gloria Avner

(1) hen spring arrives and you first see a fruit tree burst forth with blossoms, there is a blessing we are told to say: Baruch Atah Adonai Elohainu Melech ha-Olam. Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who did not cause any lack in this world, but created in it good creatures and good trees that all may enjoy them." As Jews, we are nothing if not constantly attentive to "firsts" and grateful to be alive to celebrate them. Witness all our "Shehechiyanu's." But this prayer, and these trees, are even more special. The Kabbalah teaches that the blessing upon blossoming fruit trees, Bircat Hallanot. can redeem souls.

Tt is Shabbat morning. We're getting ready 🗘 to take out the Torah. Rabbi Agler chants: L'dor va dor. We echo with gusto: L'dor va dor, from generation to generation. There is pride in our on-goingness, and in almost every mention of continuity there is metaphor. In every metaphor, at bottom, is a tree.

As children we learn to count growth rings to tell the age of a tree. When we want to document our personal ancestry, generation to generation, we make a graph of continuity and call it a family tree. Awe sets in early when we discover that trees use the carbon dioxide waste we exhale to make their food and they then excrete oxygen. We breathe their air, eat their fruit, and plant their seeds to make new trees. The linkage between trees and man, physically and metaphorically, extends throughout every field of study from Biblical history to anthropology, art, poetry, philosophy,

biology, and mysticism. The deep-rooted fascination (pun intended) crosses cultural boundaries, continents, and centuries. On the 15th day (the number *Tet Vav*, pronounced Tu) of the month of Sh'vat, the lewish take on trees comes to life.

Because Tu B'Shvat marks the last of the winter rains in Israel, it also marks the time when life force in the form of sap begins to rise from earth, roots, and tree trunk to the growing tips of branches. Seasons transition from death-like winter stasis to a promise of spring and budding fruit growth. The day is not just a birthday, but the beginning of a New Year for the Trees, one of the four distinct New Years that Jews celebrate over the course of one calendar year.

For us, the tree is a double symbol, representing both Man and Torah. From the psalmists we hear "... a man is as a tree of the field." From our liturgy on Shabbat morning, we sing Etz chaim hi. Torah is a "tree of life" for all who cling to it. Both Man and Torah have roots, trunk, branches, and fruit, all the major elements of a tree.

> The roots of man, the lewish people, are our ancestors, our matriarchs and patriarchs, the whole book of Genesis. The trunk is the whole body of the Jewish people, the "signers -on" to the covenant at Sinai. who received the Torah and entered the Promised Land. the cast of the Book of Exodus.

In Hebrew, the word for tribe is Shevet, a word close to Sh'vat, the name of this month and also the exact word for branch of a tree. all who came before us, survived oppression, and nurtured



coming generations in the ways of Judaism. Our tribes are our branches, spreading out from but still attached to the trunk, with subbranches from original branches reaching all the way to and throughout the Diaspora.

What is the fruit? The fruit of Man and the fruit of the Torah are the same: the good deeds of every living soul. When Rabbi Agler talks on a Shabbat morning of those deeds that we cannot do too much of - visiting the sick, honoring our parents, consoling the bereaved, celebrating with bride and groom studying Torah is the last act mentioned, and is said to be the greatest, because, as the verse goes on, the study of Torah leads to them all.

Do we at KICC revere trees? Absolutely. Our children plant fruit trees every year at this time while we watch, help, sing and dance. (see the Nosh announcement on page 5). Mort Silverman comes to the synagogue at least once a week to water and care for the mango and avocado orchard he planted for us - a living, growing gift. Steve Steinbock selects, plants, and maintains the trees that many of us have chosen to symbolize and celebrate a loved one in our ever-morebeautiful Meditation Garden. We revere trees and we revere Torah. The rewards of paying attention to both are like the flowers on an almond tree in springtime - uncountable.

Tu B'Shevat: Jewish Appreciation of the Natural World

nore and more Jewish schools, such as $m{VL}$ our own KJCC Sunday School, hold a special Tu B'Shevat seder that teaches appreciation for nature in the embodiment of the noble tree, provider of food and shade and beauty and so often, in many other cultures as well as our own, the symbol for life itself and all its meandering connections. As with so many things, traditional Jewish teachings are being applied, through new eyes, to challenges offered by the modern world. This article is adapted from an internet article by Richard H. Schwartz, Ph.D that appeared on the web site all-creatures.org. His point was to promote vegetarianism. Ours is not. Ours is to explore the holiday and its teachings more broadly. We thank Dr. Schwartz for his scholarship. Anyone who wishes to pursue the vegetarian angle is encouraged to visit the web site.

The Tu B'Shvat seder, in which fruits and nuts are eaten, along with the singing of songs and the recitation of biblical verses related to trees and fruits, is the only sacred meal where only vegetarian - actually fruitarian - foods are eaten by all who participate. This is consistent with the diet in the Garden of Eden, as indicated by God's first (completely vegetarian, by the way) dietary law:

And God said: "Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree that has seed-yielding fruit; to you it shall be for food." (Gen.1:29)

The Talmud refers to Tu B'Shvat as the New Year for Trees. It is considered to be the date on which the fate of trees is decided for the coming year. In recent years, one of the prime ways of celebrating Tu B'Shvat, especially in Israel, is through the planting of trees.

Many contemporary Jews look on Tu B'Shvat as a lewish Earth Day, and use Tu B'Shvat seders as a chance to discuss how Jewish values can be applied to reduce many of today's ecological threats. Our Jewish sages, as did the founders of most cultures, understood the importance of trees, and not just as a source of food or wood. But they could not have understood the pace of the modern world, and how we are denuding our planet of its trees. One of the prime reasons for the destruction of tropical rain forests today is to create pasture land and areas to grow feed crops for cattle. We are destroying forest areas in countries such as Brazil and Costa Rica, where at least half of the world's species of plants and animals live.

When God created the world, He was able to say, "It is very good" (Genesis 1:31). Everything was in harmony as God had planned. The waters were clean, the air was pure. But what must God think about the world today?

An ancient *Midrash* has become all too relevant today: In the hour when the Holv one, blessed be He, created the first person, He showed him the trees in the Garden of Eden, and said to him: "See My works, how fine they are: Now all that I have created, I created for your benefit. Think upon this and do not corrupt and destroy My world. For if you destroy it, there is no one to restore it after you." (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:28)

The Talmudic sages assert that people's role is to enhance the world as "co-partners of God in the work of creation." (Shabbat 10a) They indicated great concern about preserving the environment and preventing pollution. They state: "It is forbidden to live in a town which has no garden or greenery" (Kiddushin 4:12; 66d). Threshing (for the non-rural among us, the process of mechanically separating seeds from harvested plants) floors had to be placed far enough away so a town would not be dirtied by chaff carried by winds (Baba Batra 2:8). Tanneries had to be

kept well outside a town and could be placed only on the eastern side of a town, so that odors carried by the prevailing western winds would not overwhelm the town (Baba Batra) 2:8.9).

The rabbis express a sense of sanctity toward the environment: "the atmosphere (air) of the land of Israel makes one wise" (Baba Batra 158b).

Tu B'Shvat embodies the important teaching that "The earth is the Lord's" (Psalm 24:1) and that people are to be stewards of the earth. Property is a sacred trust given by God: it must be used to fulfill God's purposes. No person has absolute or exclusive control over his or her possessions. The concept that people have custodial care of the earth, as opposed to ownership, is illustrated by this ancient story:

Two men were fighting over a piece of land. Each claimed ownership and bolstered his claim with apparent proof. To resolve their differences, they agreed to put the case before the rabbi. The rabbi listened but could come to no decision because both seemed to be right. Finally he said, "Since I cannot de-

Tu B'Shvat Tidbits

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

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

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

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

-Gloria

cide to whom this land belongs, let us ask the land." He put his ear to the ground and, after a moment, straightened up. "Gentlemen, the land says it belongs to neither of you but that you belong to it."

Tu B'Shvat reflects the Torah mandate that we are not to be wasteful or destroy unnecessarily anything of value. It is interesting that this prohibition, called bal tashchit ("Thou shalt not destroy") is based on concern for fruit-bearing trees, as indicated in the following Torah statement:

When Thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, Thou shall not destroy (lo tashchit) the trees thereof by wielding an ax against them; for Thou mayest eat of them but Thou shalt not cut them down; for is the tree of the field man, that it should be besieged of thee? Only the trees of which Thou knoweth that they are not trees for food, them Thou mayest destroy and cut down, that Thou mayest build bulwarks against the city that maketh

war with thee, until it fall. (Deut. 20:19-20)

Tu B'Shvat reflects a concern about future generations. In ancient times it was a custom to plant a cedar sapling on the birth of a boy and a cypress sapling on the birth of a girl. The cedar symbolized strength and stature of a man, while the cypress signified the fragrance and gentleness of a woman. When the children were old enough, it was their task to care for the trees that were planted in their honor. It was hoped that branches from both types of trees would form part of the chuppah when the children married.

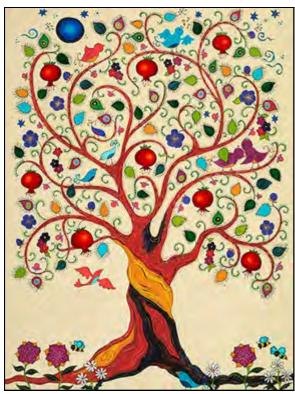
Choni (the rainmaker) was walking along a road when he saw an old man planting a carob tree. Choni asked him: "How many vears will it take for this tree to vield fruit?" The man answered that it would take seventy years. Choni then asked: "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat of its fruit?" The man answered: "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planned for me. So I will do the same for my children."

It is customary, on Tu B'Shvat, to recite Psalm 104, which indicates how God's concern and care extends to all creatures, and illustrates that God created the entire earth as a unity, in ecological balance:

...Thou [God] art the One Who sends forth springs into brooks, that they may run between mountains. to give drink to every beast of the fields; the creatures of the forest quench their thirst. Beside them dwell the fowl of the heavens: Thou art He Who waters the mountains from His upper chambers;

> Thou art He Who causes the arass to spring up for the cattle, and herb for the service of man, to bring forth bread from the earth. How manifold art Thy works. O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy property.

It sounds simple. as profound things often are: enjoy the fruits from the trees. (All KJCC members, of course, are welcome to ioin the Sunday School for their annual Tu B'Shvat seder). But remember the trees they came from. Care for them and preserve them and all their gifts for vour children. ◊



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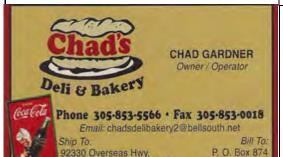
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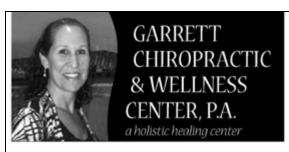
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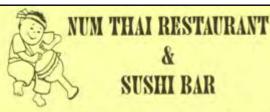


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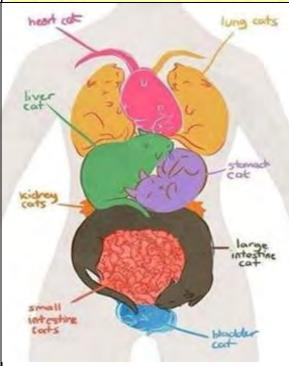
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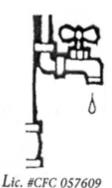


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Chai-Lights



March 2015

10 Adar - 11 Nisan 5775

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Purim Unmasked - page 36

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March 2015 10 Adar - 11 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Yardena 2nd lecture 7pm	2	3	4 KJCC Reading of Megillah & Tomfoolery 6:00 p.m.	5 Purim	6 Ken Atlas Steve Steinbock	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Daylight Savings Begins	9	10	11	12	13 Shabbat Across America 6:30 dinner Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur Joyce Peckman Heather Corrigan & Michael Eisenstein	14
15 Prof. Tudor Parfitt Lecture "Lost Tribes" 7 pm.	16	17	18	19	20 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner Toby & Joel Bofshever, Patti & David Gross	Rabbi Agler 10:00 a.m. Service
KJCC Women's Seder 5 p.m.	23	24	25	26	Joyce Peckman 6:30 Service Jane & Steve Friedman Lee Schur	28

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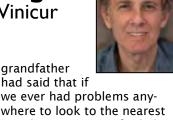
President's Message Sam Vinicur

It was Sunday, February 8th, at the KICC Annual Meeting. As sitting president, Bernie offered a cheerful and positive state-of-the-shul assessment. Of course it was positive: he'd done so much to create the atmosphere of warmth and enthusiasm that now practically radiates off the place's walls. He read the proposed slate of incoming officers and directors. We were all elected. (And without a single dissenting vote. In a room full of Jews. I had one of those flitting dreamlike moments, wondering whether I'd somehow walked into the wrong meeting.)

Then it was my turn to address the congregation. I saw mostly smiles. No matter how much you think you're ready, the moment has a surreal aspect to it. I'm sure that Bernie, and Stuart, and Alan, and Steve, and Joel, and George all understand perfectly. I blurted out a few words of thanks and requests for help and asked if anvone would like to move for adjournment.

In the summer before my last year of school, a dear friend (then and now), who wasn't sure he wanted to get married, proposed something else: that he and I spend the summer seeing the country. We loaded a tent atop his three-speed Camaro and headed west.

Before we'd left, my



had said that if we ever had problems anywhere to look to the nearest Jewish organization for help. When we pulled into Seattle one rainy afternoon, we knew that camping would be impossible. The U. of Washington is there: we found the Hillel and knocked on its door.

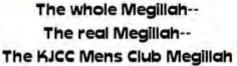
A short, very round, blackclad, bearded and unsmiling man answered the door. He was Rabbi Jacobovitz, the Hillel leader. He didn't exactly welcome us, but we did end up inside. (We never learned his first name. We were kids.) Why were we there? I told him what my grandfather had said. He snorted, and barked a guestion I've never forgotten: "what have you ever done for the Jewish people that we should help you now?" The answer, of course, for both of us, was nothing. As we turned to go, his secretary stepped forward and insisted that we come in.

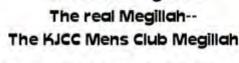
We spent four days with them. The secretary took us home and we stayed with her family. During the day we'd talk and eat at Hillel, and both of us grew to dearly love this gruff and impatient and everchallenging rabbi.

As I was driving home after the KICC installation brunch. the first thought I had was: okay, Rabbi Jacobovitz, wherever you are, this is for you. >



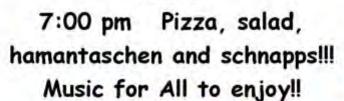






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BOOK PLATE

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Purim at KICC

This year's Purim celebration will take place on Wednesday, March 4th at 6 p.m. at KICC. Things will be slightly abbreviated this year because it's a school night. Men's Club will sponsor and provide food. (Please see the ad on page 4.) Remember, hearing the Megillah read in its entirety is a major mitzvah. Earn points at KJCC.

> The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to Dr. Harvey Schwaid and his family on the death of Susan Schwaid.

Tudor Parfitt to Speak at KJCC March 15th

This is a real coup for us. Oxford-educated Professor Tudor Parfitt (and a real-life member of England's famed Royal Geographic Society) will speak at KICC on Sunday, March 15th at 7:00. Professor Parfitt, an author and explorer who has been dubbed the modern-day "Indiana Jones," has traveled the world — South America to Africa to India to Papua New Guinea — exploring claims of lewish ancestry and connection to the lost tribes of Israel. He is the one who validated, through genetic testing, the claims of the Lemba people in South Africa. He is a fascinating and engaging speaker, and this promises to be a truly memorable night. (Please see the ad on page 18.) We'll be inviting our neighbors to join us for this presentation in our sanctuary, newly fitted for wonderful visual and sound events due to our high-end sound system and now our high-def audio-visual system with a 13-foot drop-down screen. A Q&A session and coffee will follow.

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of Karen Hayhurst

Sister of Stephen Steinbock and Rosemary Barefoot 7/6/46 - 1/27/12 Taken Too Soon

Oneg Sponsors for March 2015

March 6th - Steve Steinbock to celebrate his birthday.

March 13th - Joyce Peckman in honor of the Yahrzeit of Dorothy Ross. Heather Corrigan and Michael Eisenstein in honor of the KICC. March 20th - Joel and Toby Bofshever and David and Patti Gross to celebrate their anniversaries.

March 27th - Jane and Steve Friedman in honor of Jane's birthday. Lee Schur to celebrate her birthday.

March Birthdays

	•
lst	Sasha Dutton
3rd	Stephen Steinbock
6th	Bea Graham
	Hannah Feig
7th	Toby Goldfinger
	Pearl Jacobs
	Thomas Davis Smith
	Kate Horowitz
	Sandy Yankow
	Bryan Schur
	Heath Greenbaum
	Oceana Gross
	Carl Roy
	Ira Stein
	Jenna Lane
	Randi Grant
	Seth Horowitz
	Johanna Willner
	Allan Boruszak
	Marsha Harris
	Steven Nobil
	Daniel Friedman
	Andrew Grant
	Michelle Palacino
	Susan Sachs
	lanet Palacino
	Janet Palacillo
	Joseph Palacino
	Barbara A. Calev
	Ken Atlas
	Sylvia Berman
	Stephanie Coeurjoly
25th	Joe Gould
	Anna Verity Greenbaum
	Michelle E. Denker
	Joel Pollack
	Lee Schur
	David VanArtsdalen
	Sari Eliz. Goldstein
	Jane Friedman

	March Anniversaries	
		Years
lst	Jerry & Sheila Olsen	
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson	
7th	Joseph & Susan Sachs	
16th	Frank & Gerri Emkey	7
22nd	David & Patti Gross	18
24th	Joel & Toby Bofshever	47

Conquering Bimah Fright

Do you experience shpilkes just at the thought of getting up on the bimah to lead services? And are you ready to bolt just thinking about delivering a coherent d'var Torah?

Have no fear. Our KJCC library has a few books that will do the work for you. Located in the *Judaic Studies* section (labeled JUD), you can find:

"Turrets of Silver: An Anthology of Insights, Comments and Observations on the Torah Portions of the Week," edited by Rabbi Ben-Zion Rand and Mrs. Naomi Samber.

"Peninim on the Torah: An Anthology of Thought Provoking Ideas and Practicle Insights on the Weekly Parsha," by Rabbi A.L. Scheinbaum.

"Lilmode Ul'lamed From the Teachings of our Sages: A Compendium of Insights, Homilies, and Interpretations of the Weekly Sedra," by Rabbi Mordechai Katz.

"The Torah: A Modern Commentary," edited by W. Gunther Plaut.

There are also numerous, reliable websites summarizing and commenting on the weekly Torah portion. Some are:

myjewishlearning.com/weekly_torah_portionreformjudaism.org/learning/torah-studyaish.com/tp

And if that's not enough to settle your nerves, just google "weekly torah portion."

—Medina Roy

One More Shabbat Morning Service

Make sure to mark your calendar: on Saturday, March 21st, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., Rabbi Richard Agler will lead his last scheduled Shabbat morning service of the winter season. How appropriate that this service will happen on the first day of Spring, the vernal equinox. (Please see the article on Jewish Spring on Page 42). If you have experienced Rabbi Agler's warm, informal, Torah services before, you will enthusiastically want to come back for this one. If you have missed the opportunity to take part in his unique teaching style, you will want to come for the learning, the stimulus, the community camaraderie and as meaningful a Shabbat morning as a person could have. There will be a Kiddush afterwards. See you there.

-Gloria

Yartzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of My Wife Carol Steinbock 1/26/47 - 10/23/14 Taken Too Soon

Shabbat From Sea to Shining Sea

It is dinnertime with "Shabbat Across America and Canada" again. For the last ten years, we have joined with the National Jewish Outreach Program to expand and deepen our Shabbat experience. We will have a wonderful dinner as we observe/honor the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. Together with our own KJCC mishpocha, two Atlantic-to-Pacific countries, and a whole continent's lewish people, we are on the NIOP map. Whether you are a member or a passer-by, you are invited to come, eat and worship with us on Friday, March 13th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

If you enjoyed Shabbat Shirah at the end of January, with its extra songs and musical accompaniment, you will be happy with this Shabbat celebration as we add "zemirot," special Shabbat

songs, to our repertoire. In addition to the talented Jules Seder on keyboard, we are delighted to have Linda and Joel Pollack's son, Roy, with us on guitar. The dinner will be dairy and will cost \$18 for adult members and \$25 for non-members. Come to celebrate with us as we prepare to enjoy our Creator-ordained "Day of Rest." (Please see the ad on page 14.) Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your spot and to coordinate your potluck contribution.

—Gloria

Meditation Garden Tree Plaque

THIS CABADA PALM GRACES OUR GARDEN IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF CAROL STEINBOCK, FROM THE MANY OF US WHO LOVED HER. **DEDICATED NOVEMBER 16, 2014**

Rabbi Agler's Book Discussion

Once again we're reminding you of a special event that will take place at KJCC on Sunday, April 12th at 7 p.m. Rabbi Richard Agler will be leading a discussion of Simon Wiesenthal's "Sunflower" and the moral dilemmas it raises. The premise: Wiesenthal was a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. A dying Nazi officer asks that a Jew, any Jew, be brought to him. Why? Because he sought absolution for his crimes. This is the premise of the book: can evil, especially unspeakable evil, be forgiven?

Rabbi Agler asks that all who attend have read the book. KICC has bought six copies for our library. Sign one out and join the discussion.

Scholarship Deadline

We remind you that the deadline for KJCC scholarship applications is April 1st. All the forms and criteria are on our web site, keysjewishcenter.com. This is last call.

BOOK PLATE

In memory of Lewis Isenberg with love from Carol Laskin and Foster Davidson

After each president's term ends, KJCC presents them a plaque of appreciation, a small acknowledgement of all the time and heart and tsouris they've expended on behalf of us all. Here's the plaque that was presented to Bernie Ginsberg at the Annual Meeting:

Presented to Bernard P. Ginsberg President 2013 - 2015

For your abiding love of our children, Jewish language, culture and history, and your leadership of patience, generosity and humor...our deepest appreciation.

The Keys Jewish Community Center

BOOK PLATE

2 years gone February 8, 2013

Our beloved Jerry Oshinsky

passed away too soon and will always be remembered for his uplifting sense of humor and his beautiful smile. Sherry Zwerdling

Meditation Garden Tree Plaque

DEAR FRIEND CAROL LIVES ARE BETTER FO

OUR LIVES ARE BETTER FOR HAVING SHARED SOME OF YOURS.
STUART & LAUREN

Appreciating KJCC Library Donors

The KJCC would like to thank the following individuals for donating books to our library over the past few months: Yardena Kamely, Toby Bofshever, Beth Hayden, David Goldfinger, Steve Steinbock, Elaine Solas and Joanna Willner.

Special thanks to David Gitin for donating his recently published anthology book of poetry, "Woke Up This Morning: Selected Poems 1962-2014," which has been placed (appropriately) in the Literature section (LIT).

We send heartfelt thanks to all our donors. Our library is growing and encompassing ever-increasing facets of Jewish life, history, literature and experience. Come and see for yourself.

-Medina Roy

BOOK PLATE

In memory of **Leopold Mosheim**

with love from Carol Laskin and Foster Davidson

Leaf on the Tree of Life

In Celebration of the Life of My Dear Friend CAROL STEINBOCK

Teresa Kwalick

Leaf on the Tree of Life

SMALL TOWN HERO Richard Stein D.V.M. Petcare Animal Hospital April 11, 1986 - April 9, 2013 Monticello, New York

BOOK PLATE

In memory of Henry Rubin with love from Carol Laskin and Foster Davidson

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, 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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, 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 KICC 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, 305 -451-0665.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Dave Mont, 305-393-9883, to arrange your donation.

KICC BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 for information.

INF 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 KICC benefit. Call Linda Kaplan, 305 -396-7000.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, 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.

LIVE GREEN – RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, idevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KICC.

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.

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

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin

Zwerdling, Sherry

General Fund

Memory of

Henry Rubin, Leopold Mosheim Lewis Isenberg, Robert Davidson

Jerry Oshinsky

Honor of

Plutzer, Arthur Pauline Roller
Plutzer, Arthur Joel & Linda Pollack
Plutzer, Arthur Dr. Bernie Ginsberg

for his care of Ann last year Steiner, Martin & Marilee Thank you for your

nank you for y hospitality

Memory of

Plutzer, Arthur Al Roller
Pollack, Joel & Linda Susan Schwaid
Foley, Robert Rosie Biskar, Ron Levy,
Paul Charlap, Ruth Richardson

Meditation Garden

Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake brick - Carol Steinbock Silverman, Morton & Gene tree - Carol Steinbock

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Friedman, Steve & Jane Gelbard, Sy

Yahrzeits

Coltman, Barney Eva Levine
Doebler, Sondra Shirley Horowitz
Emkey, Gerri Nathan Weisberg, Robert Kinney
Marmar, David & Pamela Samuel Marmar
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine Nat Gulkis, Bea Gulkis,

Joan Kaminsky

Tallent, Lillian Morris Estrin Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy Morris Feinberg

Yahrzeit Plaques

Harris, Stephen & Marsha Reserved



Bring books to swap.
Bring boxes. Clear out
your book shelves.
Books: Best sellers,
novels, old books, new
books, fiction,
non-fiction. If you
read it, others will

want to also.

Old Brin ther cabi the

Questions? Contact Medina Rey hittmedee@gmail.com

Old tapes and cd's?
Bring them here and swap
them out. Clean out that
cabinet under the TV and
the DVR box.

Sunday, March 8, 2015 12:00 Noon at the KJCC

In Momoriam March 2014

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Harvey Roazen	Robert Berman	Dorothy Stanlake
By Sylvia Berman	By Sylvia Berman	By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Robert Kohlenbrener	Louis Abraham Weinstein	Hilda Dorf
By Joan Boruszak <><><><>	By Dick & Rita Bromwich <><><>>>>	By Barry & Natalie Dorf <><><>>>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Maurice Field	Harry Kaplan	Maxine Kaplan
By Carol Field	By Marsha Garrettson	By Marsha Garrettson
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Selma Elson	Lillian Melnick	Stanley Bush
By Mrs. Marty Graham <>><><>>>>	By Mrs. Marty Graham <>><><>>>>	By Andrew & Randi Grant <><><><><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Lillian Grant	Arlene R. Brenner	Lee M. Harris
By Andrew & Randi Grant <>>>>>>>>>>	By Marilyn Greenbaum	By Stephen & Marsha Harris
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
David Harvey	Anna Horn	Rubin Bressick
By Mitchell Harvey	By Susan Horn <><><>>>>	By Susan Horn
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Harry Phillips	Eleanor Sonn	Rachamim Levy
By Patricia Isenberg	By Sam & Leslie Janowitz	By Yardena Kamely <><><><>

Chai-Lights March 2015 II

⊗n Memoriam 2014

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Monroe (Monty) Kaplan	Luba Tuchman	Marian Rose Klimpl
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan	By Marshall & Myra Kaplan	By Michael Klimpl
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Samual Lieberman	Irving Line	Oscar Margulies
Samual Lieberman	irving Line	Oscar Margunes
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett	By Jonathan & Arlene Line <><><>>>>	By Stanley & Jenny Margulies
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Louis Weinstein	Dorothy Ross	Denise Moss
By Jerry & Sheila Olsen	By Joyce Peckman	By Joel & Linda Pollack
<><><><><>	<><><><><>	<><><><><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Cissie Rose Lang	Leslie Allen Sachs	Nate Schulberg
By Skip Rose	By Joseph & Susan Sachs	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg
_		
By Skip Rose	By Joseph & Susan Sachs	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg
By Skip Rose <><><><>	By Joseph & Susan Sachs	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg
By Skip Rose <><><>><> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> < > < >	By Joseph & Susan Sachs <><><>><>><> In Memory Of	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <><><><>><>
By Skip Rose <>><><>><>><>><> In Memory Of Esther Schur By Lee Schur	By Joseph & Susan Sachs <><><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <>><><>><>><> In Memory Of Ida Seder By Jules & Nettie Seder
By Skip Rose <>><><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><	By Joseph & Susan Sachs <>><><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <>><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><
By Skip Rose <>><><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><	By Joseph & Susan Sachs <>><><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <>><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><
By Skip Rose <>><><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><	By Joseph & Susan Sachs <>><><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <>><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><

By Judith Weber

By Judith Weber

By Robert Temkin <><><><>

Sisterhood Erica Lieberman-Garrett



he season is in full swing, and the shul is buzzing with activities. The month began with our Sisterhood meeting. There was good attendance and a lot of support as we discussed and planned the busy months ahead. The special food the women prepared for our meeting was lovely, and it fuels us to be even more creative and productive than ever. Lots of new members and ideas help us to continue to grow and make our little mishpocha even more special than it already is.

After being installed as Sisterhood president last month, I became part of the Board of the KICC, and was installed with all of our other new and returning members, who work tirelessly and selflessly to keep everything running smoothly. Mazel tov to our new president, Sam Vinicur, who I know will lead us over the next two years with zeal and commitment to continue the momentum and growth that we are experiencing.

As I am writing this column, I am preparing my Bubby Lieberman's Hungarian cabbage rolls, for our Jewish Food Extravaganza on February 15th, which sold out! Having these wonderful events inspires us to try new things, to channel the neshama (spirit) of our ancestors, and carry on the tradition of our culture. Many visitors as well as members will have had the opportunity to taste our delicious buffet of both Ashkenazi and Sephardic food, as well as enjoy some kibbitzing and our mini Jewish Film Festival. Our committee worked very hard to make this happen, and I thank them all for their efforts and time spent on making this a very profitable fundraiser for Sisterhood. Next year we will have our first-ever Jewish Heritage Festival, where we will celebrate our 36th anniversary (double chai) of the KICC, and we look forward to all the support and help again to make that happen.

I feel very grateful to all of those who so generously sponsored the event, whether

financially, or with their time in preparing the food, or by donating our wonderful auction items and beautiful artwork. It was such a joy to have three of our very own women artists honored, and I know that the lucky recipients of their pieces will be blessed by having them hanging on their walls in their homes for many vears to come.

Sisterhood came together to lead the Shabbat service on Friday, February 27th. It is wonderful to see new women stepping up, getting out of their comfort zone, and participating in a beautiful service. We encourage all the women to participate, and to challenge themselves with these opportunities.

We are preparing for our twelfth annual Women's Passover Seder to be held on Sunday. March 22nd, at 5 p.m. The cost is a \$30 donation for tikkun olam (repairing the world) and helping our community. Please R.S.V.P. to Hippiejap@hotmail.com. Beth Kaminstein has once again graciously opened her pottery studio for us to make our Passover pieces, and we all enjoy spending this time together bonding over our clay masterpieces!

We also look forward to our Shabbat Across America/Canada (I'm from Toronto) on Friday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. at KJCC. This will be a dairy dinner, with music, and a fun night. Please R.S.V.P. to me for this as well. Cost is a donation of \$18 for members, \$25 for nonmembers.

So as you can see, a lot is going on. Please join us at our next Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, March 1st at 9:30 a.m., as we make more plans and solidify our events. We would love your input and help in any way. Again, I want to thank everyone for their support and help in all the things we are doing. This is the "little" shul that rocks!!!" >

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SHABBAT ACROSS **AMERICA**





FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015



6:30 PM COVERED DISH ~ DAIRY 8:00 PM SERVICES



ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015, JEWS ALL ACROSS THE U.S. AND CANADA WILL COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE SHABBAT. JOIN US!

> Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com, 305-393-1162 to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

> > DONATION: MEMBERS \$18 NONMEMBERS \$25 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER @ NO CHARGE

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Outrageous!

Leading Jewish groups have sharply criticized the German government for creating a new commission to fight anti-Semitism and support Jewish life in Germany without including a single Jewish person on the commission. A spokeswoman for Germany's Interior Ministry said that the religious affiliation of the experts on the commission was not a criterion in the selection process. She added that the commission - made up of eight people, mainly academics - would listen to and invite various Jewish groups during the factfinding process. The commission is expected to submit a final report to Germany's parliament in two years. That report is supposed to be the basis for discussion on how to fight anti-Semitism. "It is an unrivaled scandal (that no one among the experts has a Jewish background)," said Julius H. Schoeps, founding director of the Moses Mendelssohn Centre for European-Jewish Studies located in Potsdam (a suburb of Berlin). Schoeps said that his organization, along with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and Amadeu Antonio Foundation (one of Germany's independent nongovernmental organizations working to eliminate neo-Nazism, right-wing extremism, and anti-Semitism) would go ahead and set up their own commission on German anti-Semitism. This is the second time the German government has created a commission to deal with the subject. Many Jewish leaders have criticized the report that was released in 2011 by the earlier commission for not bringing about any changes for lews in Germany. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-12-15)

Israel's "Smart" Shirt

Israeli entrepreneurs have developed a "smart" shirt that could save lives. The shirt monitors heart activity and sends alerts of abnormalities directly to both patients and their doctors via their mobile phones. The

shirt was created by a team of textile and medical experts at *HealthWatch*, an Israeli company. Woven into the fabric of the shirt is an electrocardiogram (ECG) that is used to determine heart rate, heart rhythm and other information regarding the heart's condition. The data is then transmitted immediately via the smartphone, saving valuable time if one needs immediate treatment. The shirts can be worn in everyday situations and are machine washable. The developers of the shirt believe the design could also be adapted to monitor a fetus for high-risk pregnant women. (www.washinatonpost.com. 1-5-15)

2015 Genesis Prize Winner: An "Unconventional" Choice

Actor Michael Douglas has been selected as the 2015 Genesis Prize winner for his "professional achievements and passion for Judaism." In partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister of the State of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel, the prize is awarded annually by the Genesis Prize Foundation, in recognition of "an accomplished and internationally renowned individual who is considered a role model in his or her community." The recipient is also expected to show a commitment to the global Jewish community, to Israel and to Jewish values. The committee awarding the prize (which includes Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel) also expects the recipient to "serve as an inspiration for the next generation of Jews worldwide." The Genesis Prize Foundation is endowed by a group of Russian billionaires. Their goal is to celebrate "the richness and diversity of lewish culture as well as develop a sense of pride among unaffiliated Jews around the world." Douglas, 70, is the winner of two Academy Awards, four Golden Globes and an Emmy. He also serves

as a United Nations Messenger for Peace. The choice of Douglas for the award is not without controversy; he is the son of a Jewish father, actor Kirk Douglas (born Issur Danielovitch) - and a non-Jewish mother. He was not raised lewish but came to embrace his lewish heritage later in life. His son Dylan celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem this past summer and father Kirk, now 98, reaffirmed his Jewish identity by having a second Bar Mitzvah when he was 83. "The Douglas family's experience of connecting with its heritage and embracing it on their own terms embodies an inclusive approach for Jews of diverse backgrounds," said Stan Polovets, cofounder and chairman of the Genesis Prize Foundation. Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City, was last year's recipient. Douglas will receive the prize in lune in Jerusalem. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 1-15-15)

It's Never Too Late...

Hilde Michnia, a 93-year-old woman living in Hamburg, Germany, is currently under investigation for her role as an SS guard during a Nazi death march where 1.400 of the 2.000 women died. She could face charges as an accessory to murder. Michnia (née Lisiewicz) was a guard at the Bergen-Belsen and Gross-Rosen concentration camps. She recently told a reporter that she worked in the kitchen of Bergen-Belsen but never saw starving or diseased prisoners. She did admit however, knowing that most of the inmates at the camp were Jews. Some 52,000 people died in Bergen-Belsen. British occupying forces put Michnia and 44 other camp guards and SS members on trial in 1945 in connection with cruelty toward prisoners. Eleven were sentenced to death and executed. Michnia received a one-year prison sentence and was released in 1946. A witness had testified that Michnia brutally beat two men because they had taken two turnips from the kitchen. In another case, prosecutors said they will try former Waffen-SS member Oskar Groening, 93, in April for the role he played at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Groening admitted that he was a guard at Auschwitz but said he did not personally commit any of the atrocities. He is suspected of counting the money left behind by murdered Jews and also removing their luggage before the arrival of the next trainload of deportees. (www.jta.org, 2-2-15)

European Jewry Shrinking

According to a Pew Research Center report released in early February, the Jewish population in Europe has declined at an alarming rate. As of 2010, it was estimated that 1.4 million Jews were still living in Europe - just ten percent of the world's 14 million Jews. The report noted that research from Jerusalem's Hebrew University shows a steady decline in European Jewry over the past seventy years.

There were 16.6 million lews world-wide in 1939. It is estimated that 57 percent of world Jewry lived in Europe. By the end of the Holocaust in 1945, the Jewish population of Europe had shrunk to 35 percent of the world's 11 million Jews. But in the seven decades since the Holocaust, European Jewry has declined further. By region, the largest drain on Jewish population was throughout Eastern Europe - with 4.7 million lews in 1939, just 859.000 in 1945, and only 70,000 in 2010. Rising anti-Semitism has seen record numbers of people making aliyah, especially from France. The report noted that anti-Semitism was not the only reason for the decline, the decrease is also linked to immigration to Israel, assimilation and intermarriage. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-9-15)

In Memoriam

 Sir Martin Gilbert, distinguished British historian. Holocaust scholar and official biographer (eight volumes) of Winston Churchill, died in early February. He was 78. Author of some 80 books. Gilbert's scholarly writing about Churchill, Jewish history, both World Wars and the Holocaust set the standards for other scholars' research. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth "for services to British history and international relations." Gilbert was a committed Zionist but was critical of Israel's current political standing and the dominance of the *Likud* party. Speaking of his Holocaust

research at Israel's Yad Vashem, Gilbert said, "I could not get through a whole day... Sometimes I had to close the books and leave." Gilbert published "The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust." In it, he described "the incredible ingenuity and courage needed to hide a Jew...at the risk of the [rescuers'] own lives." He tells of a Polish surgeon who developed a plastic surgery technique to reverse the appearance of circumcision. Placing the lives of his family in grave danger, the surgeon issued false certificates to more than 250 men, stating that the circumcisions were medically necessary. Gilbert's wife Esther is herself a Holocaust historian. At the time of his death, Gilbert was serving on Britain's inquiry panel into the Iraq war. (The Forward, 2-5-15)

 Richard von Weizsaecker, former president of Germany (1984-1994) who challenged German attitudes about the Holocaust, died at the end of January. He was 94. Von Weizsaecker caused some controversy when he stated that Germany had been liberated by the defeat of the Nazis in 1945. In a landmark speech that he delivered in May 1985 - the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II von Weizsaecker urged the German people to come to terms with responsibility for the Holocaust. "All of us - whether guilty or not, whether young or old - must accept the past. We are all affected by its consequences and liable for it. Anyone who closes his eyes to the past is blind to the present. The 8th of May was a day of liberation. It freed us all from the system of National Socialist tyranny." As West Germany's president, a largely ceremonial post, he spoke out often about the country's special responsibility after World War II. earning him the name the "conscience of Germany." He presided over the reunification of East and West Germany in 1990. 11 months after the fall of the Berlin Wall. He served in Hitler's army and was promoted several times. In 1944, he was awarded the Iron Cross. As a Wehrmacht officer, von Weizsaecker bravely acted according to his principles, refusing to instruct his troops to carry out Nazi orders he found to be inhumane. Trained as a lawyer, he defended his father at the Nuremberg trials in

1948-49. The elder von Weizsaecker served in the Nazi foreign ministry from 1938 to 1943 and was a member of the SS. Both were scions of one of Germany's most distinguished aristocratic families. (The Forward and reuters.com, 1-31-15)

Did You Know...

After 50 years with the Cleveland Jewish News, 98-year-old Violet Spevack is retiring. Her column, Cavalcade, began just six months after the newspaper's founding in 1965. The column is believed to be one of the longest continuously published columns in the United States. She has written some 2,500 columns and hundreds of other feature stories. Spevack covered local and national leaders and celebrities. In 2013, she was elected to the Press Club of Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame.

Ÿ For the second consecutive year, *Israel* Bonds sold over one billion dollars in the United States. Fifty-four percent of total sales were \$1,000 or less. This past summer, during Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza, Israel Bonds experienced a surge in sales, which nearly doubled from the total average in July and August over the previous three years. Israel Bonds president and CEO Izzy Tapoohi said "...even in times of conflict [investors] are eager to become shareholders in one of the most resilient economies in the world." (www.jpost.com, 1-5-15)

- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. released statistics for 2014. The museum had 34,000 new followers on its Facebook page; an average of 2,100 documents were provided each month in 2014 free to people inquiring about relatives' Holocaust experience: and 138 scholars applied for 27 resident fellowships available at the museum. (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. 2014 Year in Review)
- The late comedian loan Rivers received a posthumous Grammy Award on February 8th for the audio version of her 2014 memoir "Diary of a Mad Diva," her 12th book. She won the award for "Best Spoken Word Album." It was Rivers' first Grammy. She was 81 at the time of her death in September 2014. (www.jta.org, 2-9-15) \$













Keys Jewish Community Center Adult Ed Program

YOU ARE INVITED TO A FASCINATING EVENING TALK:

"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TEN LOST TRIBES"

BY F.I.U. PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TUDOR PARFITT

Sunday, March 15, 2015 - 7:00 pm at the KJCC

For three decades, F.I.U. Professor of Religious Studies, Tudor Parfitt, has been the world's leading authority on the "Lost Tribes of Israel." Periodically he disappears into isolated villages in the most remote areas of the world for his research. Much of his work consists of using DNA studies to determine if marginal tribal groups can be linked to Jewish ancestry.

In the 1990s, he worked with the Lemba tribe of southern Africa. Hearing the Lemba claim that their ancestors had carried a holy object called "The Ngoma" from the Middle East to Africa centuries ago, he heard echoes reminiscent of "the lost ark" and documented his findings in a book, "The Lost Ark of the Covenant." It earned him a nickname: the British Indiana Jones.

Come listen to this 21st century explorer, author, and fascinating speaker tell his first-hand tales.

Refreshments will be served.













Photo Gallery

On January 25th, KJCC played host to the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF), as Ken Nedimyer, CRF's founder and now acknowledged as one of the world's great innovators in developing techniques to rescue and restore vital coral reefs, spoke about his specialty to a nearly full house in the KJCC sanctuary. It was a boffo

first effort by KJCC's new Tikkun Olam Committee, headed by Linda Kaplan. It was also the first use of KJCC's new high-def audio/

visual system with its 13-foot dropdown screen, and it, too, was a huge success, giving Ken's **Powerpoint** presentation the brilliant visuals it deserved.





guests, above. In the group photos above and above right, Ken and CRF staff pose with Linda and David and Patti Gross, members of both KICC and the CRF Board, who helped make the evening possible. At right, Linda stands with the donation painting made that evening to help raise money for CRF.





At left, new KJCC member Sherry Zwerdling, right, and good friend Natalie Dorf were happy to see each other and catch up during KJCC's annual Advertisers' dinner on January 16th. Natalie had brought one of that evening's food platters, but then realized once home that she'd left

the platter at KJCC. But it wasn't there when she returned. And then Chai-Lights to the res-

cue. Richard Knowles, knowing wife Barbara had such a dish set, had loyally taken it home. A case of mistaken identity. Barbara saw the notice in Chai-Lights and returned the platter to Natalie. Bravo. —Gloria



Joyce Peckman, Gloria Avner and Yardena Kamely lead the congregation in singing Hatikvah at the January 30th service, above.



Nineteen KJCCers traveled to Coral Gables' Actors

Playhouse to see Ragtime on Sunday afternoon, February Ist. With a cast of 40, it was the largest production ever put on at the Miracle Theatre, and it was terrific. Don Juan Seward II, who played the leading role of Colehouse Walker, Jr., gave a supreme songand-dance performance, but every one of the leads was wonderful. Jules Seder gave enthusiastic thumbsup for the orchestra.

We were joined by Jenny Margulies' mother Marika Evans, and Pauline's friend Kathy Acton.

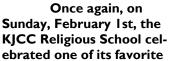
—loyce Peckman



cycle of renewal in nature by blessing all the different fruits that grow in Israel (and, of course, by eating them and drinking four cups of "wine"). We sang, we danced,

> we watered. we collected money for tree planting in Israel. Yom Huledet Sameach, Etzim!

> > - Gloria



holidays, Tu B'Shvat, the Birthday (or New Year) of the Trees. We do it each year by planting

fruit trees in our garden. This year we added a mango and a starfruit, thanks to Jane Friedman's generosity and also her

husband Steve, who nobly and laboriously dug the holes. Before class, the students planted tomatoes, peppers, and strawberries in container gardens devised (and provided) by Steve. Towards the end of class the students were joined by board members, parents, and teachers for our annual mystical Tu B'Shvat seder, celebrating the



Keys Jewish Community Center

Sunday March 22, 2015 5:00 PM @ KJCC Homemade Seder Dinner w/Wine

Come celebrate the 12th Women's Seder Donation: \$18 chai + \$12.00 for 12 years = \$30.00

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

Limited seating - Please RSVP by March 16th. Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com, (305) 393-1182







Saturday, April 4, 2015 6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact
Erica Lieberman-Garrett
hippiejap@hotmail.com, (305) 393-1162.

Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116,
Tavernier, FL 33070.

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will be opening this to the public after March 22nd. Vegetarian options are available - please request when making your reservation.



Dohawons.

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

Non-Members: \$75



The entire newly elected KJCC Board, including all officers, directors and past presidents Bernie Ginsberg, Steve Steinbock and George Swartz, pose on the KJCC bemah steps. The only person missing was Joyce Peckman, KJCC Corresponding Secretary, who was ill.

In the center photo, incoming president Sam Vinicur presents outgoing president Bernie Ginsberg with the traditional thank-you plaque. (See Nosh for the actual text.)

At right, the KJCC Religious School students, under the tutelage of morah (teacher) Yardena Kamely and KJCC musical director Jules Seder (behind the camera), serenade the new board with Hebrew songs.



At the brunch following the installation ceremony, which was organized and managed by Barbara Knowles, Education Chair Susan

> Gordon, morah Yardena Kamely, and Ritual Chair Gloria Avner join the KJCC students in chanting Kiddush. Mikhaela **Bitton and Oceana Gross** lead the HaMotzi ceremony by slicing the challah. In the photo lower left, brunch hostess Barbara Knowles presents one cake to outgoing

president Bernie Ginsberg, and another to incoming president Sam Vinicur in the photo at bottom. (There was lots of cake, in addition to lox and bagels. We fed them and they came.)



On Saturday, February 14th, Jonah Gross and his family celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at KJCC.

The top two photos were taken at Thursday's rehearsal with Rabbi Agler and still-prez Bernie helping with final prep.





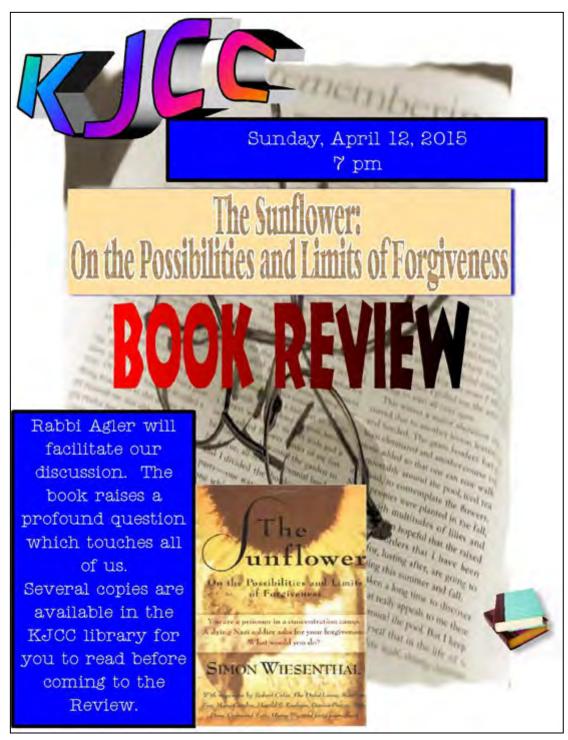
∥ ost B'nei Mitzvot start working on their maftir and haftorah portions six months in advance. Jonah's family decided three months ago to have their Bar Mitzvah with us, in their new synagogue, instead of back in California. The task could have been daunting, but Jonah practiced hard and did his gansa mishpocha proud.

From his first











prepared and chanted verses for each aliyah. All took their responsibility seriously. Particularly moving was Jonah's grandfather chanting for the second aliyah; then there was the soaring and beautiful chanting by college student, cousin and opera singer Einav, before Jonah's maftir.

> Rabbi Agler's graceful leadership of the service enhanced the significance of this rite of passage.

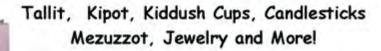
The celebration afterward was a joyful one, and there is a rumor (backed with photographic evidence) that Jonah was visited by a large flying fish in the sanctuary on





the night of his party. After a havdalah service ended the sacred Sabbath on Saturday evening, Ionah honored his teachers and first (as he said) adult friends at KICC, Dr. Bernard Ginsberg and me, by dedicating the first





For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585



candle to us in a sweet and creative candlelighting ceremony. We expect to see more of this talented young man (and, as a terrific trumpet player, a potential eventual replacement for Bernie as KJCC shofar blower) at future services. -Gloria Avner

Representing the KJCC Sisterhood, Vice President (and education chair) Susan Gordon presents a relieved Jonah with the traditional Kiddush cup. He'd just gotten through both haftarah and maftir flawlessly. Doing the honors on behalf of the entire synagogue, past-president Bernie Ginsberg, who had

tutored and mentored Jonah, offers warm greetings to KICC's newest adult member.





At top, the final moment of quiet reverence at every KJCC service, when we say our final Kaddish in memory of the village of Susice in Czech Bohemia, a village destroyed by the Nazis and the original home of our cherished KJCC Holocaust Torah. Then it was time for celebration, as Jonah's family

> lifted him on a chair. Below, a couple of family photos.







On Sunday, February 15th, a sanctuary filled with eager Jewish food fans watched a humorous mini-film-festival on the subject of Jewish taste treats (and acquired tastes), as an appetizer before the full menu of food was served at KJCC's Jewish Food Extravaganza. Chaired by Sisterhood President Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Vice-President Susan Gordon, the event was well-attended, attractive, delicious, and made excellent use of our new audiovisual system. Some lucky people won elegant gift baskets (Mazel Toy to those who get breakfast at Bitton's Bistro and to all the other winners of services and products.) Thanks also to the generous members who donated to the baskets, who cooked the tasty traditional foods, the angels who underwrote expenses, and to all who attended.

-Gloria





The basic structure of our beautiful KICC Meditation Garden is now complete. Elegant brick walkways now wend around and through every segment of the Garden, opening it up for endless casual strolling as well as quiet contemplation. Come and see.



Coral Restoration a Route to Tikkun Olam

World-renowned coral repairer Ken Nedimyer spoke in late January to an enthusiastic, near-full house at KJCC. The KJCC Tikkun Olam Committee has beaun its work. Here's a report.

bv Linda Kaplan

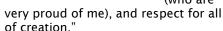
While Jewish activism has created many positive changes in other arenas, the only official Jewish organization in the U.S. that has a marine environment focus is the Tikkun

HaYam (Repair the Seas) program of Rabbi Ed Rosenthal from the Tampa-based Hillel. Rabbi Ed and his Scubi-Jews students frequently stay in our KICC classroom when they come to the Keys to volunteer to replant coral. His work not only contributes to coral restoration, but has provided an avenue to connect his college students with their Jewish Heritage. One of his stu-

dents, David Steren, wrote an article for Reformludaism.org. In this article he talks about how doing a night dive and experiencing the beauty of what surrounded him made him realize that "there is most certainly something greater than myself." David wrote: "by get ting involved with Scubi-lew I

came to understand that Judaism is more than prayers, laws and restrictions; and that other aspects of Judaism could resonate very strongly within me... Scubi Jew has shown me

another dimension of beina Jewish that has kept me from rejecting it all. I have come to love the concepts of tikkun olam. honor of one's parents (who are



Rabbi Ed also lit a spark here

The above photo shows Patti Gross, member of both KJCC and the CRF Board, transporting farmed elkhorn coral to a transplantion site off Islamorada. The photo at left shows a healthy new planting of coral after about a year. Both photos courtesy of David Gross.



when he pointed out that we at the KJCC are uniquely suited to be the first U.S. Jewish congregation to take action and contribute to



positive change in repairing the seas. This idea, in part, led the new KJCC *Tikkun Olam* committee to reach out to the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) and together organize a community event in the context of our Sunday night education series. We were honored that Ken Nedimyer, CRF's founder and now literally in demand world-wide, was able to join us on January 25th to help spread the word about CRF's work and offer a wonderful message of hope that the reefs can be saved and restored. Over seventy people filled the sanctuary. Many were guests here at KJCC for the first time,

At top, Coral Restoration Foundation volunteers arrange the positions of new coral they'll shortly be planting in a barren area that was once rich with coral. At right, CRF volunteers hang coral sprigs onto a coral "tree." In a year or so, volunteers will once again visit this "tree" to harvest its healthy coral for planting. Photos courtesy of CRF.

and remarked at how welcome we made them feel.

Ken showed stunning slides - it was par-

ticularly riveting to see them on our brand new drop-down screen and high-def projector system - of the local reefs with abundant elkhorn and staghorn coral in the early 70s. He then showed slides of the exact same locations today. with dead reefs having no coral. The evening was quite an education. Ken discussed the many stressors causing the dramatic decline. Extreme cold in 1977 and 2010 killed much of the coral, and heat in 2014 caused coral bleaching and the death of more. Other stressors include the high level of coastal development and such as white pox disease, caused by human sewage. Those who value the reefs can know that paying for the sewer system at your

home or business, though admittedly painful, is the reason that at least this one significant stressor has been largely eliminated.

Another significant cause of coral loss was the die-off of the Diadema (sea urchins) in 1986, which is believed to have been caused by bacteria that came through the Panama Canal via contaminated water in a ship's ballast: the ballast should have been cleaned



during passage through the canal, but apparently was not. Once the water-borne bacteria spread through the current it killed approximately 98 percent of all black spiny sea urchins within six weeks. Overfishing of parrotfish, tangs and other types of cleaner fish also contributed to coral loss. Why are sufficient numbers of cleaner fish important? They eat algae, which keeps the reef clean, which allows coral spawns to settle and grow into coral.

After all the bad news concerning the myr-

iad stressors killing coral. Ken showed a slide which said "Is There Hope?" The good news is that the work of the Coral Restoration Foundation provides a great deal of hope. Ken described how CRF. after years of trial-and-error studies on what techniques actually work, takes small broken fragments of coral, does genetic testing on them and grows them in their five nurseries in the keys. When the corals are approximately two inches long, they are then hung on PVC trees. CRF discovered that the corals grow significantly faster when they are hung on the trees, which lets the ocean

flow through them. After a year the coral on the trees is then "out-planted" to the reefs.

Genetic testing on the coral lets CRF identify the corals that are heat- or cold-resistant as well as those that better handle more acidification. (The oceans are becoming more acidified.) The coral nurseries developed in the Keys have been so successful that the CRF has been asked to assist in the development of coral nurseries in other countries: nurseries have already been developed in Bonaire and Columbia. CRF is also scheduled to help create coral nurseries in Jamaica. Mustigue, Roatan and Curacao. Like statistics showing growth and success? In 2003, at its beginning, when it was just beginning to develop and refine coral re-planting techniques and understand the coral eco-system, CRF

planted six corals. In 2009 it planted 252 corals. In 2011 it planted, for the first time, over 1,000 corals. In 2014, CRF planted over 15.000 corals. In a wonderful development. corals in the nurseries and on the reef have been observed spawning, which further increases their impact.

So where does KICC fit in to all of this? Tikkun Olam, remember, means to "repair the world." We don't live near mountains, so others will have to help repair that aspect of our earth. We live as neighbors with the sea.

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Like all non-profits that do vital work, CRF relies on volunteers to help, especially the slow, underwater work of re-planting corals piece by piece. KJCC's Tikkun Olam committee is working to organize a dive group for Coral Restoration dives. (CRF depends on private contributions for 80 percent of its funds. So there will always be that component of helping.) We members participate in volunteer activities, and we are working to integrate a Repair the Seas component into our religious school

curriculum. Other goals of our committee include finding ways to assist our students with their own volunteer reef-restoration activities and to encourage other religious organizations and community groups to join with us in our support of coral restoration. It might be, as Jews, our special mandate to "repair the world," but the work is important for everyone. >

hope to have our non-diving

Our sincere appreciation to Patti Gross for her help with this article. Patti and husband David Gross are KJCC members and also long -time supporters, coral-planters and now board members of the Coral Restoration Foundation.

PURIM UNMASKED: Behind And Beneath The Story Of Purim

Purim begins on March 4th. We know that the Book of Esther was the only one of the Hebrew scriptures not found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Perhaps it hadn't been written vet. Or maybe the dutiful ascetics who lived in desolate Qumram just couldn't quite figure out what to make of this unusual story. It has puzzled millennia of scholars and spiritual seekers as well. We present here some of the complex and fascinating aspects of this very different lewish holiday.

by Gloria Avner

ake out the costumes, the crowns, the beards and the bottles. It's Purim time. We all know the surface of the story. Let's look beneath the mask for more. It is, after all, a Jewish holiday and the only one that will be honored, as the Talmud tells us, in the world to come.

There is something about masks that excite imagination. World cultures have used them spiritually and educationally since the time of ancient Greece. From Native America to deepest Africa to the far reaches of Asia, people have used masks to tell their stories. We tell these stories to ourselves - tales of divinity and heroes, tricksters and fools. Masks make us not ourselves. And yet, in the process of concealing, sometimes something hidden is revealed.

That certainly happens at Purim. Our children dress up. They take on the characters of Esther and Haman, Mordechai, and King Ahashverosh. They get to feel what it is like to be admired or despised, to wield absolute power or to dispense wisdom. I have seen children cry when booed. Identification is powerful.

The themes of hiding and exposure permeate not just the story, but also the very title "Megillat Esther." Each word has two meanings. "Megillah," besides referring to a document rolled up as a scroll, means "to

expose." "Esther," in addition to being a wom an's name, means "concealment." The whole document's meaning can then be seen as "revelation of that which is hidden."

Take the basic story. The plot is filled with co-incidences, mistaken identity, and happenstance, each of which leads to the unimaginable end.

To recap: Seventy years have transpired since the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. The Jews are in exile in Persia, under the hand of King Ahashverosh, the ruler of almost all of the Middle East. The king throws a large banguet for all his subjects (actually, in honor of the captivity of the Jews). He summons his beautiful wife, Queen Vashti, to appear before him. She rudely refuses and he subsequently has her killed. After that, an empire-wide search is made of the most beautiful woman in the realm to become the king's new wife. Esther, a lewish exile, "wins" and is taken to the palace, though no one knows that she's Jewish. If the degradation of a Jewish girl forcibly taken to the palace of a ruling despot is not enough, her quardian, Mordechai, one of the leaders of that generation, abandons his place among the sages to sit day and night in front of the king's gate in his concern over Esther. The king's vizier, the wicked Haman, is promoted to prime minister. A personal vendetta against Mordechai develops, and he decides to visit his anger upon the entire Jewish people. A death sentence is issued against all the Jews in the king's provinces, and Haman builds a special gallows upon which to hang Mordechai. Things go from bad to worse. However, on one fateful night, the king awakes from his sleep and learns that Mordechai had once saved his life. He grants him royal honors. Haman is killed. The decree is rescinded. And the Jews high-handedly defeat their enemies.

Everything in this story is a paradox. Each

event that seemed bad for the lews proved to be for their good. The royal banquet in celebration of Israel's exile provided the very means for Esther to enter the king's palace. The fact that Esther was abducted allowed her to bring about Haman's demise. The fact that Mordechai sat idly by the palace gate allowed him to overhear a conspiracv and save the king's life. Haman's rise to power was the very thing that produced his conflict with the Jews and brought about his

downfall. He was even hung on the very gallows he built for Mordechai, and all his wealth, which had made him so influential in the first place, was given to Esther. The very day appointed for the annihilation of the Jews was the day of their greatest victory over their enemies. It is the day on which we celebrate Purim.

Above all, we see that everything that seemed to obscure God's presence, everything of ill-fate, and the worst of human intentions, was actually the very means by which God was manipulating history to bring about the redemption of the Jews. Everything began to change on "that night the king awoke from his sleep" (Esther 6:1). The king, says the Talmud, actually alludes to God, the King of kings. On that night, God awoke from the sleep of concealment, and began to reveal His presence in the world below.

Many scholars have remarked on the total absence of God's name from this Megillah, alone of all books in the Bible. God makes no showy miracles here: no parting of the seas, no manna on the ground. Unlike all previous persecutions, exile from Persia was not even an option. At other times in history, those in power did not want to kill us. It was much more profitable to leave us be or to convert us. It was only in the times of Purim and Nazi Germany that Amalek held sway with hatred so total that only annihilation of the lews

would do.

Everything in this

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for Mordechai.

Those who focus on hidden meanings say that the hand of God is evident everywhere in this Megillah, even though the name is not. For every crisis encountered, they say, God already had a solution in place.

Purim teaches us how to relate to God in a time when seas don't split, when bushes don't burn, when plagues don't befall our enemies, when the workings of God are concealed beneath the surface appearance of things, even when those things sometimes seem disastrous.

In Purim, we celebrate miraculous reversals of fortune. From assured mass destruction, the tables were turned, and in the space of twenty-four hours the Jews, who had been deported by victorious Babylon to that area only a few generations before, were suddenly routing every anti-Semite in Persia, the conqueror of Babylon and then the world's most vast and powerful empire.

Ever since that day, Jews celebrate Purim's message: no matter how bleak, how dark and how hopeless a situation can appear, the Almighty has guaranteed our survival and an answer has already been prepared for every difficulty.

Our mode of celebration is one of the most uncharacteristic in the annals of Jewish tradition: the sober, intellectual People of the Book turn to the bottle and are commanded to get drunk! Perhaps we are supposed to

attain a state of mind other than the normal, a consciousness more attuned to the illogic of the day. And in our intoxicated state of joy, we clothe ourselves in colorful masks and costumes, deliver gifts of money to the poor, and give treats to our neighbors.

The costumes and masks are vivid reminders that, as in the Purim story, things in our own day are not always what they seem. Below the visible surface, a mysterious, hidden plan is unfolding every moment, silently steering world history and our fates as well. If we are alert, aware, and appreciative of all that comes to us, we can play our parts well. None of us ever knows how the story will end. That knowledge is reserved for a higher power. \diamond

Blotting out Haman

by Gloria Avner & Joyce Peckman

A aimonides, the great 12th century sage and rabbi, teaches, "The reading of the Megillah certainly supersedes all other mitzvot." We don't just read it; we interact with it! Whenever Haman's name is read out, which occurs 54 times, the congregation makes noise to blot out his name. Although Megillat Esther has been read for almost 2000 years (and is, interestingly, the only book of the Hebrew canon not included in the Dead Sea Scrolls), the noisemaking can be traced back

to the Tosafists (the leading French and German rabbis of the 13th century). They based it on a passage in the Midrash, where the verse "Thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek" (Deuteronomy 25:19) is explained to mean "even from wood and stones." Haman, the enemy of the Jews in this story, is associated with all those who have tried to destroy the Jewish

Jews sublimated the rage against enemies past and present into the mitzvah of blotting out the name of Haman, and developed their own customs.

people throughout history.

Sublimating the rage against enemies past and present into the *mitzvah* of blotting out the name of Haman. Iews around the world developed their own customs. A custom developed of writing the name of Haman, believed to be the offspring of Amalek, on two smooth stones, and knocking them together until the name was blotted out. Some wrote the name of Haman on the soles of their shoes, and at the mention of the name stamped with their feet as a sign of contempt. (Amalek, you will remember, was the first nation to wage war on the Israelites as they trudged out of Egypt, and upon whom war was waged by both Saul and David, but though the instructions from on High were to eliminate them altogether, those instruction were never fully carried out.)

In France, children used to take smooth stones, write or engrave Haman's name on them, and strike them together during the Megillah reading whenever Haman's name was mentioned, in order to literally erase it. In Afghanistan, the children drew pictures of Haman on planks or cardboard. During the Megillah reading, the planks were thrown to the ground and trampled on, making a lot of noise. Wooden sandals were held in the hands and clapped together, also making a loud noise. The synagogue carpets were taken up and the congregants trampled underneath them, in case Haman was hiding there. In Germany on Purim eve, torches containing gunpowder would be ignited. During the Megillah reading, the gunpowder exploded with

a deafening noise. A *grager* is the noisemaker we use to drown out the name of Haman during our KJCC reading of the Megillah. It is derived from the Polish word meaning "rattle." Beginning in the 13th century, Jews throughout Europe sounded the *grager* as a part of their Purim celebrations. It is *ra'ashan* in Hebrew, from the word *ra'ash*, or noise

Other communities continued the blotting out of Haman

and celebration of victory outside of the synagogues. In some towns in Italy, the youngsters would divide into two camps and throw nuts at each other. The adults rode through the streets of the town on horseback, holding cypress branches in their hands. They also placed an effigy of Haman in a prominent place, and encircled it, to the sound of trumpets. In Egypt, young men rode through the Jewish neighborhoods on horsebacks, camels and donkeys, in memory of the verse "and they brought him on horseback through the street of the city."

In Germany, instead of hamentashen, Jews would make doll-shaped cakes called haman, and gleefully break off the heads before devouring them. In one town in Germany, on the eve of Purim, two candles would be lit in the synagogue. One was called "Haman" and the other "Zeresh" (Haman's wife). The candles were allowed to burn down completely. "Thus should the haters of Israel be burnt."

In Persia, the children prepared a large effigy of Haman, and filled its clothes with gunpowder. In the middle of the courtvard. they set up a large stick, from which they "hung" Haman. They then threw oil over the effigy and set it aflame.

North African Jews also took the concept of burning haters seriously. In Algeria, children lit large numbers of wax candles to light up the home for the Purim meal. In Libya, an open fire was built, and youngsters threw an effigy of Haman into the fire. Then they

In Germany, instead of hamentaschen, lews would make dollshaped cakes called haman, and gleefully break off the heads before devouring them.

jumped over the fire, competing to see who could iump the highest. In Tunisia, the schoolchildren participated in burning an effigy of Haman. The vounger children made small

"Hamans" out of paper. and the older children made a large "Haman" out of rags, old clothes and straw. All the townspeople gathered by the school. A large bonfire was prepared and everyone stood round it. By turn. the children

Modern Israelis celebrate by taking to the streets for parades, musical performances and general carousing. In Tel Aviv the children run around bopping each other with soft but noisy plastic hammers.

threw the "Hamans" they had made into the fire. After all of the "Hamans" had been thrown on the fire, salt and sulfur were added. Then the participants stood round the fire, hitting the burning Hamans with special sticks that they had prepared in honor of Purim and shouting "Long live Mordechai, cursed be Haman, blessed be Esther, cursed be Zeresh."

Modern Israelis celebrate by taking to the streets for parades, musical performances and general carousing. In Tel Aviv the streets are full of music and noise, as children run around bopping each other with soft but noisy plastic hammers. The partying is known as ad lo yada - meaning "until he didn't know." The idea is that adults are supposed to get so drunk that they can't distinguish between "blessed be Mordechai" and "cursed be Haman." In many communities, religious and secular, they take this commandment seriously.

Men's Club will host our partying at KJCC this year. We might not go on ad lo yada, but there will be pizza, salad, hamentashen, soda and schnapps. Our children will sing, we intend to have lots of fun, and we will of course read the entire Megillah as we're instructed. See you at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th. Bring your noisemakers and costumes (be creative, have fun. it's Purim) and desires to bless Mordechai and curse Haman, but please leave the gunpowder at home. &

Saving Spring for Passover and How Jews Leap to Keep it

by Gloria Avner

Everyone knows that Spring begins on the vernal equinox, March 21st. Yet it wasn't always so, at least for lews, and in some ways it still isn't exactly so.

In Temple days, the Sanhedrin was responsible for declaring the beginning of springtime, and weather-wise the moment was unpredictable. Our ancestors were very clever. They knew the lunar calendar was important. And they knew our holy days were tied to the energy of the seasons of the year. We come from a people intimately connected to the

A time could have

come when

Chanukah could

appear in spring-

time and

Passover in the

autumn: that

couldn't be al-

lowed to happen.

land and agriculture. We pay attention to the phases of the moon and look for first stars each week before beginning a havdalah service that says goodbye to Shabbat.

The Sanhedrin always weighed a number of elements before officially declaring that Spring had appeared. They even took into account road conditions; Spring always followed the rainy season in Judea/Palestine, and our governing body didn't want impassable roads to make it difficult for pilgrims to fulfill their mitzvot

and bring their "first fruits" to the Temple. But the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. and the temporary disappearance of the Sanhedrin changed everything. With a strictly lunar calendar in place (without adjustments to account for the length of the solar year) and no Sanhedrin around to make adjustments on the fly, a time conceivably could have come when Chanukah could appear in springtime and Passover in the autumn. That couldn't be allowed to happen. Spring could not be just a date on a calendar; there had to be real-life evidence of spring-like conditions: Trees needed to be blossoming; it needed to be bright and green, and warmer; the season

al change had to be felt both in the heart and bones. The energy of Passover - of our freedom, liberation and growth - is inextricably tied to the energy of spring, just as Shavuot and Sukkot, our agricultural holidays, are aligned with the energy of the season in which they appear.

We owe our thanks to Hillel and his rabbinical court, who lived in Herod's Judea in the generation before the Common Era. Hillel foresaw the coming disbanding of the Sanhedrin, and with his court devised the perpetual calendar we use today. Seven times in every nineteen-year cycle, approximately every three years, we add a 30-day leap month to our calendar - a second Adar - so that Nisan (the first month of the year as declared in

> Exodus) can be delayed just long enough to assure that Passover will forever be aligned with the energy of Springtime, always coming after the equinox and always on a full moon.

family at your seder table this vear, think of that full moon rising out of the ocean, feel the new growth energy tied to this time of year, and say thank you to Rabbi Hillel for assuring that we use the best of both worlds, the lunar and solar, the sacred and secular. to keep our holy days intact and powerful.

As you sit among friends and

This year we have a perfect place for you to celebrate the vernal equinox of Saturday. March 21st. Come at 10 a.m. to KICC and spend part of the first day of spring in community at KJCC, taking part in Shabbat morning services and learning through Torah study with Rabbi Agler. We don't know exactly what he will be talking about, but we do know it will be engaging, stimulating, educational, and totally in keeping with the energy of new growth. Actually, new growth happens at every one of Rabbi Agler's services, but on this day we'll all be particularly attuned to our ancient connections to the seasons and the land. 6

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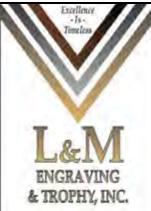
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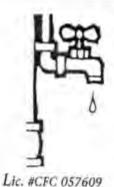


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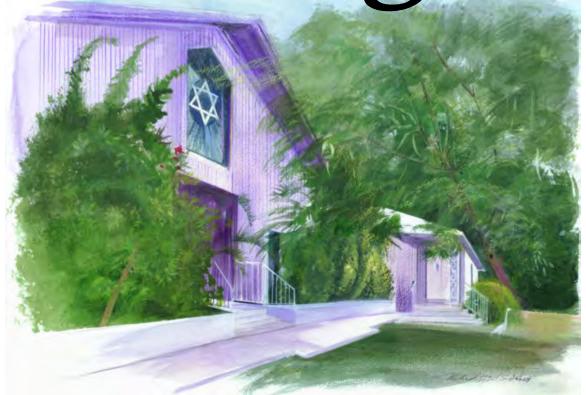
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April 2015

12 Nisan - 11 Iyar 5775

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Pesach - page 35

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April 2015

12 Nisan - 11 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	Search for Chometz (evening)	3 Erev Pesach 6:30 Service Beth Hayden First seder in the evening	4 First Day of Passover KJCC Family Seder
5 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10 Yizkor Service Bernie Ginsberg Jules and Nettie Seder	11 Eighth Day of Passover Rabbi Agler Service 10:00 a.m.
Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. "Sunflower" Discussion 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16 Yom Hashoah	Holocaust Committee Barbara & Richard Knowles Joel & Toby Bofshever Susan Ellner	18
19 "Treblinka's Last Witness" movie 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22	23 Yom HaAtzma'ut	24 Jonah, Randy and Oceana Gross 6:30 Service Gene & Mort Silverman	25
26 Theater outing for Spinoza play 2 p.m.	27	28	29	30		

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

President's Message Sam Vinicur

irtually since I learned to read (my sister taught me when I was four). I have been sent into near paroxysms of joy by the power and nuance of words. (Yes, it's true: I reek of geek. I am an admitted and constantly relapsing word nerd.)

I've recently been studying a fascinating book by Rabbi Agler's friend Rabbi Stephen Wylen, titled "The Jews in the Time of Jesus." It wonderfully and gently guides us through the most tumultuous period in the religious beliefs (not day-to-day life, but arguably that, too) of Jews - the last decades of the Second Temple period and the first two or three centuries of the Common Era, after the Temple was destroyed and Rabbinic Judaism began. During that period there were many sects, whose adherents, we have discovered, were writing furiously. A lot of that literature has survived. It is catnip for scholars.

A popular style of the period, whose literature is occasionally represented in the Hebrew Bible (the Book of Daniel, late minor prophets). but mostly the Christian, is called Apocalyptic. That is what excited the word geek in me. To us, "apocalyptic" in common usage means an imminent, violent end to things, chaos leading to total destruction. Yet the word meant something else to the authors writing in that style; it origin-



nally meant "to uncover," or to "peek behind the curtain." So the "Apocalyptic" literary style, at least by the period's Jewish writers, wasn't intended to offer a scary foretaste of doom. It was meant to show a glimpse into heaven, to console the faithful living in a despairing time that God truly was there.

My idea here (yes, there really was one), was to give you a different kind of glimpse, of what goes on behind the curtains at a KJCC Board meeting, where your fellow members sit to decide KICC policy. We all hear that other shuls' Board sessions are virtually armed combat: People scream, people stomp off, feelings are hurt, angry cabals are formed.

That doesn't happen at KICC Board meetings. We seldom agree on everything (which would be both boring and unproductive), but we're always civil to one another in our deliberations. We conduct a lot of business for a small shul, and make a lot of decisions. Sometimes discussions go on for a while. (Sorry, Skip.) But all of us care, there are no secret agendas, and we do our collective best to always protect the interests of the full membership.

I thought you might like to know this. You are a member of a truly special place. >



Saturday, April 4, 2015 6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

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Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will be opening this to the public after March 22nd. Vegetarian options are available - please request when making your reservation.



Donations:

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

Non-Members: Adults \$75; Children 12 and under \$25

Nosh

The Beautiful Visitor in our Sanctuary

We now have a baby grand piano gracing the front left corner of the sanctuary, near the bemah. It belongs to the Florida Keys Concert Association, but has been relinquished to our care for the ten-plus months they do not need it. However, since we are its caretakers, it is not for general use. Joyce, as FLKCA Vice President and Sam, as President of KICC, have guardianship. As of now, only Jules Seder, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Beth Hayden and Dave Feder have permission to use it. It has already enriched our services, and we hope to put the piano to good use in the coming months.

Rabbi Agler Discusses "Sunflower"

On Sunday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m. Rabbi Richard Agler will be leading a discussion of Simon Wiesenthal's "Sunflower." The premise of the book is the dilemma of forgiveness in the face of unfathomable evil, something Wiesenthal faced as a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. Rabbi Agler asks that all who attend have read the book. KICC has purchased six copies for its library. If you haven't already, now is the time to get reading. Sign out a copy and plan to join in the discussion.

News from the Garden

Our great thanks to Roger and Danna Levy, who have gifted KJCC with the new pergola Steve Steinbock is erecting right now in our Meditation Garden. At their request, we will be adding a plaque dedicating the new structure to both sets of their parents.

The open-lattice pergola, conceived by Steve to be a display of all types of orchids, should be completed in May. It will add another wonderful dimension to our burgeoning KICC Garden. (Steve, by the way, is the newly elected president of the Florida Keys Orchid Society.) Special thanks to Greg LeNoir, master carpenter and cabinet maker (and Chai-Lights advertiser), who

donated his time and expertise, all in memory of Carol, to make certain that the foundation of the pergola is level and strong. Yes, there will be opportunities to donate orchids, or to contribute toward those that will soon grace the new Levy-Miller pergola. Please see the ad on page 8.

Come and Sit in Comfort

By the time you read this, we will have replaced the old folding chairs in our Ruth Richardson Social Hall with new padded and supportive banquet chairs. Why? Because no one was really comfortable in the old chairs, and we want every aspect of your experience at KICC to be as appealing as possible. Stimulating services? Check. Terrific programs? Check. Yummy food? Check. Great company and conversation? Double check. And now comfortable, quality chairs to sit on while you dine and schmooze. Who loves ya?

Department of Corrections

In the captions for Tu B'Shvat photos in the March issue, the holes for the new fruit trees were said to have been dug by Steve Steinbock. They were in fact dug by another one of our hardworking horticultural Steves, Steve Friedman.

For Those Who Ask What They Can Do...

Most of the plants in our Meditation Garden are native. They require little maintenance. (Water, sunlight, love.) But the grounds aren't maintenancefree. Steve is asking for bags of red mulch. Contact Steve (394-0143) or just leave them at the Garden.

Oneg Sponsors for April 2015

April 3rd - Passover, no oneg this week. April 10th - Jules and Nettie Seder in honor of their anniversary.

April 17th - Barbara and Richard Knowles to celebrate Richard's and Eve's birthdays. Joel and Toby Bofshever to commemorate Toby's birthday, and Susan Ellner to celebrate her birthday.

April 24th - Gene and Mort Silverman to celebrate their anniversary.

April Birthdays

	, .
	Bennet Beinfest
3rd	Justin L. Lebofsky
	Harvey Kay
	Larry Weber
4th	Lauren Lane
4th	Thomas Brodie
9th	Gene Silverman
	David Feder
10th	Addison Greene-Barnett
	Abigail Everson
12th	Richard Knowles
	Samantha Lebofsky
13th	Shawn Borisoff
13th	Eve Knowles
15th	Toby Bofshever
l 6th	Dave VanArtsdalen
	Katie Greenman
17th	Susan Ellner
	Jennifer Garrett
18th	Lauren Sax
	Jonathan Nobil
22nd	Susan Temkin
	Robin S. Denker
24th	Tiffany McNew
	Lynn Nobil
	Susan Gordon
	Shirley Stein
26th	Baryann Boruszak
27th	Elinor Grossman
	Joni Sages Dandrea
	David Goldfinger
29th	Linda Pollack
30th	Jason Sherman
30th	Rachel Barrett

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April Anniversaries

	Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder49
18th	Rick & Roberta McNew34
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder19
30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz8
30th	Morton & Gene Silverman60

To see, to hear and to remember

On Sunday, April 19th, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, KICC will hold a free screening of the film "Treblinka's Last Witness." This remarkable story, a documentary film shown on Miami's WLRN last October, tells the story of how Samuel Willenberg, a Polish Jew, became a forced laborer at Treblinka, while his two sisters were among 900,000 Jews sent to their deaths there. He later escaped during a camp revolt, one of barely 100 lews to survive the Nazis' most efficient death camp. He made it his life's mission to tell of the horrors he witnessed there. Unlike other Nazi concentration camps such as Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald, where efforts have been made to educate visitors, the Treblinka site has been left largely untouched after the Nazis demolished it near the end of the war in a desperate effort to cover up their deeds.

—Joyce

Two More Dates with Rabbi Agler

Ritual Committee is happy to announce two more opportunities for Shabbat morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Agler. The teaching style is informal and each service memorable. Save the dates: April 11th and May 9th. These will be the last two Shabbat morning study sessions with Rabbi Agler until after the Jewish New Year (about six months from now). They are too good, too engaging, stimulating, uplifting and informative to be missed. Come participate and be enriched. Each service begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends around noon, followed by light kiddush refreshment. —Gloria

A Play About Spinoza's Excommunication Trial

We have secured a block of fourteen seats for the Sunday, April 26th 2 p.m. matinee of this riveting play about a lew from Amsterdam who became an important

figure in the dawning of the modern age. The New York Times called it "an engrossing primer on Spinoza's radical thinking, presented in the classic style of a courtroom drama."

NYTheatre.Com wrote that New Jerusalem is "A richly intellectual work of theatre that will stimulate all sorts of curiosities about the most fundamental questions facing humanity.

What nobler purpose for the stage exists?"

The group price is \$40, rather than the list price of \$52.

This is not a fund-raising event, but rather an extension of our Adult Education program, and an opportunity to stretch our minds and enjoy the company of friends. Contact Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665 to reserve your spot or arrange for carpooling.



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 KICC, call Gene Silverman, 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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KICC 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, 305-451-0665.

KICC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Dave Mont, 305-393-9883, to arrange your donation.

KJCC BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 for information.

INF 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 KICC benefit. Call Linda Pollack 305-852-8575.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, 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.

LIVE GREEN - RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, idevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KICC.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KICC, 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.



In Momoriam April 2015

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Clara Bloom	Nat Feldblum	Jean Blumenfeld	
By Marc & Ellen Bloom	By Marc & Ellen Bloom	By Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Audrey Pearlman	Baruch Epstein	Joseph T. Cline	
By William & Donna Bolton	By Joan Boruszak <><><>>>>	By Meredith A. Cline <><><>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Ellen Coltman	Mark Hitzig	Frances Wolfe	
By Barnet O. Coltman	By Wes & Rita Conklin	By Michael & Suzanne Gilson	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Bill Gordon	Marty Graham	Sylvia Grossman	
By Susan Gordon <><><><>>	By Mrs. Marty Graham <><><><>	By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Stella Hartz	Michael Janowitz	Gertrude F. Kaplan	
By Steven & Jan Hartz	By Sam & Leslie Janowitz	By Marshall & Myra Kaplan	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Nathan Klein	Fred Klimpl	Marilyn Janet Barr	
By Harvey & Judith Klein	By Michael Klimpl	By Michael Klimpl	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
George Nobil	Erwin Moss	Benjamin A. Savage	
By Lynn Nobil	By Joel & Linda Pollack	By Marjorie Present <>>>>>>>>>	

In Momoriam April 2015

In Memory Of

Rabbi Milton Greenwald

By Paul & Susan Roberts

In Memory Of

Dolores Feldman

By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket

In Memory Of

Ginger Lewis

By Robert Silk <>><><>>>>

In Memory Of

Ida Tallent

By Lillian Tallent <><><>>>>

In Memory Of

Irwin Cutler

By Donald Zinner <><><><>

In Memory Of

Sam Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax <>>>>>>>>>>

In Memory Of

Sally Shabathai

By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

In Memory Of

Louise Folks Baker

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

In Memory Of

Richard Schulberg

By Alan & Elaine Schulberg

In Memory Of

Louis S. Smith

By Steven & Barbara Smith

In Memory Of

Charles Kram

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

In Memory Of

David Wernicoff

By Donald Zinner <><><>>>>

In Memory Of

Cantor Alex Chapin

By Steven & Barbara Smith <>><>><>>

In Memory Of

Hilda Mazur

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

Mishebeyrach List

For those of you who might not make it to services regularly, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. Our printed list is read, and then the leader asks if anyone in the congregation has names to add.

If you can't be at services, and would like someone you care about to be included in the mishebeyrach prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KICC number is 305-852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com. Or send your request to Joyce Peckman at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Erica Lieberman-Garrett



he season continues with a full calendar of activities at the KICC Sisterhood. We ended February with the Sisterhood Shabbat service. It was wonderful, from the sound of the beautiful piano to the chanting and singing of our prayers. Anyone who attended would tell you that the feeling of joy, connection, and spiritual uplift radiated throughout the sanctuary. Susan Ellner confronted her "bimah shpilkes" (as Medina puts it) and did a lovely job on the parsha, mentioning her Russian ancestors, and connecting all of us to her special moment. Her Bubbe and Zayde would have been proud, as we all were. These evenings are what makes our "little shul in the Kevs" so unique. We are small but we are evolving, and our new and exciting programs continue our connection to a deeper celebration of Shabbat. like we had at our March 13th dinner as we celebrated Shabbat Across America/Canada, a national program which united us with over 450 congregations and thousands of fellow Jews. (Actually, Mexico was included, too, as was New Zealand: it may soon be Shabbat Across the World!) After a delicious dairy buffet, including Linda Perloff's scrumptious minicheesecakes, we all enjoyed a beautiful evening service of music and soulful Shabbat songs and blessings. Once again I thank all the women of Sisterhood who prepared their delicious specialties and made the evening as delectable as always.

We enjoyed getting together outside of the shul as well, as we formed and glazed our pottery at Beth Kaminstein's studio in Islamorada. My group watched the sunset and the moon come up over the ocean. Having the opportunity to share time together and just enjoy each other's company, while preparing for our Women's Seder, is always a highlight for me each year. Sylvie bringing some wine to the event even helps the pottery look a bit better!!

On March 22nd we celebrated our twelfth

annual Women's Seder. As always, the service was unique, the wine flowed, the food was absolutely scrumptious, and much of the pottery looked like we were having show-and-tell for a kindergarten class, except of course for Beth's and Medina's. Once again, this year the proceeds from the Seder will be dispersed in our community as tikkun olam, and we are proud and excited to help each year this way.

This year our honoree was Carol Steinbock. It was a very special and moving dedication and celebration of her life and the connections she had to the Sisterhood and to the KICC. The women of Sisterhood dearly miss her. We had invited Steve Steinbock to be there, and he was moved and honored to accept the award in Carol's memory. Her name will be added to the beautiful guilted banner that, thanks to Marcia Kreitman and others, hangs prominently in the KJCC hallway. I would like to thank all the women who attended and prepared all the delicious food and seder plate items, as well as Beth Kaminstein for her generosity, hospitality and never -ending encouragement for our pottery.

The Family Seder will be held at the Islamorada Fishing Club on Saturday April 4th. As always, it will be a lovely dinner led by our seder team, and a chance to relax outside of the shul and let others do all the cooking and cleaning. We hope to see you there.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be on Sunday April 5th. We will finish off the season strong with some *matzo brei* breakfast, and talk about a good summer diet cleanse and our plans for the next few months. As the snowbirds start to head north and the summer heat begins, I wish for all of you a wonderful Pesach, wherever you may be. ◊

Contributions to KJCC

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

Chai-Lights	
Kirschenbaum,	Bianka

Book Plates Honor of Swartz, George & Muriel Toby & David Goldfinger (2)

Memory of Coltman, Barney Eve L. Greenstein

General Fund Honor of Cole, Ronald love offering Ruthen, Melvin & Joyce Pauline Roller getting better Sisterhood Shabbat Schur, Lee

Memory of Foley, Robert Bob Singer, Kenny Temkin Pollack, Joel & Linda Susan Schwaid Russ Rolnick Rapp, Marilyn

Meditation Garden Honor of Avner, Gloria tree - David Gitin

Scholarship Fund Honor of Gitin, David & Gloria Avner Bar Mitzvah of Ionah Gross

Sisterhood Oneg Fund Honor of Friedman, Steve & Jane Jane's birthday Lee's birthday Schur, Lee Seder, Jules & Nettie 49th anniversary Williams, Rita lim's birthday

Peckman, Joyce

Yahrzeits Memory of Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Monroe Kaplan, Luba Tuchman Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Sam Lieberman Joshua ben Saul H'levi

Memory of

Dorothy Ross

Warren J. Sheinker Ida Tallent

Anne Temkin

Margulies, Stanley & Jenny Sheinker, Miltra Tallent, Lillian Temkin, Robert

Yahrzeit Plaques Memory of Schwaid, Steve Susan Schwaid

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 three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KICC 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. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute; an outdoor plague is included in the price.

YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



Jews in Egypt - A Complex History

C ach year we celebrate *Pesach* (Passover), the story of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery. Avadim havinu b'Mitzravim. achshav B'nei Chorin. (Which translates as "we were slaves in Egypt, now we are a free people.") Our relationship to Egypt has a long history. In Biblical times the Israelites sought refuge in Egypt in times of distress - to escape famine in Eretz Yisrael during the time of Joseph or later for political reasons during Hellenized Greek rule, or during times of war and persecution. (And we had many wars in our history.) A large number of Jews took refuge in Egypt after the destruction of the Kingdom of Judah in 586 BCE, and after the assassination (by Jews) of the Jewish governor, Gedaliah, who had been appointed by the victorious Babylonian king. The Prophet Jeremiah was carried along by Judeans fleeing to Egypt, where he probably spent the rest of his life.

By the 3rd century BCE, Jews were found in many Egyptian towns and cities. They say that there was no more illustrious Jewish community in the history of the Diaspora than in Egypt. The Egyptian Jews were the first to translate the Bible into a foreign language, the Greek Septuagint, and Jewish philosophy, inspired by the Greek, had its beginnings in Alexandria. In fact, Alexandria, which became under Greek (Ptolemaic) rule the most learned and cultured city in all the Greek empire, almost had a majority lewish population. It was the home of Philo, the prolific Hellenized Jewish writer who lived about the same time as Jesus and who was the source, along with Josephus, of much of the

non-rabbinic Jewish writings of the period.

The Golden Age of Egyptian Jewry came to an end in the third and final revolt against the Romans (115-17 C.E.). The community recovered slowly, but did flourish again. It was strong from the time of the Fatamid (Islamic Empire) conquest in 969 until the mid-13th century, when the Mamelukes took power and Jewish community life declined. Those centuries, well documented in the Cairo Geniza, include the age of Maimonides. who came to Egypt from Spain and was THE leader of the Jewish community in his time. (He was also personal physician to Saladin, the great leader, warrior and patron of learning who had deposed the Fatamids in 1171 and in 1189 decisively defeated the European marauders of the Third Crusade, led in part by Richard The Lion-Heart of England.)

The Ottoman Empire (from Turkey) conauered Eavpt in 1517. Around this time. groups of Spanish Jews exiled from Spain reached Egypt. Urbanized, highly educated and successful, they integrated well into Egypt and its society. They revived the cultural and religious life of the lewish community. They brought with them their very rich Sephardic culture and soon dominated the old communities. The community then divided into three sub-communities: the Musta'arbin (the indigenous Arab-speaking Jews), the Sephardim (exiles from Spain), and the Mograbim (settlers from North Africa). This type of division in the lewish community had occurred before in Egypt, when the division was between those who followed the Babylonian Yeshivot (rabbinic schools) and those who followed the Yeshivot of Eretz Yisrael.

As Egypt later declined with the rest of the Ottoman Empire, so did the life of its Jewish community. When the distinguished 19th century Egyptian ruler Muhammad Ali (1805-1848) initiated a series of modernizing re-

forms, the prosperity he brought to Egypt also led to growth in the Jewish population. Many Jews came from European countries, particularly Sephardim from the Balkans. where they had settled after the expulsion from Spain in 1492. This meant even more influence from the Sephardic culture. Modern schools were established. The lew-



Rabbi Moshe Cohen with his choir in the Samuel Menashe synagogue in Alexandria, Egypt.

ish community had long been centered in Cairo, but from the 19th century on, Alexandria once again became the center of Jewish life. By 1897, nearly ten thousand Jews lived in Alexandria. Ashkenazim came from Europe, too. Alexandria's Rabbinate was modern and emphasized western as well as traditional education.

The Balkan wars and WWI brought more Jews to Egypt, especially from Salonika, the Greek city that was the center of the Sephardim in the Balkans, and other Ottoman towns. During WWI, many Jews from Eretz Israel, expelled by the Turks in their last gasp of rule, found temporary refuge in Egypt. A Jewish press developed in three languages: Arabic, Judesmo (the language of the Sephardic Jews), and French. In 1937 the census showed 63,550 Jews in Egypt. Sephardim entered public life, as they long had in other Muslim countries. Zionist organizations were also established. The highly educated, worldly Sephardim were able to use all their talent. expertise and experience, from many generations as traders, financiers, political administrators and advisors, diplomats, scholars and community leaders.

Life for Jews in Egypt became difficult with the rise of Egyptian nationalism. Anti-Jewish riots were organized in Cairo as early as

> 1945. In 1947, the eve of the establishment of the State of Israel, Egypt's parliament passed the "Companies Law." which required not less than 75 percent of employees of Egyptian companies to be Egyptian citizens. Since only 20 percent of the Jews in Egypt were citizens (most retained the passports of the European country they came from, or were stateless), this was a hard blow for

the Jewish community.

The day the State of Israel was declared. Jews couldn't leave Egypt without a special permit and their leaders were arrested. There were riots in Jewish neighborhoods and the Jews began to lose the privileges they had had in better times. But between 1950 and 1954 the restrictions were eased and many of the Sephardim were able to move to Israel. The final period in the history of Egyptian Jewry began with the Sinai Campaign in 1956. Hundreds of lews were arrested and thousands were ordered to leave the country in a matter of days, abandoning all their property, which they had to give to the government. Some 8,000 left and scattered throughout the world - to Brazil, France, the U.S., Argentina, Great Britain and to Israel. By 1970, few of the original Jewish communities remained in Egypt.

In my next article I will write about the history of the Sephardim who emigrated to South America. I lived there for a long time and will tell about my experience in the Jewish community of Chile and Argentina. >

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



An Accidental Discovery

A group of amateur Israeli divers has stumbled upon the largest collection of medieval gold coins ever found in the country. The coins date back to the 11th century and likely come from a shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea. The discovery was made in early February near the Israeli port city of Caesarea. According to the Israel Antiquities Authority, the cache consists of some 2,000 coins, which were most likely unearthed in recent storms. The coins provide rare historical evidence from the Fatimid dynasty in the 10th and 11th centuries. (The Fatimids ruled Northern Africa and Palestine, based in the new city of Cairo, from the 10th to the 12th centuries. They were overthrown by Saladin, one of the great figures of Mideast history, whose personal physician was none other than Maimonides.) Kobi Sharvit. director of the Antiquities Authority's marine archeology unit, said that the coins either came from a boat that sank on its way to deliver tax money to the central government in Egypt or to pay the salaries of soldiers in the Fatimid garrison stationed in Caesarea. Still another possibility is that the coins came from a merchant ship trading among Mediterranean coastal cities. Most of the coins belonged to the Caliph Al-Hakim, who ruled from 996-1021, and to his son, Al-Zahir (1021-1036). The earliest coin found was a quarter dinar minted in Palermo, Sicily, in the second half of the 9th century. The coins did not require any cleaning or preservation in the lab despite having been at the bottom of the sea for about a millennium. (www.washinatonpost.com, 2-18-15)

It'll Be the Last Batch

This past December, Streit's, the last family-owned matzah company in the United States, announced that it would be permanently closing its 90-year-old New York City

factory after this Passover season because of long-standing mechanical problems and economic concerns. Sometime in April, the company will move its matzah production either to its other factory in northern New Jersey or to another non-Manhattan location. The current location is a long-time lewish fixture in the heart of Manhattan's Lower East Side, once home to one of the highest concentration of Jews in the country. In recent years, the neighborhood has seen its real estate values skyrocket. "We should've been out of here five or ten years ago," said Alan Adler, 63, who oversees the company's day-to-day operations, "But we feel committed to the men [who work here] and ...to the neighborhood, so we tried to keep this place afloat as long as we could." Nearly all of the factory's equipment is more than 70 years old. The ovens date back to the 1930s and are about 25 percent slower than they used to be. (This slower pace decreases matzah output and affects the product's flavor.) Adler claims he cannot find a mechanic willing to fix them. (The Forward, 2-25-15)

A First for Rwanda

In early February, Gigawatt Global, an American-owned Dutch company with an Israeli research and development team, inaugurated East Africa's first solar energy field, in Rwanda. The field's 28,360 photovoltaic panels provide six percent of Rwanda's power supply. It is expected to harness the sun's light for the next 25 years. Yosef Abramowitz, an American-Israeli, co-founded the company. He is also the co-founder of the Arava Power Company, the firm responsible for Israel's first commercial-scale solar field. Gigawatt Global is located on the grounds of

the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, which houses and educates students orphaned from the Rwandan genocide. Jewish South African-American attorney and philanthropist Anne Heyman, who died in a horse-riding accident in 2014, established the village in 2008. The Gigawatt Global field is the first project to be grid-connected within the United States' Power Africa initiative launched by President Obama in 2013. (www.ipost.com, 2-6-15)

Prayer on Temple Mount is Now "Kosher"

A precedent-setting ruling was recently issued by Israel's Magistrates' Court in the case of Yehuda Glick vs. The Israeli Police. The judge criticized the lack of a clear policy concerning Jewish visits and prayer on the Temple Mount and ruled that the police must ensure that lews be able to pray at the site. Glick was banned from praying at the Temple Mount from 2011 to 2013. Since capturing the holy site during the Six-Day War in 1967. Israel has severely restricted access for Jewish worshipers, in part not to inflame tensions between Israelis and Palestinians who also consider the site holy. Glick heads a group of lewish activists fighting for wider lewish access to the Temple Mount. In October he was wounded in an attempted assassination by a Palestinian gunman.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-3-15)

The Birth of the Israeli Air Force

A new documentary, "Above and Beyond," tells the story about the birth of the Israeli Air Force. The film focuses on a small group of mostly American, mostly secular Jews, who risked everything to sneak aircraft into the newly founded State of Israel - and then fly those planes on missions against the armies of five Arab nations. The Americans, determined to rush to Israel's aid, bought old military planes and smuggled them out of the U.S. They searched military records for pilots with Jewish-sounding names and formed a bogus Panamanian airline, all this despite hostility from the Truman administration, which threatened the American citizenship of anyone who joined Israel's cause. The film features interviews with surviving pilots,

among them Milton Rubenfeld - father of entertainer Paul Reubens (better known as Pee-Wee Herman) - and Harold Livingston, who wrote "Star Trek: The Motion Picture." Rubenfeld was shot down. Worried because he spoke no Hebrew and thought he might be mistaken for an Arab, he shouted at Israeli soldiers "Shabbos!" and "Gefilte Fish!" The film's executive producer is Nancy Spielberg -Steven's sister. Her credentials are impressive: she served as a consultant on the Oscarwinning documentary, "Chernobyl Heart" and executive-produced "Elusive Justice, The Search For Nazi War Criminals (www.nypost.com, 1-28-15)

It Only Took 43 Years

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will finally build a place at the 2016 Olympic Village in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where people can pay respects to athletes who have died at the Olympic games. The closing ceremony will feature a moment of reflection to remember them. The decision is seen an as attempt to appease critics of the IOC who believe that the committee has done little to memorialize the eleven Israeli athletes taken hostage and then killed by the Palestinian terrorist group *Black September* at the 1972 Munich Olympics. That year, the games were suspended for a day before resuming. At the London Games in 2012, the IOC rejected an appeal by the widows of two of the Israelis killed at Munich along with a petition signed by more than 100,000 people for a moment of silence at the opening ceremonies. It was the 40th anniversary of the tragedy. The IOC has repeatedly rejected calls by family members of the murdered athletes as well as from the Israeli government for such a moment of silence. (www.ita.ora, 3-2-15)

In Memoriam

• Carl Dierassi, eminent chemist who 63 years ago helped invent the birth control pill. died at the end of January. He was 91. Dierassi was born in Vienna. His parents were both physicians and divorced when he was six. In 1938, when Nazi Germany annexed Austria

and 70.000 Austrian lews and Communists were quickly rounded up, the elder Dierassi remarried his wife in order to take her and their son out of the country. The marriage was soon annulled. The boy and his mother made their way to America in 1939. They arrived penniless, losing their last \$20 to a swindling New York cab driver. Soon afterward, the young boy wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, asking her for help. She interceded and provided him with a college scholarship, which led him on a journey of scientific achievement. Mother and son settled in upstate New York.

Dierassi came to be known as the very definition of a Renaissance man. He was a pioneering biomedical entrepreneur, obtaining a patent for Pyribenzamine, the first commercial antihistamine. He founded Zoecon. a company that developed environmentally friendly pest control. He wrote poetry, plays and novels and authored 1,200 scientific articles. He taught at universities for five decades, collected important art (particularly the paintings of Paul Klee, the Swiss Expressionist), started a cattle ranch and established an artists' residency program in California. Letty Cottin Pogrebin, a founding editor of Ms. Magazine, said that Dierassi deserves to be best remembered for the birth control pill, which "arguably gave women more freedom than the Declaration of Independence," even though he was only one of many scientists working for decades who pioneered the chemical basis of what would later become the pill. (For a long time, scientists knew that high levels of estrogen and progesterone inhibited ovulation. But synthesizing them had proved expensive and ineffective for use as oral contraceptives. The synthesis by Djerassi and two other colleagues turned out to be both economical and effective for oral use and all three names went on the patent.) Dierassi received 34 honorary doctorates, numerous professional and government awards including the National Medal of Science (chemistry), the nation's highest science honor, presented by President Nixon in 1973. and the *National Medal of Technology and* Innovation, the nation's highest technology

award, presented by President George H. W. Bush in 1991. (www.nytimes.com, 1-31-15 and Time Magazine, 2-16-15)

 Leonard Nimov, who starred as Mr. Spock - the half-human, half-Vulcan first officer aboard the starship Enterprise in the Star Trek television series and movies - died recently at 83. Nimoy grew up in the West End of Boston, the son of Yiddish-speaking immigrants from Ukraine. The Nimoy household kept kosher and was "flexibly Orthodox." His father was a partner in a barbershop and, since Saturday was their busiest day, he went to work. Leonard began acting at the age of eight, to his father's displeasure; the elder Nimoy was steadfast in saying that he hadn't come all the way from Ukraine to see his son waste his life as an actor. In the early 1950s - inspired by the rebirth of the Jewish state - Leonard considered making aliyah to Israel to join Habimah, Israel's national theater. But because the language barrier would be a major handicap, he dropped the idea and headed to Hollywood. There he was one of the few Yiddish-speaking actors and played minor roles whenever a Yiddish theater troupe came to town. In 1965 he was cast as Spock in what would become a cult phenomenon. Though not a particularly religious man, Nimoy has said that "everything I do is informed by my Judaism. A lot of what I've put into Spock came to me through my Jewish orientation." For example, Nimoy modeled the Vulcan hand greeting accompanied by the iconic phrase "Live long and prosper," after the gesture seen in Orthodox synagogues when the *kohanim* (priestly class) bless the congregation. Nimoy was also a respected film director, acting teacher and author of three volumes of poetry illustrated with his own photographs. He recorded ten narrative albums. He starred on Broadway in "Eguus," and as actor, director and producer of "Vincent," about the artist Vincent van Gogh. He derived great satisfaction from playing Tevya in "Fiddler on the Roof" during an eight-week run because it allowed his parents to see their son as an actor for the first time since leaving home. (www.ita.org, 3-2-15) ♦



Photo Gallery

We had some familiar faces come back to visit KJCC in late February.

At top right is Joan Boruszak; at above left is Nissan Mayk, and just above is our beloved past-president Bea Graham, now living with daughter Nissan in New Jer-

sey. (The selfie monster, as you see, was Marc Bloom.) In the center (naturally) are Bea's granddaughter Shyella with son Negev, posing happily in the KJCC sanctuary during the same Mayk family visit.



Left and above, Lee Schur's grandson Michael Schur proposed to girlfriend Felice Watts at the Art Institute of Chicago in front of her favorite painting, George Seurat's "Sunday in the Park." As you see, she apparently said yes.

On February 26th, a group of KJCCers, as guests of Kathy Shabathai (an F.I.U. religious studies alumna), went to F.I.U. to hear renowned Dead Sea Scrolls scholar Lawrence Schiffman, probably the world's most respected Jewish Scrolls expert.

Professor Tudor Parfitt, who in a few weeks was to speak at KJCC, joined us for dinner and conversation. The photo above represents two of today's greatest scholars of Jewish history and religion.



All of Sisterhood led the early service on Friday, February 27th. As you can see, standing side by side they stretched across the entire bemah. For those of you wondering where fif-

teen Men's Club members are in a comparable photo leading a comparable service, they'd ask you how your garden was doing, or how goes your attempt to ride your bicycle backward around the world. In other words, when pigs wear yarmulkas. Photos continue next page...









The photo below was taken at this year's Yardena Kamely lecture series. The topic of the three-part lecture was the complex migration of Sephardic Jews after their 1492 expulsion from Spain.



Passover Preparation at KJCC Religious School

What a great day our students had at Sunday School just before spring break. Excitement and achievement were the watchwords of the day. New tutor (and graduated student) Westley Silverman did a fine job working with both Fink boys. Susan Gordon, Official KICC Zadie Bernie Ginsberg and KICC Music Director Jules Seder taught the Four Questions and Passover songs to the students with gusto. And in a grand finale, Savta Nettie Seder taught our students a skill that will



bring them and their families pleasure forever - how to make dark chocolate matzoh bark with candy sprinkles.

—Gloria



Our Evening With Indiana Jones...

We had a shul full of interested members and guests, some of whom we seldom see at KJCC, who came to hear this distinguished historian and adventurer recount some of his experiences in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Papua New Guinea.

This was to be the last in this year's series of educational and cultural evenings at KJCC, and Professor Tudor Parfitt is so well known from his books and field work and documentaries on the BBC, PBS and The History Channel that we'd invited the entire Upper Keys community to join us. The evening began with friends from many parts

of the Upper Keys community greeting each other, and ended with a lovely collation in the social hall. In between Dr. Parfitt regaled us with stories. It's no surprise that the European media has dubbed him "the British Indiana lones."



This was too cute not to send. I thought about doing a crop, but then I saw Adara's cold toes. (I wonder if they ever found the sock?) Big sister Libby is doing her grin for the camera, and the usually happy Isaac looks like he is ready to check-out (at right).

- Savta Joyce

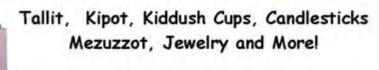


Above, Joel and Toby Bofshever, who live in Davie, met Steve Steinbock and the Keys Garden Club on the club's outing to Flamingo Gardens in Broward County. At left, Elinor Grossman,
Susan Gordon,
Carol Laskin and
Joan Stark at
Beth Kaminstein's pottery
studio preparing their own items for the Women's Seder. Beth had told all the women to

"create a vessel that would capture their memories of Passover." Below, another group including Mikaela Bitton, Barbara Bernstein, Leslie Janowitz, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Sylvie Coeurjoly, Meredith Cline and Medina Roy.

Above, Joyce Peckman, Muriel Swartz and Gloria Avner get ready to fire their pottery creations being made for the March 22nd Women's Seder.





For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

A Night of Magic with Professor Michael Swartz

It was a discussion of a part of our history few know well, of amulets and spells and potions and inducing the reticent to fall in love with you. Late Antiquity Jewish Europe, it's being revealed, was far more than just a descent into darkness.

by Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman

JCC stalwarts, members we hadn't seen ✓ in a long time, and a good sampling of the greater Upper Keys community filled our sanctuary on Sunday Night, February 22nd, to hear Ohio State University Professor and author Michael Swartz talk about "Jewish Magic." It was the first program in our Jewish Enrichment Series to use the new audio-visual

equipment and excitement was in the air. We heard more fascinating material from the lively Talmudic and early medieval period than we could wrap our minds around. Formulas for calling on angels and demons, amulets designed for healing and attracting love, incantations for protection inscribed on "hamsas" (stylized hands) and on the inside



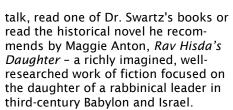
buried upside-down in the ruins of a modest lewish home in late Antiquity central Europe, has chants and spells and prayers, all hand-inscribed in Hebrew, probably seeking protection and God's watchful eye.

protection - these topics barely skim the surface of Dr. Swartz's well-illustrated, fascinating talk and the guestion/ answer period. Look at the artistry and bold inscriptions on these bowls unearthed by archaeologists from 3rd century lewish homes. The bowls were found buried upside down beneath doorways. (Echoes of lamb's blood painted on doorways to keep the Angel of Death away just before the Exodus?) The



Some post-lecture photos: below, Rabbi Richard Agler responding to a new addition to Bernie's joke repertoire. Below left, George and Michael Swartz in discussion with Bernie. At bottom, Michael, George and Muriel Swartz together with the team from Education and Ritual — Gloria, Joyce, Yardena and Susan — who made the evening possible.

inscriptions were most likely meant to keep evil away, to insure health and safety of the family within, and above all to insure healthy childbirth. There is no question about the power of the primitive art. If you missed the



A heartfelt thank-you to our own Professor Swartz – George, also a past-president of KJCC – for bringing his nephew Michael to our attention and available to the Adult Education Committee for this series. >



Purim 2015

We had our KJCC Purim celebration on Wednesday, March 4th. It was a Wednesday, a school night. So we kept the singing, eating of pizza and reading of the Megilla to two hours so everyone could leave by 8:00. And you know what? It all worked beautifully. There was no shortage of

smiles, or gleeful twirling of groggers, or booing of Haman, or even costumes and some consumption of schnapps. (Mint, if memory serves, and peach.) And, yes, we read (and heard, the required mitzvah) every word of the Megillah. It's a wonderful

book. The Jews win

every time.

Bernie Ginsberg showed everyone our actual KJCC Megillah scroll, written on parchment, a gift from a friend of Rabbi and Mindy Agler. Megillah scrolls have unique and beautiful artwork.



As she does every year, Joyce Peckman led the reading of the Megillah, above. But everyone reads in turn, even the children who can, and everyone participates. (Even our few non-Jewish guests took their turn.)







Shabbat Across America, KJCC-Style

KJCC Taps into a Growing International Movement, which includes Canada, Mexico, Israel, Qatar and New Zealand — so far.

by Gloria Avner & Joyce Peckman

n Friday night, March 13, 2015, KJCC celebrated "Shabbat Across America." In so doing, we joined tens of thousands of lews from all religious and cultural backgrounds, including synagogues from across the Jewish spectrum, JCCs, campus Hillels, and the United States military. Over 550 locations throughout the United States and Canada - as well as in

Israel, Mexico, Oatar and New Zealand - ran celebratory events. Anyone could go online to

the NJOP website, type in their address or city and state, and find the nearest participating location. KJCC was there!

NIOP (formerly na-

tional Jewish Outreach Project) began this continent-wide event nineteen years ago. The idea was to give people everywhere "a taste of Shabbat." Good meals and lively discussions are all-important components of the Shabbat experience, as well as the opportunity to spend the evening with like-minded people, friends and family.

As we do everything, we joined in the festivities with zest. Gloria signed us up. She, Susan Gordon, Jules Seder and Roy Pollack practiced for hours on tunes, both familiar



and new. Yardena worked with the children on the prayers. As hoped for. we had a mix of members and quests. including Sqt. Jason

Madnick of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, a KICC member, who regularly keeps an eye on our shul during patrols when

we aren't here.

(Mah Nistanah Ha Shabbat HaZeh) . .) Our congregation welcomed this annual continent-wide celebration of Shabbat with every mother in the room gathering around the candles and learning the true Shabbat candle-lighting melody (much as some of us love and don't want to give up the Chanukah lighting song). What

made this Shabbat different from all other Shabbats was our consciousness that all over the continent, and indeed the world. lewish





women and families just like our mishpocha were putting special effort this night into the 4th Commandment - to observe Shabbat and make it holy.

What followed the blessings was a deli-

cious dairy dinner coordinated by Erica Lieberman-Garrett and her generous, talented team of Sisterhood cooks and decor mavens. (Special thanks to Medina Roy and Susan Gordon for attractive table settings.)

The service led by Gloria and Sam Vinicur continued the themes of Shabbat joyfulness, appreciation of women, and crosscontinental participation: Toronto natives



Texas, join Susan and Gloria on his guitar. We also were gifted with a glimpse of Susan Gordon's extraordinary "chops" on the Irish penny whistle. (For those who don't know, both of her parents were on the musical stage, Yiddish and American.) Variety keeps things interesting, so we had some upbeat new melodies to familiar prayers, including a "Jewgrass" version of Shabbat shalom." In a special, tender cabaret moment, KJCC Musical Director Jules Seder played pi-



ano accompaniment while Gloria brought some of us to tears with heartfelt renderings of

classic Yiddish songs "Rojinkes mit Mandlen" (Raisins and almonds) and "My Yiddishe Mama," and then made us smile with an energetic "Siman tov u mazal tov." After all, what would any Shabbat celebration be without honor-

ing the generations of *Yiddishe Mamas* who passed the tradition on to us?

The service ended with our students leading

us, almost successfully, in Adon Olam to the tune of Disney's "It's a Small World After All." What a night. \$



All photos in this Shabbat Across America section courtesy of Barbara Knowles.



Gloria sang and co-led services, Susan sang and played the Irish Whistle, Jules accompanied Gloria on the Upper Keys Concert Association baby grand, and Roy Pollack played guitar. The lithe green fellow at left was an uninvited guest during rehearsal that afternoon. Roy gently escorted him out.

The Miracle of Survival: The Old Story That Keeps Us New

by Gloria Avner

istorians throw a fishnet backwards to bring forward the recoverable past. They are always re-deciding "History." After all, most history is written by the winners. A poet's job, on the other hand, is "to capture from the air a live tradition and make it new." That is our job too, individually and as a Jewish community, while we sit around our Passover tables.

I have written many times about Pesach. As I cast about, fishing in frustration for something fresh to say, a voice reminds me that rabbis share new insights on old holidays year after year. There is a ceaseless flow of beautiful new Haggadahs filled with essays and illuminating interpretations every year as well. Our best and brightest minds want and need to make our story contemporary. Novelist Jonathan Foer, whose new Haggadah appeared last year, says that Haggadahs will continue to be written forever, until there are no more Jews to write them, or until Elijah comes and there is no longer a need to say "Next year in Jerusalem."

Look at the *Haggadah* we use for the Women's Seder. Many of you have never seen this recent work or how it deals with issues of today. Barely twenty years old, this guide filled with poetry, new versions of God's name and models of activist women working for freedom and justice - is immediately relevant to our lives: We don't live as our grandmothers did, but we admire and praise their strength, inviting them to join us, the independent women of the 21st century still traveling our tribe's 5,000-year-long journey.

Here is one example of how we take from the air a living tradition and make it new. Each verse of the traditional Dayeinu lists one of God's gifts to the Israelites, step by step on their journey. The refrain of Dayeinu shows how thankful we are for how much was given. Our congregation sings out the gifts of Exodus, Torah, and Shabbat. The interpretive Dayeinu changes focus from God to people and from past to present. We sing both versions. Here are the final six verses of the "Ma'yan Passover Haggadah:

If we teach our children to pursue justice with all their strenath.

If we care for the earth and its future as responsibly as we care for those

we love.

If we create art, music, dance, and literature, dayeinu.

If we realize our power to effect change, If we bring holiness into our lives, homes and communities.

If we honor our visions more than our fears, dayainu v'lo dayeinu.

Of course there will always be something new to say about Pesach. We must keep it new so that its importance reaches into our brains, hearts and spirits in novel ways, empowering us, to be fresh and meaningful today and memorable enough that our children will be inspired and eager to pass it on.

The whole point of the Passover Seder is that all Jews on the planet, the Jews of the Diaspora, are telling and hearing the same story on the same night. As their parents told it to them and ours to us, we need our children to tell it to their children. Let them take pride in reciting the Feir Kashas (four guestions) and eagerly await the hunt for afikomen. The worldwide Seder is an artistic

process of creation meant to forge one unified people out of far-flung folks who, whether or not we observe all the *mitzvot*, speak the same language, or go to *shul*, all want a seat at the table.

Passover is about personal, tribal and community freedom. As we bless our wine, point out the ritual foods and their meaning, we are talking about the perils faced in order to achieve freedom, the obstacles to keeping it, and the huge problems that stem from being viewed and perceived as people who are "other." Freedom has to have a context. The "Mitzraim" of each generation wear different clothes. (Hebrew uses the same word. Mitzraim, to refer both to Egypt as a country and to "tight narrow places.")

Renewing our covenant is not only done in a sanctuary with a Torah. At Passover we sit in comfortable, "haimische" surroundings among friends, family and hungry, lonely strangers. We hold high and share the "bread of af-

fliction." Together, in many voices, we review our journey. How did we get here? Children, are you listening? Let's put ourselves in the sandals of escaping slaves. All we own is on our backs. Trust in God is our only currency. We are the cast of thousands, the four types of children, Moses, Pharaoh, and the joyous, dancing women singing with Miriam on the far shore of the Reed Sea. We come from brave people. More than half of the Jewish slaves staved behind, afraid. Our ancestors listened to Moses, and left. What was that flight like for our forefathers? What was it like for our grandfathers escaping Europe, Russia, Iran? How do the oppressed in Africa, in Kurdistan, North Korea, and the underclasses in our own country keep hope for a better life alive? How do we work to repair the world?

Games, songs and *afikomen*-hunting keep our children present, active and interested. We want them to ask questions beyond the traditional four. They do ask. And we explain.

The *Haggadah* is a magnificent teaching tool and keeping the story engaging is why we are always writing new ones.

So what is it we are making new and how do we do it? Some of us will be capturing chil-

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dren's attention by throwing plastic frogs and cattle and white bits of candy "hail" into the air when we talk about the ten plaques. Some children will take long scallions and whip their parents and teachers in re-enactment of what it is like to be both slave owner and slave. Mostly though, we talk, encourage questions. take part in the ritual blessings, boom out the gratitude verses of "Dayeinu," and laugh breathlessly at the last verse of "Hod Gadyah." We'll add our own touch to the Biblical and shtetl songs by singing new ones to tunes from 20th centurv musicals. Thev'll make us laugh out loud. (Feel free to add "These are a few of my Passover Things" to your own

Seder—ask Joyce for a copy with all the verses. Below is a sample)

Cleaning and cooking and so many dishes; Out with the chametz, no pasta, no knishes. Fish that's gefilted, horseradish that stings, These are a few of our Passover things.

How could we not celebrate our survival against all odds? We commit to making ourselves more thoughtful people and the world a better place for our children to inherit. They are the ones who will carry on our tradition. It will become their story to tell. The dinner table is a classroom to that end. Our bellies full of delicious food, our covenant with God renewed, the *afikomen* found and ransomed, we leave the table with hope that our grand-children will hold *Seders* for their children and add their own aliveness and significance to the words "Next year in Jerusalem." \$\infty\$

Pesach Potpourri

A collection of fun facts, factoids, esoterica and just plain interesting stuff about everyone's favorite religious holiday.

Most of you know that Pesach is one of the three pilgrimage festivals mentioned in the Torah, along with Shavuot and Sukkot. (Did you know that Shavuot is also known as "Pentecost," Greek for fifty?) During pilgrimage festivals, as you also know, the entire Judean population was expected to journey to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices at the Holy Temple. But did you know that Samaritans, even today, direct their worship not toward Jerusalem but toward Mt. Gerizim, near the West Bank city of Nablus? And why do the Samaritans matter? Because the Samaritans, who prefer to be called Israelites, are possibly the remnant of the northern Kingdom of Israel. When Israel was conquered by Sargon II and Assyria in 722 B.C.E., some 27,000 citizens were deported - mostly the priests and the wealthier upper classes. (Yes, it's similar to what was done later in Judah by the Babylonians.) But the majority of the population was left intact, with some sent from Assyria to fill in and rule. And today's Nablus is the Biblical Shechem, once the capital and spiritual center of ancient Israel, where they had their own Temple to God.

In ancient times, and well into and beyond the Roman era, there was a tradition to assure that Passover did not begin before spring. The month of Nisan could not start -Passover is mandated to be the 15th of Nisan - until the barley crop was ripe. If the barley was not yet ripe, or other observable phenomena told them that spring was not near. an additional month of Adar (Adar II) would be added just prior to Nisan. Since about the 4th Century C.E., the date has been fixed mathematically, perhaps with skills learned from the inventors of math, their neighbors in Egypt and Mesopotamia. (Passover always begins on the full moon immediately after the spring equinox.)

According to the Bible, an unblemished

lamb or goat is to be set apart five days prior to Pesach, on Nisan 10 (Exodus 12:3). It is to be slaughtered on Nisan 14 "between the two evenings," a phrase that is not clearly defined. The sacrifice is to be roasted whole, without the removal of any of its internal organs, and eaten "that night" along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Anything not eaten upon the next sunrise must be burned. And the sacrifices may only be performed in specific places prescribed by God. (For Judeans this meant Jerusalem, for Samaritans Mt. Gerizim.) Obeving this final instruction has been a bit awkward for lews since being exiled en masse from the Holy Land by the Romans in 70 C.E.

Among the Biblical instructions about Passover is this interesting regulation, from Exodus 12:11. about how the Passover meal is to be eaten: "with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ve shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's Passover." Not everyone today is intimately familiar with all of the Bible's text, so perhaps whoever leads any seder should make sure to pass this on.

There are many important themes and symbols associated with Passover. But one of the most important is the sense of remembering. In Deuteronomy 16:12, we are told "and thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondsman in Egypt; and thou shalt observe and do these statutes." In Exodus 12:14, after a reference to God sparing all Israelite firstborns from the Tenth Plague: "And this day shall be unto you for a memorial. and ve shall keep it a feast to the Lord: throughout your generations ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever." Exodus 13:3 continues the theme of remembering: "Remember this day, in which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, for by strength the hand of the Lord brought you out from this place."

Because the sacrifice of a lamb or goat at the Temple at Passover was considered a sacred offering, only those who had the obligation to bring the offering were allowed to eat it. Among those not allowed to offer or eat the Passover lamb were: an apostate (Exodus 12:43); a servant (Exodus 12:45); an uncircumcised man (Exodus 12:48); a person in a state of ritual impurity, except when a majority of Jews are in such a state (from the Talmud, Pesahim 66b); and any non-Jew. Unlike most contemporary cultures, and others even millennia later, both men and women were obligated to make the offering. (Pesahim 91b). Both men and women were obligated to participate in the seder.

The first use in the Bible of the verb pasach is in Exodus 12:23, the account of the hasty departure from Egypt. It has traditionally been translated as God having "passed over" the houses of the Hebrews during the Tenth Plague. But this version comes from a prior translation, the Septuagint, the Greek translation, not the original Hebrew. Some linguists claim that a more faithful translation of the original would be "he hovered over. guarding." This would be consistent with the image evoked by the same verb used in Isaiah 31:5: "As birds hovering, so will the Lord of Hosts protect Jerusalem; He will deliver it as He protecteth it; He will rescue it as He passeth over." The first use in English of the term "Passover," by the way, is from William Tyndale's translation of the Bible. The term later appeared in the King James Version as well. (Neither was translated from the original Hebrew, but also used as its source the Greek Septuagint.)

The Torah says the origin of matzoh is that the Hebrews left Egypt in such haste that there was no time to allow the bread to rise. Surely matzoh is the symbol most readily associated with the Exodus. But non-Biblical scholars teach that, at the time of the Exodus, matzoh was common, baked prior to traveling because it preserved well and was light to carry. This clearly suggests that the Hebrews might have known a long journey lay ahead, and were preparing. In Hebrew, matzoh is also sometimes referred to as

lechem oni, or "bread of poverty." This is another side of the story, a symbolic reminder to all lews of what life is like as a poor slave. The idea is to promote humility, appreciate freedom, and avoid the vanities associated with luxuries such as fully leavened bread.

Ashkenazi Jews abstain from eating all chametz during Passover - defined as anything made from the five major grains (wheat, rye, barley, oats and spelt) that has not been completely cooked within 18 minutes after first coming into contact with water. But they also, by rabbinical instruction, avoid eating kitniyot anything with corn, rice, beans and lentils. These foods were declared off-limits by the rabbis to honor the principle of ma'arit ayin, avoiding even the appearance of impropriety: since kitnivot can be ground up and cooked with other flour, even if accidentally, they are forbidden. Sephardic and Mizrachi lews are only forbidden chametz, and happily include rice among their particular Passover foods.

According to strict interpretations, we are not only forbidden to eat chametz during Passover, we are not allowed to own it or "derive benefit from it." We are therefore not even allowed to feed it to our pets or cattle. All chametz, including utensils used to cook it, must either be disposed of or sold to a non-lew. (They can be re-purchased after the holiday.) To the frum, even pets' diets must be changed for the holiday, or, like *chametz*, the pets must also be sold to a non-Jew. Happily, they too may be re-purchased after the holiday is over.

The Haggadah (from the Hebrew root "to tell") is not a modern thing. Parts of it are found in the Mishnah, first edited around 200 C.E. The way we arrange our table today, the psalms and prayers we recite, and other elements mirror very closely the instructions offered in the Mishnah. Commentaries (Midrashim) were added (you know - two sages, three opinions), and the basic Haggadah was completed by the end of the Talmudic period. 500-600 C.E. By the eighth century C.E. its wide acceptance is shown by its inclusion in Rav Amram's popular siddur. >

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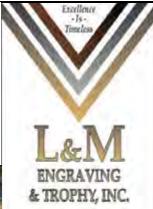
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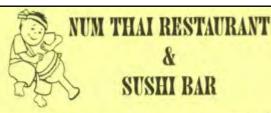


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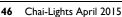
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May 2015

12 lyar - 13 Sivan 5775

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Shavuot Section - page 39

Keys Jewish Community Center

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May 2015 12 Iyar - 13 Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Ken Atlas Barney Coltman	2
3 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Sisterhood Luncheon	4	5	6	7 Lag B-Omer	8 Erica Lieberman- Garrett & Mitch Harvey Steve Steinbock	9 Rabbi Agler Saturday Service 10:00 a.m.
10 Mothers Day	11	12	13	14	15 Medina Roy, Yardena Kamely & Jane Friedman Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg	16
17 Yom Yerushalayim	18	19	20	21	Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyce Peckman & Gloria Avner Yizkor Service 8:00 p.m. Medina & Carl Roy	23
24 Erev Shavuot	25 Second Day of Shavuot Memorial Day	26	27	28	29 Marc Bloom & Yardena Kamely 6:30 Service	30

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

President's Message Sam Vinicur

It isn't just that the weekend of April 10th was busy. In just three days it managed to be a microcosm of what KICC is for, why it's so endearing to so many and why we all work so hard to sustain it.

It's always a treat when Bernie leads services, but on this Friday we had a surprise for him. (Mah nishtah-nah...) Steve Steinbock has become the ringleader of previous Joel Cohen Award winners. who each year vote to select the next recipient. Bernie was this year's winner. Steve made the presentation, with a bit of a twist. Since Bernie is such a dedicated Ashkenazi homeboy, we had the plaque's inscription transliterated into Yiddish. (Thank you, Liati.)

The next morning was April's Saturday service with Rabbi Richard Agler. Most come to hear his learned penetration of that week's Parshah. No one emerges without a burst of insight or without grasping a nuance in the text they'd never noticed before. (Think of how remarkable that is: the text has been exactly the same for about two thousand years.)

That evening almost eighty of us stood in reverence as Rabbi Agler led a memorial service for loel at the Pollack home. This was KICC at its best: voluntarily gathering, some having driven many hours, to honor a

man of quiet dignity who was crucial to the second generation of KICC's leadership. We were also there to honor Linda. As Rabbi Agler noted, our sages say that in such circumstances no words of condolence are necessary. Eloquence speaks in the act of simply being present.

On Sunday morning we had our April Board Meeting, admittedly an endeavor of prose and not poetry. Administration is, at best, unexciting. Yet a safe building and dutiful committee work and a habitable sanctuary create the sturdy framework within which each spirit, old or young, can be nurtured.

On Sunday night, Rabbi Agler led a discussion of Simon Wiesenthal's haunting World War II memoir "The Sunflower." The book's premise is profound beyond words: Are some human acts simply unforgivable? The book includes, as an epilogue, the musings of eminent thinkers and theologians on the subject. As asked, we had all read the book. Rabbi Agler then gently led us through the same difficult moral thicket: is a Nazi forgivable?

This was all in one weekend. We smile and honor and celebrate, we explore the sacred, we mourn together, we keep the lights on, we ponder the unimaginable. We are KICC. We are, in every way, the essence of minvan.



Nosh

Bernie Wins Joel Cohen Award

On Friday evening, April 10th, during the service he was leading, Bernie Ginsberg was presented with this year's Joel Cohen Fellowship Award, the highest honor KICC has to bestow. The presentation was made by Steve Steinbock,



chairman of the committee of past winners, who are the sole voters for the award. As noted in this month's Prez column, we combined the plaque with one of Bernie's great joys and put the inscription in Yiddish. (In perfect Yiddish,

too. It was translated by Yiddish literature scholar Liati Mayk, Bea Graham's granddaughter; Liati then sent it to her Yiddish professor to be finetuned into pure, original Ashkenazi dialect, complete with idioms.) The inscription follows the form of one of Bernie's favorite Yiddish insults. the one about only having one tooth. Here's the English version: "Even if all your teeth fall out but one, may you always chew on the fact that KICC is a richer and warmer place because of you. You have given us laughter and fellowship and deepened our appreciation of all things Jewish." (Please see Photo Gallery for more photos.)

Congratulations, Bernie. The award was well earned. We hope this compensates somewhat for all the tsouris you had to go through during your two years as KJCC president.

Final Torah Study for the Season

Mark your calendar. Be at KJCC at 10:00 a.m. on May 9th. That morning will mark the last of Rabbi Richard Agler's Shabbat morning Torah study services for this season. We trust that he will begin again after High Holy Days are over

and our snowbirds begin to return home. If you have attended one of these engaging discussions and uplifting-yet-informal services, you won't want to miss it. If you have never been to one, give yourself a gift and join an educational, stimulating, and involving event. You'll be glad you did. Thank you, Rabbi Agler, for all you share with

Gloria

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to daughters Maxine, Diane and Jacqueline and their families on the death of their mother

Shirley Boxer.

An Invitation to a Daughter's Open House

Toby and Joel Bofshever, proud parents of Dr. Gena Bofshever, would like to invite our KICC family to Dr. Gena's grand opening and open house of her new chiropractic office on Thursday, May 28th from 6 to 8 p.m. The office is located at 7119 West Broward Blvd. in Plantation, FL (far enough to pose no competition to other eminent healers.) The phone number for directions is 954-417-5815.

A Special Section in June for Joel Pollack

We're planning a special section in memory of Joel Pollack to run in our June/July/August summer issue. Please begin sending your thoughts, reminiscences, funny stories, cries of grief and happy recollections now, to the prez e-mail, president@keysjewishcenter.com.

Oneg Sponsors for May 2015

May 1st - Barney Coltman for his birthday. May 8th - Steve Steinbock in honor of Mother's Day.

May 15th - Medina Roy and Bernie Ginsberg to celebrate their shared birthday.

May 22nd - Medina and Carl Roy to honor Mom Bianka's 100th birthday.

May Birthdays

•	•
2nd	Sherry Zwerdling
2nd	Barney Coltman
4th	
4th	
5th	Richard Palacino
7th	Murray Rapoport
8th	Kelley Greenman
8th	Sidney Boruszak
9th	
9th	
th	Richard Agler
th	Sheila R. Steinberg
12th	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th	Nyan Feder
12th	
13th	Rose Marie Gordon
I4th	Medina Roy
I4th	
I4th	John Temkin
15th	Paul R. Schur
18th	Jaime Brennan
18th	Andrea P. Silverman
19th	
19th	Jonathon Hodgson
22nd	Christian Strasser
22nd	
23rd	
25th	
27th	
27th	
27th	
29th	,
29th	
29th	
31st	
31st	
31st	Wes Conklin

May Anniversaries

	Years
Bennett & Deborah Beinfest	25
Alan & Susan Cooper	29
Alan & Chely Markowitz	24
Marshall & Myra Kaplan	43
	Bennett & Deborah Beinfest Alan & Susan Cooper Alan & Chely Markowitz Marshall & Myra Kaplan Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of **Eve L. Greenstein**by Barney Coltman

Yahrzeit Plaque

Susan May Schwaid

February 6, 2015 Always in our hearts

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to the friends and family of **Marjorie Present**On her passing.

BOOK PLATE

In honor of
Toby and David Goldfinger
from

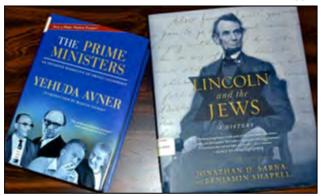
Muriel and George Swartz
March 1, 2015

KJCC Library Report

Medina Roy, loving tender and supreme czarina of the KICC library, wanted you to know about four new permanent additions to our rapidly expanding collection of Judaica books of all kinds: history, philosophy, fiction, religious practice, mysticism, humor, poetry, biography and others.

First, Joyce Peckman has donated her personal copy of Simon Wiesenthat's "The Sunflower,

the book we met to discuss on April 12th. loyce has also donated her personal copy of "The Lost Tribes of Israel." by Professor Tudor



Parfitt. (Professor Parfitt, you will surely remember, regaled a large audience at KJCC on March 15th with stories of his travels and adventures throughout the Middle East, Asia and Africa researching claims of Jewish ancestry by the Lemba in South Africa, who he ultimately traced to Yemen and discovered that they carry distinct Kohane gene markers. His address was one of the highlights of the KJCC season.) Joyce says that "Lost Tribes" is not a breezy read, but that it's witty and literate and richly rewarding.

Medina has just taken delivery of two new books, shown in the photograph above. One the left is "The Prime Ministers: An Intimate Narrative of Israeli Leadership," by Yehuda Avner, and on the right "Lincoln and the Jews: A History" by historians Jonathan Sarna and Benjamin Shapell.

Yehuda Avner, who recently died, was a political adviser, speechwriter and diplomat. His book is a true insider's account of "details of lifeand-death decision-making, top-secret military operations and high-level peace negotiations under the leadership of Levi Eshkol, Menachem

Begin, Golda Meir and Yitzhak Rabin." This book is also the basis of a major documentary produced by the Academy Award-winning film division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

There has been increasing speculation, not just by Internet bombastics on both sides but by serious scholars, about Lincoln's relationship and seeming affinity for Jews. Yes, there are even questions being raised as to whether Lincoln was a bit of a crypto-lew himself.

> The two historian-authors of this book carefully document how Lincoln's relationship with American lews impacted his presidency and the decisions he made. They reveal that he had a deep and broad knowledge of the Hebrew Bible and used its concepts in some of his most important writings. They reveal that he befriended a number of lews from a young age, appointed numerous Jews to public

office, and had a well-stocked kitchen cabinet of lewish supporters and advisers.

There is, of course, no charge to members who wish to borrow KICC library books. Medina does have a sign-out sheet, but that's just so she knows where all her books are. Enjoy.

Shavuot Dairy Dinner on May 22nd

Please join us for our dinner get-together in May. It'll be on May 22nd in celebration of Shavuot, at 6:30 before the 8:00 service, sponsored by Michael and Lorena Kaufman in honor of son Lance's graduation from Law School. See the ad on page 20. Shavuot articles begin on page 42.

BOOK PLATE 2

In honor of **Toby and David Goldfinger**

from Muriel and George Swartz March 1, 2015

CRF needs land-based volunteers, too

The first big project of KJCC's new Tikkun Olam Committee is working with the amazing Coral Reef Foundation (CRF), the Keys-based innovator of techniques proven to restore and replenish vital tropical reefs that are now being used around the world. (This is a very focused element of Tikkun Olam, intended to help heal our ocean neighbor, a project dubbed "Tikkun HaYam" – repair of the seas – by our friend and KICC member Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of the Tampaarea Hillels.) But you don't have to be a diver to help with the vital work of CRF. They welcome land-based volunteers, too, at their education

center near the Pilot House restaurant, 5 Seagate Blvd., Key Largo. They need people to welcome guests and answer questions. Volunteers also handle retail sales, answer the office phones and generate mail orders. If your fingers are still dextrous you might be asked to create monofilament loops that they use for hanging new coral growths in their underwater nurseries. If you're handy, there is a need for those skilled with power tools and at small construction projects. Anyone interested is asked to sign up through the CRF web site, http:// www.coralrestoration.org/volunteeropportunities/land-based.

—Linda Kaplan

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, 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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KICC 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, 305 -451-0665.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Dave Mont, 305-393-9883, to arrange your donation.

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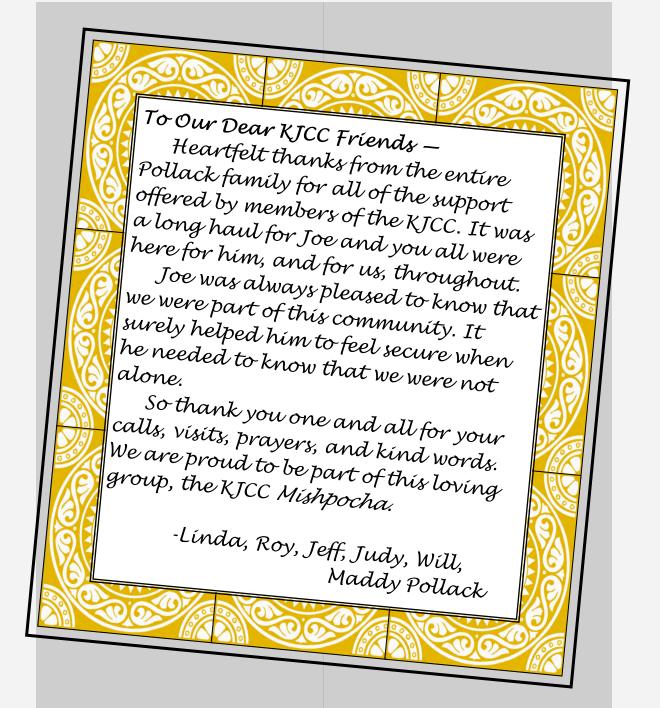
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Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KICC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards 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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> For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

In Memoriam May 2015

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Rose Roazen	Neil H. Tomor	Charles S. Cohn	
By Sylvia Berman <><><>>>>	By Barbara A. Calev	By Nancy L. Cohn <><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Becky Kanowsky	Sam Hitzig	Emanuel Schafer	
By Wes & Rita Conklin <><><>>>>	By Wes & Rita Conklin	By Barry & Natalie Dorf <><><>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Gertrude Weisberg	Carmel Catanese	Julie Gorson-Marrow	
By Gerri Emkey <><><><>>	By Jane Friedman <><><><>>	By Janice Gorson	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Belle Kirschenbaum	Amalia Kahn	Morris Moshe Grossman	
By Marilyn Greenbaum	By Franklin & Judy Greenman	By Stuart Grossman	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Yolanda Haviv	Esther Jacobs	Leo Grossman	
By Leo Haviv <><><>>>>	By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs	By Sam & Leslie Janowitz	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Max Tuchman	Cele Rosen	Morris Kornbloom	
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan <><><><>>	By Harvey & Joan Kay	By Erica Lieberman-Garrett	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Rene Rose	Lilyan Sax	Robert Schur	
By Skip Rose	By Stuart & Lauren Sax	By Lee Schur	

⊗n Memoriam May 2015

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Robert W. Singer	Rose Wainer	Sam Wainer	
By Mary Lee Singer <><><><>>	By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Susan Cimkowski	lda S. Reider	Phillip Temkin	
By Stephen Steinbock	By George & Muriel Swartz	By Robert Temkin <><><><>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Benjamin Weber	Norma Cutler	Rene Rose	
By Judith Weber <><><><>>>>	By Donald Zinner	By Skip Rose	

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 three 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 and Trees: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute; an outdoor plague is included in the price.

Sisterhood Erica Lieberman-Garrett



assover was a wonderful time for the KJCC! Everyone seemed to enjoy the Family Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club this year. Chef Joseph prepared a delicious meal, and the matza ball soup was especially good this year, thanks to a bit of instruction from me. Gene Silverman's charoset was scrumptious. Thank you, Mort, for coring all those apples!

Seventy-eight people attended. Many visitors and their families joined us, as well as some of our newest members. I know that they felt the warmth and the joy that "our little KICC shul" has to offer. The service, led by Gloria Avner. Susan Gordon. Steve Steinbock and Steve Hartz, was very meaningful and fun, with many children looking for the afikoman and joyfully singing the four questions.

The twelfth annual Women's Seder raised over \$1200 and this year's tikkun olam recipients will be The Talia Agler Foundation, the KJCC Scholarship Fund, and the Visiting Nurses Association of the Florida Kevs (which provides hospice) in honor of Carol Steinbock. We are grateful to be able to help our community in this way.

Another season is winding down as our snowbirds head north for the summer. For those of us who stay in the Keys, there is still plenty to do. Our upcoming end-of-season Sisterhood luncheon will be on Sunday. May 3rd at noon. We will get together at a new restaurant in Key Largo called Skipper's Dockside (formerly Coconuts) to relax, socialize, summarize a great season, talk about our plans for the summer, and simply enjoy each other's company. All of the women work very hard at the shul. Everyone deserves so much credit for all their help, their time, and their contributions that make everything run as smoothly as it does. I really appreciate the support that I have received as the new Sisterhood president, and together we have a great team. I hope that you can join us for the luncheon on May third.

There will be a Shavuot/Shabbat Dairy Pot Luck dinner on Friday May 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact me at hippiejap@hotmail.com to RSVP and coordinate your dish. Lorena and Michael Kaufman will sponsor the dinner in honor of son Lance Roy's graduation from law school.

Sisterhood is excited to be hosting a new and fun event by our creative art group. Please save the afternoon of Sunday, June 14th. Details are to follow, but I can tell you that we will be having fun doing some art project, led by the brilliant Gloria Avner, and I'm sure that there will be some refreshments. It will be open to everyone to enjoy. Donations will be appreciated. We will also be getting together in June for a planning meeting, oy vey! Summer goes guickly and the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, will begin on Sunday, September 13th.

There are so many ways that people help our Sisterhood and the shul. As I've said before. we are small, but we are mighty. As our congregation continues to grow, expand and evolve, we end a great season feeling proud of who we are and how far we have come. We support each other in sad times, and celebrate our simchas with joy. The more involved I have become over the past few years with all of the activities and experiences that we offer, the more blessed my life has been. I hope that you all experience this as well, and I encourage all of the women who are our Sisterhood to participate, connect, and evolve with us as we head into the summer months. relax a bit, and anticipate with excitement our plans for the new year 5776. >

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.

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Dandrea, Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Eisenstein, Michael & Heather Corrigan

Grossman, Herb & Elinor Silverman, Mort & Gene

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Sunshine Fund

Sax. Stuart & Lauren Sam & Babe Sax

Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund

In Memory of

Joyce Peckman Leslie Peckman **Yahrzeits**

Azzato, Maryann E. Paul Charlap Boruszak, Joan Robert Kohlenbrener

Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Gertrude Kaplan

Jewish Definitions

Torahfied (n.) Inability to remember one's lines when called to read from the Torah at one's Bar or Bat Mitzvah. (Or from the Haggadah at Passover)

Matzilation (v.) Smashing a piece of matzo to bits while trying to butter it.

Bubbegum (n.) Candy one's mother gives to her grandchildren that she never gave to her own children.

Chutzpapa (n.) A father who wakes his wife at 4:00 a.m. so she can change the baby's diaper.

Deja Nu (n.) Having the feeling you've seen the same exasperated look on your mother's face, but not knowing exactly when.

YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



The Sephardim In The Berber World - Morocco

The history of the Sephardim fleeing the persecution of the Inquisition in Spain is a story of survival and loss, of conserving the old Jewish traditions and creating a new Sephardic lewish world in the Diaspora, the Middle East and Israel. It is also the story of loss of Judaism, either by death, when they perished in the relentless Spanish persecution, or by assimilation. The expulsion from Spain in 1492 was the end of the greatest and most culturally assimilated Jewish community of Europe in the Middle Ages. One of the escape routes when quickly leaving Spain was migration to North Africa.

Large numbers of expelled Sephardim fled to Morocco, just across the narrow Gibraltar straits to the south. There had been close connections between the lewish communities of Morocco and Spain in the past. Jewish communities had lived in North Africa for a long time. Morocco at that time was part of the Berber empire, which dominated all of

North Africa and part of Spain for centuries. There had been a strong Jewish presence in all the Maghrebi countries (Libva. Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco) since Roman times, centuries before the rise of Islam. Where the lews came from to these countries is not known: it is believed that they arrived from Cyrenaica (now Libya) and Egypt

in the 1st century C.E., when the Great Revolt against the Romans was crushed and the Hellenistic Jewish community of Alexandria was destroyed. Exiled Jews took refuge in the North African mountains and spread Judaism among the indigenous Berber population. Historians write about massive conversions to Judaism among the Berbers, who practiced their adopted religion until the Islamic conquest in the 7th century. At that time some Berber tribes converted to Islam, while others retreated to the interior of the Maghreb (Tunisia westward) where they intermingled with other Jews forming new communities.

Throughout the Islamic Empire period the Jewish communities of North Africa and Spain interacted regularly. During periods of Spanish persecution prior to the famous 1492 expulsion, Jews had fled to North Africa where they were received by the old lewish community. and where the two communities merged, sharing their common Jewish heritage. The Moroc-

> can city of Fez was one important lewish center. Other lews arrived in Morocco from Algeria and Tunisia, fleeing the Muslim conquest coming from the east. Then a flow of Jews from Palestine and Babylonia

A group of Sephardic Jewish women photographed in Salonika, Greece in 1917. This was their everyday dress.

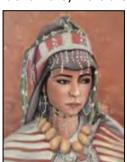


arrived in Morocco.

The history of the Jews of Morocco during the Middle Ages tells of persecution from various fanatical Islamic groups. The situation improved a bit when the exiled Sephardim and Marranos arrived. But the virtual flood of refugees after the 1492 expulsion did not assimilate to the old community as easily as the trickle of had in previous decades; the full merging of the Jewish communities in Morocco happened centuries later.

The Sephardim settled in the coastal towns and in major cities like Fez. Meknes. and Tetuan. They came to play a central role in the development of the country and in external trade. With their superior culture, skills in printing, manufacturing, and weaving, and their ability to speak different languages and to trade with their exiled brethren settled throughout central Europe and the Mediterranean, they had much to offer. They were intermediaries between their Muslim neighbors and foreign traders and consuls. Many served as diplomatic representatives to European governments on behalf of Moroccan sultans. They were rewarded with special rights and privileges that the old community did not have, and thus acquired wealth and rose to influential positions.

As soon as the Sephardim settled in Morocco, they formed separate communities, maintaining the social organization and the Jewish customs of Spain. They wanted to conserve the Judeo-Spanish culture of the Golden Age in Spain. They dominated Jewish life, but they didn't integrate with the old North African communities, regarding the native Jews of Morocco as inferior. Their privileged positions – they were the intellectual elite of law-



yers, doctors, financiers, and royal advisers - and their seeing the other Jews as inferior, created inevitable resentment in the old community. The Se-

A late 18th century Moroccan Jewish woman in portrait.

phardim called the native Jews Berberiscos, the Sephardim were referred to derisively as Megurashim (Hebrew, the banished) and were also called Forasteros (Spanish, strangers). Tensions between the two communities lasted for hundreds of years.



Middle Ages on, all North African Jewry suffered from the general economic and cultural decline of the Arab countries. Despite difficult conditions and increasing poverty, a rich Jewish culture – with both spiritual and intense social components – developed within the walls of the *Mellahs* (Jewish quarters in the cities). These Moroccan Jews were very pious; everywhere you could hear their prayers and chants.

During the time of French colonialism in North Africa in the 19th century, the more privileged Sephardi families adopted the French culture and assimilated with the Europeans. The Jews of the Mellahs left them and lived in neighboring old residential quarters or new European neighborhoods. The great majority remained traditional and religious. By the early 20th century, the largest Sephardi community in the Diaspora was that of North Africa, half of it in Morocco. With the independence of the North African states and the creation of the State of Israel, the mass migration of the Sephardim and North African lews began. Many of the educated, affluent lews went to France and French Canada. The population of the old *Mellahs* and Berber villages emigrated to Israel. A whole new social history of the Sephardim had begun.

The history of the Sephardim and Marranos is to be continued in my next article – their migration to South America, their intent to escape Spanish persecution there, and their tragic fate. ♦

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



The 2015 Israeli Elections

The recent elections in Israel for the 20th *Knesset* saw the highest voter turnout since 1999. The percentage of eligible voters who came to the polls on March 17th was 71.8 percent: the turnout fourteen years ago was 78.7 percent. According to the Israel Democracy *Institute.* the number of women elected (28) broke the record of 27 set in the 2013 elections. The number of Orthodox and haredi (ultra-Orthodox) lawmakers fell from 39 to 25, while the number of Arab-Israeli lawmakers increased from 12 to 17. Forty-one new lawmakers - slightly more than one-third of the parliament - will join this new Knesset. (www.jta.org, 3-18-15)

An Israeli Film and Television Milestone

Producer Steve Tisch has a Super Bowl ring and an Academy Award attached to his name. Now Tisch, who produced the film "Forrest Gump" and co-owns the New York Giants, has a film school bearing his name. He has given the Tel Aviv University (TAU) Department of Film and Television a \$10 million gift. The donation is the largest that the department has ever received, elevating it to the status of a full-fledged film school. He said he was prompted to make the gift after visiting Tel Aviv last year to serve as honorary chair of the Tel Aviv Student Film Festival. Tisch's family previously endowed New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in the 1980s. TAU's Department of Film and Television is ranked among the world's top 15 international schools of film and television. Notable graduates of the school include directors Ari Folman ("Waltz With Bashir"), Dror Moreh ("The Gatekeepers") and Yaron Shani ("Ajami"); screenwriters Gideon Raff ("Homeland") and Hagai Levy ("The Affair" and "In Treatment"). Tisch's gift will increase the

school's ability to attract top faculty, offer scholarships and increase international collaborations. (www.variety.com, 3-5-15)

A Request from Yad Vashem

The research team at Yad Vashem. Israel's memorial and museum to the Holocaust, is attempting to track down information about a number of individuals who are listed in a journal and an improvised *Haggadah* written during the Holocaust. The team is requesting help from the public. The journal belonged to Regina Honigman, who worked in a slave labor factory at Gabersdorf Camp in Czechoslovakia. Honigman documented her daily activities in a diary and listed the names of some 40 women prisoners along with some of their autographs and poems. Her modified Passover Haggadah reflected the women's experience in the camp. Honigman, originally from Zawierce, Poland, was sent to work at Gabersdorf following a decree by the Nazis that every Jewish family in the town send one family member for forced labor. Her parents and sisters were eventually murdered in Auschwitz, but she and one brother survived the war. She continued writing in the journal even after being transferred to a displaced persons (DP) camp. Eventually, she moved to Australia with her husband, whom she met at the DP camp. Honigman died in 1992 and her daughters donated the diary to Yad Vashem in 2005. (www.tabletmag.com, 4-6-15)

Methuselah is Looking for a Mate

Sarah Sallon, M.D., is director of Hadassah's Louis L. Borick Natural Medicine Research Center. As part of her long-term Middle Eastern Medicinal Plant Project, she initiated the Germination of Ancient Seed Pro-

gram which works with neighboring Palestinians and Jordanians to develop and conserve the medicinal plants in the area. During the 1960s excavation of Masada, a 2,000-yearold Judean date palm seed was found in perfect condition. After much study, the seed was planted. Now ten years old, the tree - it was given the name Methuselah - is over ten feet tall with offshoots and flowers. It produced pollen for the first time last year, indicating that Methuselah is a potent male tree. To revive the species, a female is needed. Other date seeds were found in and around the same area but they have yet to be completely analyzed. The wild Judean date palm is considered to be extinct. After the Jewish War and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E., the lews were sent into exile. In the following centuries, agricultural continuity essential for date palm cultivation - was lost. By the end of the Crusader period, the majority of date plantations were gone. For ancient Israel, the date palm was a symbol of prosperity; today it represents a historic connection to the Biblical land of Israel. Even today. the image of the tree is seen on the Israeli ten-shekel coin. Dr. Sallon maintains hope that the tree may have medicinal properties based on descriptions in ancient medical texts. For years, it was believed that Methuselah was the oldest seed to have been germinated, but in 2012, Russian scientists reportedly grew a 32,000-year-old seed found in Siberia that they believe was buried by an iceage squirrel. (www.haaretz.com, 3-31-15)

lews Make the Cut

At the beginning of March, Forbes released its 29th annual list of billionaires. This year's list featured a record 1,826 people, 181 more than last year. Ten of the top fifty were members of the Tribe. Larry Ellison, founder of the tech giant Oracle Corporation, is listed as the wealthiest Jew in the world and fifth wealthiest person overall, with a net worth of \$54.2 billion. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is the second wealthiest Jew (\$35.5 billion) and 14th wealthiest overall. Mark Zuckerberg, still one of the world's youngest billionaires at age 30, came

in at number 16 overall (\$33.4 billion). Several Jews are among the newcomers on the list. including Russ Weiner, the founder and CEO of Rockstar energy drinks, Jerry Reinsdorf, owner of the Chicago Bulls and Chicago White Sox sports franchises and Ken Grossman, a co-founder of the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. While men still far outnumber women on the list, a few Jewish women are on it: Shari Arison, American-born Israeli businesswoman and philanthropist - and Israel's richest woman (her father founded Carnival Corporation) - is worth \$4.4 billion. Karen Pritzker, whose grandfather built the Hyatt empire (\$4.3 billion); Lynn Schusterman, a drop-out from the University of Miami - her wealth comes from oil and gas - (\$3.7 billion); and Doris Fisher, co-founder of the Gap clothing store (\$3.2 billion). Sheryl Sandberg. COO of Facebook, just made the list with \$1 billion. (The Forward, 3-6-15)

A Computer in Your Palm

In 2011, Nissan Bahar and Franky Imbesi founded *Keepod*, a company based in Tel Aviv. They were looking to create a USB drive that would keep all of a user's data on a small external drive rather than on a computer's internal hard drive. Bahar and Imbesi invented the *Keepod*, a cheap device (\$7.00) that places a computer's operating system on a small, affordable USB drive, allowing users to connect to the internet using older - and much less expensive - computers. With that in mind, the team's end-goal was to provide the world's poorest countries with widespread computer and internet access. Bahar and Imbesi say their device will help bridge the "digital divide" - the gap between those with and without regular computer access. "People can access information to empower themselves." Bahar said. "That means education, health care, personal growth...and see what's going on around the world through a free medium." This is not the first time an attempt has been made to bring internet access to the world's poorest people. About ten vears ago, the United Nations backed an effort to create a \$100 laptop through One Laptop Per Child, a project that aimed to bring

inexpensive computers to developing nations. But Bahar believes that this method is impractical on a large scale because even \$100 is not affordable for people in developing countries. Since the Keepod allows users to store their personal information on the drive, people can share a single computer. further lessening the cost of internet access. Keepod is working on a plan to collect millions of computers that are discarded each year and ship them to the developing world at a cost of under \$100 each. The company has already sold more than 30.000 USB drives. Keepod's added bonus: by keeping sensitive information off the computer, the product provides users with an added layer of security and viruses won't be an issue. (www.jta.org, 3-12-15)

In Memoriam

 Al Rosen, third baseman for baseball's Cleveland Indians and the American League's Most Valuable Player in 1953, died recently. He was 91. Rosen, a four-time all-star, was known as the "Hebrew Hammer" (also a nickname given to Hank Greenberg, the first Jewish baseball superstar). He was given the nickname because he had been an amateur boxer, a sport he reportedly picked up after being harassed and beaten up in his neighborhood as one of only a handful of lewish boys. Rosen played for the Indians from 1947 through 1956, which included the 1948 World Series - the last time Cleveland won the title. No other Indians player has been named MVP since Rosen, who retired after the 1956 season. He was 32 at the time and suffering from a back injury due to a car accident the previous year. Following his on-field career, Rosen worked in the front offices of the Houston Astros, San Francisco Giants and the New York Yankees. Rosen's childhood idol was Hank Greenberg, first baseman for the Detroit Tigers who (many years before Sandy Koufax) once refused to play on Yom *Kippur.* (www.jta.org, 3-15-15)

 Yehuda Avner, author, diplomat, advisor and speechwriter to several Israeli prime ministers, died at the end of March. He was 86. He loved Israel and the Jewish people "with a

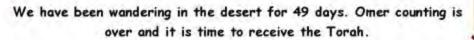
fervor that resonated in his voice whenever he was called upon to speak in public." Born in Manchester, England, Avner migrated to pre-state Israel in 1947 after graduating from high school. He was among the founders of Kibbutz Lavi in the Lower Galilee. Avner fought in the siege of Jerusalem in 1948. In 1958 he joined the Foreign Ministry and became an insider in the Prime Minister's Office, later becoming a close advisor to and English speechwriter for four of Israel's prime ministers - Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin - and playing a significant role in the history of the modern State of Israel. Through the years, Avner took copious notes, and after his retirement used them to chronicle the history of the state. His 2010 book, The Prime Ministers: An Intimate Narrative of Israeli Leadership, became an international best seller. In 1983, he was appointed as ambassador to the Court of St. James, the government of Great Britain. He was known to have said that when he presented his credentials to Queen Elizabeth, she asked. "Why is this knight different from all other knights?" (www.jpost.com, 3-24-15)

 Bernhard "Buddy" Elias, closest living relative of Anne Frank and guardian of her legacy, has died at the age of 89. A childhood playmate of Anne and her older sister Margot. Elias was born in Frankfurt, but in 1929 his father, a merchant, was transferred to his company's Swiss office. Two years later, Buddy and his mother joined him in Basel. Elias was Anne's first cousin and four years her senior. He was an actor, comedian and professional ice skater but primarily he lectured world-wide on the Frank family. At the time of his death, Elias was president of The Anne Frank Fonds, a charity in Basel, Switzerland founded in 1963 by Anne Frank's father Otto. (Otto Frank died in 1980.) The Fonds' mission supports social and cultural projects centered on tolerance. Anne's literary legacy received a major boost when, in 2001, Elias' wife, while cleaning out the attic of their house, discovered a trove of letters, postcards and photographs - some 6,000 items in all - sent to the Eliases by the Franks.

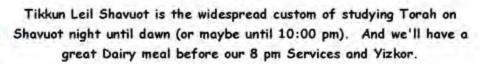
(www.haaretz.com, 3-17-15) ♦



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Oneg: Medina Roy in honor of Bianka's 100th birthday. Contact Erica hippiejap@hotmail.com
 to reserve your spot and

coordinate your covered dish.

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Photo Gallery

Saturday, March 21 was native plant give-a-way day at Pennekamp State Park in Key Largo. Gardenmeister Steve Steinbock led a contingent of KJCCers who stocked up on plants (only up to the legal limit, alas) for the KJCC Meditation Garden. Below left, Steve stands with the four corner stanchions of the new

Levy/Miller Garden pergola, the one that will house a collection of his beloved orchids. at the other end of the Garden from the original pergola built and donated by Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake. The roof trusses went up shortly after.



At right and just above, Jane Friedman stands with and blows out a candle on a cake celebrating her birthday at the March 27 oneg. Notice how many candles she's blowing out in the upper photo. All the others must have gotten, um, lost.

At the same March 27 oneg that featured a celebration of Jane Friedman's birthday, Medina does HaMotzi honors after the Kiddush. It was her final official act of the night after leading services along with Gloria and Jane. Gloria captured the photo, below center, of Art Itkin, our ageless Pauline Roller and Barry Dorf. In the photo below right, taken by Joyce Peckman while

> visiting oldest son Daniel at his home in Denver for Passover, Joyce captured a ritual not engaged in too often any more by very many of us: the collection and burning of all household chametz prior to the beginning of the holiday.

In the photos below and below right, the new 2015 Board for Voices for Florida Keys Children, which includes KJCC members Elaine Schulberg, Maryon Gould and Mary Lee Singer. That's Rita Conklin at left in the small inset photo below, who also attended the luncheon. It's very nice to see you, Maryon, if only in pictures.

Some photos from the April 3rd first-night seder put on each year by Beth Kaminstein and Dave and Suzi Feder at Beth's oceanside home in Islamorada. The first night of Pesach, of course, always corresponds to the full moon. If you look carefully you can see it in the upper right corner of the top right photo.







Some photos from the April 12th discussion of Simon Wiesenthal's "The Sunflower," led by Rabbi Agler. No one was unmoved.



The photo just above is, as it seems, of the Highland Park, IL train station. It was sent by Richard Kaufman, and we include it as a clear symbol that high season is over and our snowbirds are returning to the north. At left is the year-end picnic of the **Upper Keys Concert Se**ries volunteers, led by our own Joyce Peckman. Six of her volunteers are also KJCC members.

On April 17, the day after Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, KJCC's Holocaust Committee, comprised of chair Yardena Kamely plus Medina Roy and Muriel Swartz, led services. As you can see from the photos, Gloria was also called to the bemah several times to join in the singing. Bert Jimenez, a friend of KJCC and long-time student in Yardena's Hebrew classes, brought his guitar and strummed soft accompaniment to several songs.

And why are we showing a photo of tulips placed in

front of the bemah, replacing our usual flowers? Yom HaShoah commemorations often feature tulips as a way to honor the Dutch people, who did so much, often risking their own lives, to help Jews during World War II.













Photos continue of the KJCC Yom HaShoah commemoration on April 17th. It has become traditional for the **Holocaust Commit-**

tee to present six candles, one for each million lews murdered, not as a consequence of war but as an act of calmly and coldly calculated strategy.

We're an informal shul, and almost always there is warm, casual banter and the soft murmur of conversation during services. But during this ceremony, when they call selected people to the front to light candles, there is virtual silence. Each candle is dedicated to a group of innocents destroyed in this incomprehensible act by what was at the time the most cultured and educated country in Europe.

That Sunday, April 19th, the Holocaust Committee also sponsored a viewing of "Treblinka's Last Witness," a documentary about the last survivor of the famous and doomed revolt by Treblinka prisoners. Thank you for your work, Holocaust Committee. We are grateful.



The Women's Seder – A Dozen Years Old

By Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman

ook at the pictures. There's a new question circulating the week before Passover: Why is this Women's Seder different from all other Women's Seders? Aha! The answer: not only is a man present, but he sits among us as a treasured friend and honored quest. Forty-two women, ranging in age from nine to ninety-nine, plus our first male attendee, Steve Steinbock, participated in KICC's 12th annual Women's Seder on March 22nd. From the beginning, there have been three themes at each seder: a convivial gathering based around a meaningful ceremony, a collection of funds to be sent to organizations that help women and children (our small effort at tikkun olam), and a tribute to one of our members. This year the funds collected will be donated to The Talia Agler Girls' Shelter in Nairobi, Kenya, the KJCC Scholarship Fund, and the VNA Hospice of the Florida Keys. Steve was in attendance for the third reason. Last fall we told his wife Carol



Cimkowski Steinbock that she would be this year's honoree, and Steve was there to witness the fulfillment of that promise.

The Seder began as always with an introduction that went around the table: "I am (name) daughter



Special Guest of Honor Steve Steinbock with Linda Pollack

[Steve said "son"] of (mother's name), who was the child of (grandmother's name)." This year at Erica's suggestion we added countries of origin. For Linda Kaplan from Miami and lane Friedman, from the Philippines, this was

an especially meaningful addition. Although a few of our guests recounted three generations in North Carolina or Pennsylvania, many of us traced our roots to Rumania, Poland, Germany, and Russia, or even the Netherlands and Morocco.

Gloria Avner was the leader, with Joyce Peckman, Beth Kaminstein and Joan Stark her assistants. Muriel Swartz put it best when she wrote.





"Gloria explains in a caring, thoughtful way as she includes those who are at their first Seder along with those who have been to countless...
All learn something new from Gloria's extensive knowledge." Using a condensed version of *The Journey Continues: The Maayan Passover Haggadah*, we read a deeply meaningful consideration of our continuing journey from bondage to freedom. We narrat-

ed the bravery of Shifra and Puah, the Hebrew midwives who ignored the decree of Pharaoh to kill newborn lewish boys. We filled Joan's handmade goblet with water to create Kos Miriam. commemorating the well of fresh water that followed the wandering Jews through the desert until Miriam's death.

With the accompaniment of musical instruments, we sang a new Dayeinu: "If we continue to organize, march and vote to affirm our values, Dayeinu. If we care for the earth and its future as responsibly as we care for those we love, Dayeinu. If we honor our visions more than our fears, Dayeinu."

As always, the food was plentiful and delicious, expertly organized and beautifully presented by Erica Lieberman-Garrett and her team. Once again we were uniquely honored to have the

real deal kosher schmeer matzah, prepared via the exacting 18minute rule by the talented Susisara Feder. There was killer horseradish and two varieties of sweet charoset, thanks to the efforts of Joan Stark and Pauline Roller.

Then came the homemade tropical *gefilte* fish by Beth Kaminstein. After Carla assisted in serving Erica's dill-enhanced chicken soup with matzoh balls, we

headed for the buffet. There was brisket provided by Carol Laskin and Gloria Avner, Moroccan chicken by Sofy Wasser, and a table full of other dishes wor-



thy of queens, prepared by generous women too numerous to name.

Between the friendly conversations during dinner and dessert, we were called to quiet, as Teresa Kwalick, Carol's good friend,





Once again this year, our deepest appreciation to Holly Padgett for her patience and beautiful photog-

raphy.

fellow Catholic. and one of us for many years, spoke of our fond memories of this

year's honoree. A ceramic orchid container will be created and donated to the KICC Meditation Garden in Carol's honor, and her name will be added to the tapestry adorning the KJCC vestibule.

The Women's Seder is also special because our intent goes beyond the mandated re-telling of our story. We aim to "Do

Something," to recognize the injustices that exist in our world and work to repair them. In doing this we follow in the footsteps of a long line of remarkable women throughout Jewish history. >





Photos continue on next page...





PESACH

THIS YEAR IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

bv Gloria Avner

hen the son of a founding KJCC member (now almost the same age his father had been when he left us) tells us how happy he is to be at our seder and that he would never miss one (although he has to drive all the way from Naples to get here), the message rings loud and clear: this is an important evening, we must be doing something right, and our people's most important traditions will go on.

Look at the excitement on the children's faces, the tables full of happy guests, and the enthusiastic team of leaders (cantorial Steve Hartz beaming out the special *Yom Tov Kiddush*, Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon sing-



ing, storytelling and coordinating kids, and Steve Steinbock on his roller skates and with his

cordless microphone facili-

tating readers throughout the large room who are sharing the important task we are all charged with: to re-tell, out loud, the story of our escape from slavery into freedom as if it were happening to us, all of us, right now.

We obeyed the *mitzvah* with gusto and gustatorial delight. Thanks to special guidance from Erica Lieberman-Garrett, the chicken soup with *matzoh* balls sur-

passed all previous years. The food was delicious, especially the *charoset*, generously prepared by Gene Silverman and KJCC matri-



arch Pauline Roller (who insisted on chopping all those apples, even though at 99.5 years old she would have been granted a pass).

Seeing a tableful of Susan and loe Sachs'









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May – in the Midst of the Omer

by Joyce Peckman

he month of May begins with the 27th day of the Omer. What is this Omer all about? And what is Lag BaOmer? An Omer is an old Biblical measure of grain, quantified at about two quarts. In Leviticus, Parshat Emor, is the commandment, "When you come to the land that I will give you and you reap its harvest, you must bring an Omer of your first reaping to the priest....for a wave offering to God....The priest shall make this wave offering on the day after the first day of the Passover holiday....You shall then count seven complete weeks....until the day after the seventh week, fifty days....This day shall be celebrated as a sacred holiday (Shavuot) when no work may be done. This is an eternal law for all generations, no matter where you may live." So following the clear instructions in the Torah, we begin the count each year at the end of the second Seder, immediately after the triumphant shout of "Next year in Jerusalem!"

According to the Halakha (Jewish law), a person may only recite the blessing while it is still night. If you miss a night, you can continue to count, without saying a blessing. The period of counting the Omer is also a time of semi-mourning for the disciples of Rabbi Akiva. According to the Talmud, 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva perished during the time of the Omer-counting as a sign of Divine anger for not honoring one another properly. (They were either killed by the Romans during the Bar Kokhba revolt in 132-136 CE or they died in a plague.) Rabbi Yechiel Michel Epstein (1829-1908), author of Aruch HaShulchan, postulates that the mourning period also memorializes Jews who were murdered during the Crusades, and later blood libels and pograms (Wikipedia). As a result, Halakha forbids weddings, haircuts, or listening to instrumental music (a boon for a cappella groups) during the period between Passover

and Shavuot. I don't think it is a coincidence that Yom HaShoah is also observed during the Omer.

On the 33rd day of the Omer - Lag BaOmer is Hebrew gematria for "33rd [day] in the Omer" - the plaque killing Rabbi Akiva's students ended. (Some cite a military victory.) And so on Lag BaOmer the bans are lifted for

One of Rabbi Akiva's few surviving students was Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, who went on to become the greatest teacher of Torah in his generation, and is asserted to have authored the Zohar, a landmark text of Jewish mysticism. (This is according to Jewish tradition: historians, it should be said, disagree with this.) According to the Zohar (III, 287b-296b), on the day of Rabbi bar Yochai's death, he revealed the deepest secrets of the Kabbalah. Lag BaOmer therefore became a day of joyful celebration of the light of wisdom that he brought into the world. Lighting bonfires has become a well-known custom. In Meron, Israel, the burial place of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son, Rabbi Eleazer, hundreds of thousands of Jews gather throughout the night and day to celebrate with bonfires, torches, food and singing. But the beaches of Haifa and Tel Aviv are also ablaze with Israeli celebrations. During the Middle Ages, Lag BaOmer became a special holiday for rabbinical students, when they took a day off from studies to play at outdoor sports. I remember it as a Hebrew School "field day," with organized games of softball, tug-of-war and relay races. Later, it took on significance as the first spring day when a wedding could be scheduled.

Lag BaOmer is May 7th this year. May it be a day of special light for you, too. (It's also the only day during the Omer counting when tradition says you're permitted to cut your hair. Better make that appointment now.) \diamond

The Changing Face of Shavuot

(And How the Yizkors Came to Be)

by Gloria Avner

et's face it. With the possible exception of Georgia Landau, Linda Perloff, Mort Silverman, and Steve Steinbock, we are not agricultural people anymore. We haven't been for a long time. Even if we had "bikkurim," or "first fruits" for offerings, there has been no authorized holy place to bring our fruits for sacrifice since the destruction of the Second Temple about 2,000 years ago.

Here are some post-Pesach questions to ponder. How is it that our holidays and observance are so closely linked? One eight-day

ritual is barely begun when we start our preparation for the next. By the end of the second day of Pesach we are already counting Omer, sheaves of barley grain, for the seven "weeks" leading up to *Shavuot*. When we are finished counting Omer, it will be time for sacrificing the Bikkurim of harvest season. Finally, on the second day of Shavuot, comes the fourth and final Yizkor of our ceremonial vear.

How are these events connected? After years of organizing KICC's ritual events and holy days. I was sure there were

never more than three or four weeks a vear without a holiday or fast or feast to be observed (and that's not counting Shabbat). It could make a person dizzy.

The passage from Pesach to Shavuot was always connected, but a yearlong prolifera tion of holiday events such as KICC cele brates may not always have been the case (and definitely was not called for in the Torah). In fact, prior to exile in the Diaspora, there may only have been two ceremonial seasons. Both would have been related to the necessities of farming.

The first would have been the ceremonial season beginning with Rosh HaShanah, through the Ten Days of Awe, ending with

Yom Kippur and the first Yizkor. This tenday period, not unlike the *Pesach* period, was followed almost immediately by another multi-day celebration, this time the harvest celebration of Sukkot, again celebrating "fruits." This time it's an eight-day joyous observance capped by Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret, the day on which we hold our second Yizkor memorial service of the year.

Here comes the season in which we pray for rain and dew to nourish our crops. Six months later comes the second season, the one that heralds Spring, On the full moon of Nissan

we celebrate our passage from slavery to freedom with eight days of Passover. This would have heralded the planting season along with all associations with new growth



Israeli children, here and in all the other photos of this section, celebrate the bounty of the harvest at Shavuot. It was certainly something to celebrate after a hiatus of close to 2,000 years.

and transformation. On the last day, a third Yizkor service is held in the memory of our parents and grandparents.

Seven weeks later Shavuot arrives and the final celebration before the hard work of harvest takes place. On the second day of Shavuot, here in the Diaspora, the fourth and last Yizkor service of the vear is observed. In Israel. founded with strong agricultural roots by kibbutzim mak-

ing the deserts bloom, people still celebrate with singing, dancing and flower displays. In Temple days, the farmers would leave Jerusalem after bringing their sacrifices and go home, back to their fields.

We won't go home. Like many congregations, we will focus on another face of Shavuot, the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai, the metaphorical signing of the contract between us, the newly forged Jewish People, and Adonai. As God promises us rain and sun in proper season, we agree to honor the Mitzvot and be a "light to the nations." The covenant is sealed.

On the morning scheduled for presentation we will not fall asleep as our ancestors

> nearly did. With the possibility of some dairy induced carb-drowsiness (please see the ad on p. XX), our congregants will be fully awake. having a Torah study session after a shared meal, a Shabbat service and a Yizkor service. Ah. we come back to Yizkor, a ceremony begun a mere thousand years ago.

Read the words inside the box to learn more of *Yizkor's* origins. They are not so very ancient. But why is Yizkor relevant to the holidays it follows? Think about Bikkurim. the fruits. They were sacrifices, gifts to God. It is the custom when honoring our departed to give charity or tzedakah in their names. That will be our sacrifice, in somber times and happy ones. Grateful for the teachings and the nourishment our parents gave us, it becomes obvious that we are their fruit, giving of ourselves, our good deeds, remembrances. and tzedakah, in their names, so that others may thrive. >

The Origin of Yizkor

This is auoted from a book review by Israel Drazin of "May God Remember," edited by Rabbi Dr. Lawrence J. Hoffman.

The custom of reciting Yizkor on the solemn holiday of Yom Kippur began in Germany in the eleventh century following the devastation of Rhineland lewry during the Crusades, a trauma that was exacerbated in the fourteenth century when Jews were butchered because nonlews were convinced that they caused the Black Plague. It was originally a personal family prayer recited to remember their dead, but it soon became a prayer recited within a community in synagogues on Yom Kippur.

The custom of reciting Yizkor spread eastward very quickly and Polish Jews supplemented it with a prayer remembering the lewish victims of the 1648 Cossack massacre under the leadership of Bogdan Chmielnicki. The Polish Jews also extended the recital of Yizkor beyond the sole recitation on Yom Kippur to the last days of the three festivals Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

The Prayer

May God remember the soul of my beloved _____ _who has passed to his/her eternal rest. I pledge charity in his/her name and pray that his/her soul be kept among the immortal souls of Abraham, Isaac, lacob. Sarah. Rebekah. Rachel. Leah and all the riahteous men and women in heaven. Amen.

SHAVUOT SHARDS

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

◆ In the Talmud, the word atzeret, meaning "cessation" or "solemn assembly," is used to reflect how the rabbis viewed Shavuot as a conclusion to Passover and the Omercounting period of 49 days that immediately follows. Talmudic rabbis also used the description z'man matan toratevnu ("time of the reception of the Torah"), thereby anointing Shavuot as the moment when all Israelites gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah. (The Bible is not specific as to when this momentous event actually took place. So naturally the rabbis spent many

vears studving and arguing about it. All the Bible says, in **Exodus** 19:1. is that "on the third new moon after the Israelites had gone forth from the land of Egypt...they entered the wilderness at Sinai." The calculations ao from there. and they finally

agreed that the day was Shavuot.) By linking Shavuot to the day Torah was received merely the most important day in the history of the Jewish people - rabbis assured that the celebration of a middle eastern agricultural harvest would forever be infused with powerful and lasting significance. Indeed, today Shavuot is known mainly as the "birthday of the Torah." References to its origins as an agricultural festival persist but are secondary and seem almost quaint.

◆ Religious scholars speculate that Shavuot was probably not celebrated until Solomon's Temple was built, some 300 or so vears later. It would also have been the most difficult festival to observe, coming as it does in the middle of the growing season. Still, there is evidence of its dutiful observance: the Roman/Jewish historian Josephus (first century C.E.) speaks of large attendance in Ierusalem for Shavuot. The Mishnah, in the

> section known as bikkurim. describes the bringing of first fruits as a gala affair. and included all seven species for which the land of Israel is praised: wheat. barlev.

> > ♦ One miaht todav con-

dates.

grapes.

figs, pom-

egranates,

olives and

Why Eat Dairy Foods on the Night of Shavuot

Our meal on the night of Shavuot is traditionally made up of dairy foods, cheesecake and ice cream ranking high among the favorites. There are many reasons cited, including some very convoluted gematria - correlations between numbers and letters in words and names, some adding up to cheese and others to milk, some having to do with the beginning of the laws of *kashrut*. Considering that this is the night on which the Jewish people are given the Torah, the following verse in the Song of Songs, comparing Torah to milk, makes the most sense to me:



"Like honey and milk [the Torah] lies under your tongue" (Song of Songs 4:11). Just as milk has the ability to fully sustain the body of a human beina (i.e. a nursing baby), so too the Torah provides all the "spiritual nourishment" necessary for the human soul.

- Gloria

sider it a simple thing - especially with the issue now resolved - but there was great controversy in the beginning about when to begin counting the Omer. The Torah says to make the first offering (and therefore begin the counting) "on the morrow after the Sabbath" of Passover. Clear and direct, right? Well, no. A serious dispute arose over what "Sabbath" meant here. The Pharisees were the first to say that "Sabbath" here meant any prescribed day of rest, and therefore referred to Passover itself. (They were also not corrupt and reactionary as they are at times portrayed in Christian literature. They were, in fact, the reformers, and the first to institute the idea that it was okay to interpret and debate the Torah's meaning. Hillel was probably

a Pharisee, and they were certainly the dominant sect at the time the Second Temple was destroyed. It was the Pharisees who saved Iudaism by reconstituting it from a religion of sacrifice to one of prayer. Soon they began to be referred to with a different honorific: rabbi. and the term Pharisee dis-

appeared.) Over the centuries, later rabbis and sages came to agree with this interpretation, and mandated that we begin counting the day after Passover. This is, of course, now considered settled practice. But the Sadducees, who included the Second Temple priestly class and who tended to be more literal in their readings, claimed that "Sabbath" meant nothing other than the Sabbath itself, and therefore counting must begin only after the first Saturday during Passover. And the Sadducees were not alone in this view. Their subsect the Boethusians also held this view. as did later Biblical literalists the Karaites (a few of whom still exist), and, interestingly, Catholics (they get to vote?) and much secular scholarship. The author of the fascinating and controversial Book of Jubilees, which was not included in the Hebrew canon, also begins counting on the Sunday after Shabbat, so his math does not agree with that of the Talmudic rabbis.

◆ Because of Shavuot's connection to the gift of Torah, Eastern Europeans Jews in the 17th century began the practice of introducing very young children - often between the ages of three and five - to Torah study on Shavuot. This initiation would include cakes, honey and candy so that the children would quickly associate Torah study with sweetness. Some would even daub honey onto the Torah pages for the children to literally lick off. The early

Reform movement, using similar reasoning, initiated their confirmation ceremonies for 15- and 16-vearolds on Shavuot: this practice is still in widespread use today.

◆ Some say the Zohar, the major work of mystical ludaism. was written by Rabbi Shimon

Bar Yochai in the second century C.E. Others, including most scholars, believe it was written in the 13th century by Moses de Leon. It's fairly well established that de Leon was the first to publish it. Since the days of Rabbi Isaac Luria in the 16th century, mystical practices and ideas have been connected to Shavuot. It was probably Luria and his Tz'fat mystics who began the practice of Tikkun Leil Shavuot, the reading of sacred literature the entire night of Erev Shavuot. To mystics, the nation of Israel is seen as a groom and the Torah as its bride. Shavuot then becomes a kind of anniversary. The counting of the omer has been especially infused with mystical



meaning. The number seven repeats. There are 7 x 7 weeks of counting the omer. Seven equals the days of creation. "Sefirah" means the counting of the omer; but "sefirah" also is the word for each of the levels of divine emanation in Jewish mysticism. (Of the ten levels, the lower seven are seen as within human comprehension.) Those of a mystical bent often spend the seven weeks of the Omer preparing and studying to be ready, on Shavuot, for the gift of the Torah. In Jerusalem, beginning in 1967 after the city's reunification, tens of thousands of Jews finish off a night of study by walking to the *Kotel*, the Western Wall, to join a sunrise minyan.

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



of decorating with plants because it was too similar to the decorations Christians

used for their holidays.)

◆ Kibbutzim and Moshavim in Israel today offer a special celebration of the agricultural origins of Shavuot. In parades and other ceremonies, they show off the fruits produced in their fields, in the manner of the *bikkurim* taken to the Temple in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. Agricultural equipment is also put on display, aids to farming not avail-

able to those making pilgrimages to the Temple.

◆ It is traditional to read the Book of Ruth on Shavuot. That book's story actually takes place during the spring barley and wheat harvest seasons. (A hungry, widowed Ruth goes to the fields of Boaz during the harvest to glean ungathered grain as food for herself

and mother -in-law Nao-mi.) Her desire to be-come a member of the lewish



people is also seen as a parallel to Shavuot, when through accepting Torah the Jewish people actually became...the Jewish people. Also, the final lines of the book of Ruth detail her lineage; King David, Ruth's greatgrandson – Ruth's son was Obed, whose son was Ishai, whose son was David – was said to have both been born and died on Shavuot.

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

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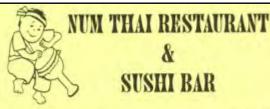


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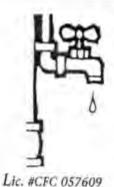


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June, July and August 2015

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June 2015 14 Sivan - 13 Tammuz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Gloria Avner & Susan Gordon Steve Steinbock	6
7 Sisterhood Planning Meeting 9:30	8	9	10	11	Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur	13
KJCC Board Mtg. 9:00 a.m. Gloria art class Noon	15	16	17	18	Joyce Peckman Steve & Amelia Kasinof	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26 Steve Hartz 6:30 Service Elinor & Herb Grossman	27
28	29	30				

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

President's Message Sam Vinicur

My guess is that a whole bunch of you think that KICC becomes a quiet, torpid locus of lollygagging idlers during the summer. Or something like that. That we lie around virtually inert. practically gagging on the heat, every now and then summoning just enough heroic energy to swat at some relentless fly or mosquito, much like the semi-catatonic. dusty locals so prevalent in old Sergio Leone westerns. This calumny seems most prevalent, it must be said, among our beloved snowbirds.

When I first moved to the Keys, those who had been here a while seemed to delight in stories about how summer meant true freedom. I heard over and over how it used to be possible to lie down in the middle of the highway without ever being approached by a car. No one. of course, would have been daft enough to actually do such a thing, but stories like that are almost always part of the mysterious process that leads to the creation of enduring myths and legends. Things don't have to be actually true. They just need to feel about right, so that we're comfortable with the characters we create (and inhabit) and then happily contrast to others unlucky enough to not be us.

Okay, so the pace does



slow a little here in summer. which upsets a grand total of nobody. But KJCC is still vitally active. It isn't going 24-7, I'll admit - though it sure seemed so recently when I was called three times in the wee small hours by our security company and had to dash over to make sure all was fine - but we still have a lot going on and a lot to do. We still have services every week, and an oneg. Gloria is planning for High Holidays and next season's religious calendar. Susan is mapping out next year's school activities. Bernie is diligently mining joke archives so he'll have new material for the new year. Sisterhood is planning their dinners and social events. Steve Steinbock and Foster Davidson have finished our Garden's beautiful new orchid pergola and Steve is beginning to curate a collection of his beloved orchids.

And on Friday, July 3rd, at this year's Shabbabaque, we, her KJCC extended family, will be collectively honoring our matriarch Pauline Roller on her 100th birthday. Peeps are coming in from all over. Join us if you can. It'll be guite the bash.

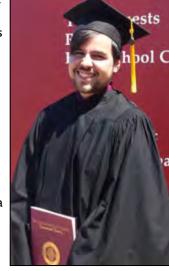
Do have a healthy and safe summer. I know all my fellow lollygagging Keys idlers would wish you the same, were they able to summon the energy. >

Nosh

Mazel Tov to Grad Cory Wasser

Cory graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in both Criminolo-

gy and Psychology. His proud mom Sofy writes that his transition from home life and high school to living on his own and college was seamless. Cory will be moving on to his master's degree and ultimately, with a bit of good fortune, Quantico and a career in the Federal Bu-



reau of Investigation. "Mark and I are confident that he will be able to accomplish anything he sets his mind to. We are certain that his KJCC family was instrumental in his development and self-confidence."

Oneg Sponsors for June 2015

June 5th - Steve Steinbock in honor of his anniversary.

June 19th – Steve & Amelia Kasinof to celebrate Amelia's birthday.

June 26th – Elinor & Herb Grossman in honor of their anniversary.

Still Time to Schedule Summer Onegs

Just a reminder that Friday services and onegs continue all summer long at KJCC. It isn't too late to commemorate that special person or occasion by sponsoring an oneg during the summer months. There may not be quite as many of us in attendance, but the object of your love will feel it just as powerfully.

4 Chai-Lights June/July/August 2015

Meditation Garden Orchid

To Honor

Gene & Mort's 60th Anniversary

by Elaine & Alan Schulberg

(Two Orchids.)

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Joel Pollack

A Statesman and Leader of the Keys Jewish Community Center. Presented by Arthur and Ann Plutzer New York City

See You in September

Chai-Lights is published ten times a year. What you have before you is the combined June/ July/August issue, with as many summer listings as we could gather. The next issue you see will be the September issue, which will quickly lead to High Holidays. (Erev Rosh Hashanah is Sunday, September 13th.) Please continue to send your photos and events to us at the Chai-Lights e-mail. We'll publish them in September.

Meditation Garden Tree In Honor of David Gitin

by Gloria Avner

June Birthdays

-	•
2nd	Myra Kaplan
2nd	Barbara Osder
3rd	Elanor Forbes
3rd	Abraham Rakov
4th	Alfred Weihl
4th	Scott Kay
5th	
5th	
6th	
6th	
6th	
7th	
7th	
8th	
8th	
9th	
9th	
12th	
13th	
13th	
13th	
14th	
15th	
15th	
16th	Marvin Blumenfeld
17th	Leo Haviv
17th	Anita Krieger
18th	
18th	
20th	
20th	
21st	
21st	
2 st	
23rd	
23rd	
24th	
24th	
27th	
28th	
29th	
30th	
JUII	

June Anniversaries

	Years
Ist Jim & Rita Williams	31
Ist Joel Bernard & Joan Stark	29
5th Érica Lieberman-Garrett & Ron Garret	
7th Richard & Sheila Steinberg	56
8th Stephan & Jane Friedman	
11th Medina & Carl Roy	
12th Steven & Jan Hartz	
12th William & Donna Bolton	
14th Harvey & Joan Kay	
19th Richard & Mindy Agler	
21st Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake	
23rd Stuart & Lauren Sax	
25th Herbert & Elinor Grossman	
28th Wes & Rita Conklin	
28th Lloyd & Rae Wruble	

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of

Joel Pollack

by Pauline Roller

Meditation Garden Tree

In Honor of Bianka Kirschenbaum's 100th Birthday

from Medina and Carl Roy

July Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Randy & Tomar Gross	15
9th	Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly	
I2th	Jason & Debbie Madnick	20
24th	Dick & Rita Bromwich	41
30th	Andrew & Randi Grant	26

BOOK PLATE

In Loving Memory of Our Friend Joel Pollack

by Joel and Toby Bofshever

Meditation Garden Orchid

In Memory of My Dad

Max Lieberman

Love, Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Meditation Garden Double Brick

In Memory of **Dr. Joel Pollack**

Beloved Brother and Uncle Martin, Judith, David Schneyer

Meditation Garden Orchid

In Memory of

James Nobil

by Lynn Nobil

July Birthdays

,	
	Jennifer Gilson
	Nelson Chester
	Patti Gross
lst	Alex Hudson
lst	Chely Markowitz
2nd	Elissa A. Denker
2nd	Rabbi Ed Rosenthal
	Max Finkelstein
	Michael Kaufman
	Mindy Rosenthal
	Pauline Roller
	loyce Peckman
	Lindsay Gould
	Steven Hartz
	Dana Grace
	Richard Steinberg
	Rebecca M. Schur
	Dot Brooking
	Leslie Reamer
	David Gross
	Paul Eric Bernstein
	Danna Levy
	Shira Listman
	Foster Davidson
	Luzviminda Levine
	Roos-Mary Benowitz
	Carol Laskin
	Arlington Garrett
	Brian Smith
	Joshua Samuel Bernstein
	Linda Perloff
	Carrie Temkin
	Alan Markowitz
	Carol Field
26th	Lance Royce Kaufman
27th	Rachael Bloom
27th	Stephanie LaMarche
27th	Marc Bloom
28th	Lila E. Juenger
	Bruce Boruszak
	Mary Lee Singer
	Candy Stanlake
	Barry Neumann
	Molly Bloom
	Mark Steinberg
	Drew Nobil
J. J	DI EW I NODII

August Birthdays

•	
lst	
2nd	Marc S. Field
4th	Jessica Forman
5th	Nissan Mayk
8th	
9th	Delia Grace Smith
9th	Eric Freundlich
10th	Barbara Smith
10th	Emma Feig
13th	Gina Moritz
13th	Stephan Friedman
15th	
15th	Patricia Isenberg
15th	Danielle Zinner
16th	Alan Lindenbaum
16th	Tom Brennan
16th	Alison Thompson
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	Brynn Borisoff
31st	

August Anniversaries

7th	Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	Years 58
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts	
I5th	Richard & Barbara Knowles	16
l 6th	Ira & Shirley Stein	57
17th	Stephen & Marsha Harris	14
21st	Jeff & Lisa Miller	
22nd	Franklin & Judy Greenman	
27th	Israel & Nissan Mayk	

Meditation Garden Brick

In Loving Memory of Joel Pollack 1934 - 2015 by Jane and Stan Seltzer

Meditation Garden Brick

For Pauline at 100

Chazak, Chazak V'nitchazek

July 4th, 2015

Meditation Garden Tree

In Memory of Joel Pollack

by Skip Rose

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to Joan Wohl and her family on the death of Milton Wohl.

Meditation Garden Orchid

In Loving Memory of

Joel Pollack

by Stuart & Lauren Sax

Yahrzeit Plaque SHIRLEY BOXER

1-28-1919



4-16-2015

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.

Meditation Garden Orchid

In Memory of

Sara Cohen

by Lynn Nobil

Meditation Garden Orchid

In Memory of

Joel Cohen

by Lynn Nobil

Gloria and Jane's Art Class on June 14th

If you've been counting the years since Gloria Avner last taught art classes at KJCC, your long wait is over. On June 14th, from noon till 2:00, Gloria will be teaching a class she calls "Painting and Pizza." As she did before, she'll be helping you work magic with string, India ink and watercolors. And this time she'll have Jane Friedman along to also teach a one-brush-stroke painting technique. Please see the ad on page 26.

Thank You from Bea Graham and Family

Wow! is all we can say. A beautiful plant whose top leaves are yellow and form a leafy flower-type thing at the top was delivered to

Mom from KICC. I read her the card and she had tears in her eyes. I will do it again tomorrow to make sure it sinks in. Thanks for the kind gesture and sincere prayers. Bea is



now home, walking and talking and making daily strides in her recovery from head trauma and surgery.

- Nissan Mayk, May 5

July and August Service Leaders

July 3: Joyce Peckman & Gloria Avner

July 10: Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Mitch Harvey

July 17: Barney Coltman

July 24: Bernie Ginsberg

Aug. 7: Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Mitch Harvey

Aug. 14: Ken Atlas

Aug. 21: Yardena Kamely

Aug. 28: Steve Steinbock

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to Zoe Berk-Moshe and her family on the death of

Joshua Moshe.

Meditation Garden Orchid In Memory of **Erik Persoff** by Lynn Nobil

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Ellen Coltman by Barnet Coltman

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Joel Pollack from

John and Arlene Line

Don't Forget the KJCC Web Site

Been to the KICC web site lately? It has several months of calendar listings, and handy prayers, and membership forms, years of old issues of Chai-Lights, and more. Plus Alan makes it easy to navigate. Go to keysjewishcenter.com.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Gene Silverman, 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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KICC 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, 305 -451-0665.

KICC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Dave Mont, 305-393-9883, to arrange your donation.

KICC BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 for information.

INF 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 Linda Kaplan, 305 -396-7000.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, 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.

LIVE GREEN - RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, idevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KICC.

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.







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

> For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

⊗n Memoriam &ummer 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Samuel Segal William Owen Esther R. Cohn By Paul & Barbara Bernstein By Nancy L. Cohn By Nancy L. Cohn <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Lois Owen Louis R. Coltman Leo Finklestein By Nancy L. Cohn By Barnet O. Coltman By Max & Mildred Finklestein <><><> <><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Moritz Gelbard **Betty Weiss** Samuel Schneider By Sy A. Gelbard By Janice Gorson By Maryon Gould <><><><><><><><><</p> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Saul Elson **Andrew Hutchison** Samuel Horn By Mrs. Marty Graham By Susan Horn By Susan Horn <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Lucy Kaufman Celestina Bravo-Mendez Ruth Rosen By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Michael & Lorena Kaufman <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Emilia Mendez William Saul Kerman Arthur Klimpl By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Michael Klimpl By Jonathan & Arlene Line <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Florence C. Kerman Carl C. Reiff Dale Gerber By Jonathan & Arlene Line By Rick & Roberta McNew By Dave Mont & Georgia Landau <><><><> <><><><> <><><><>

⊗n Memoriam &ummer 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Leslie Peckman **Ben Horwitz Morris Rose** By Joyce Peckman By Pauline Roller By Skip Rose <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Milton Lang Harold Rosenthal Leon Kirschenbaum By Ed & Mindy Rosenthal By Skip Rose By Medina Roy <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Jan Finer Rose Graff Rosenfeld Wally Steinberg By Stuart & Lauren Sax By Morton & Gene Silverman By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Leonard Tobin** Irma Weihl Rose Fine By Andrew M. Tobin By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Laura Bofshever Robert L. Cline Sidney Stark By Joel & Toby Bofshever By Meredith A. Cline By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark <><><><><> <><><><><> 0000000000000 In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Max Gould Stanley Horn **Phyliss Bloom** By Marc & Ellen Bloom By Maryon Gould By Susan Horn <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Abraham L. Blumenfeld Jason Grossman S. Marshall Gorson By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman By Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld

<><><><>

By Janice Gorson

<><><><>

<><><><><><>

In Memoriam Summer 2015

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Feda Bushell	Jacob Ratchik	Margaret Isenberg
By Susan Horn <><><>>>>	By Susan Horn <><><>>>>	By Patricia Isenberg
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Sydney Emsig	Beulah Grossman	Les Reitman
By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs	By Sam & Leslie Janowitz <><><>>>>	By Marshall & Myra Kaplan <><><>>>>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Otto Kluger	Fred Ross	Bob Freundlich
By Nancy Kluger <><><><>	By Joyce Peckman <><><>><>	By Linda Perloff <><><>><>><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Paula Travers	Frank Stanley Sachs	Morgan Rowen
By Michele Riley <><><><>	By Joseph & Susan Sachs	By Joseph & Susan Sachs <><><><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Aaron Schmidt	Harvey Kelman	Beth Schulberg
By Judith Schmidt <><><>>>>	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Sylvia Sachs	Jack L. Sachs	Stanley H. Klipper
By Morton & Gene Silverman <><><>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	By Morton & Gene Silverman <><><>>>>	By Mary Lee Singer <><><><>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Bernard Solas	Mollie Z. Cohen	Ben Steinbock
By Elaine Solas <><><>>>>>	By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	By Stephen Steinbock

In Memoriam Summer 2015

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Mack Swartz	Milton Swartz	lda Estrin
By George & Muriel Swartz	By George & Muriel Swartz	By Lillian Tallent
<><><><><><>	<><><><><><><>	<><><><><><><
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Alfred Eichler	Frieda Feinberg	Henrietta Zinner
By Judith Weber	By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	By Donald Zinner
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Franne Alter	Isaac Berman	Ralph Bofshever
By Barry Alter <><><><>>	By Sylvia Berman <><><>>>>	By Joel & Toby Bofshever <><><>>>>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Priscilla Leshin	Gary W. Cohn	Sandra Kanarek
By Joan Boruszak <><><><>>	By Nancy L. Cohn <><><>>>>	By Wes & Rita Conklin <>><>><>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Robert Davidson	Dorothy Schafer	Harriet Feinberg
By Foster Davidson & Carol Laskin	By Barry & Natalie Dorf <><><>>>>	By Arthur Feinberg <><><>><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Jesse Ginsberg	Jeanette Gould	Richard Gould
Pre Paymond Cinchaus	,	Michail d Gould
By Bernard Ginsberg <><><><>	By Maryon Gould <><><><>	By Maryon Gould <><><>><>
	By Maryon Gould	By Maryon Gould
<><><>ं<><>	By Maryon Gould <><><><>	By Maryon Gould <><><><>>

In Memoriam Summer 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Eva Raub Shirley Lieberman Billie Kornbloom By Harvey & Judith Klein By Erica Lieberman-Garrett By Erica Lieberman-Garrett 000000000000 <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Max Lieberman Isaac Cohen Pardo **Dorothy Marmar** By Erica Lieberman-Garrett By Stanley & Jenny Margulies By David & Pamela Marmar <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Gizella Reiff Erik S. Persoff Jim Nobil By Rick & Roberta McNew By Lynn Nobil By Lynn Nobil <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Howard Shutan** Joel Reed Baker Martha Schulberg By Joseph & Susan Sachs By Stuart & Lauren Sax By Alan & Elaine Schulberg 0000000000000 <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Selma Smith Meyer G. Cohen Samuel Wainer By Steven & Barbara Smith By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Erwin Wainer James Nobil** Erik S. Persoff By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Ben Horwitz** Ralph Tallent Seymour H. Levin By Pauline Roller By Lillian Tallent By Sanford & Nancy Yankow <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><>



Sisterhood Erica Lieberman-Garrett



Sisterhood has wrapped up a busy season with our annual luncheon, held this year at Skipper's Dockside restaurant in Key Largo. It was fun to sit. relax, and just enjoy each other's company as friends and sisters. We presented Mindy Agler with a check for \$440 made out to the Talia Agler Girls' Shelter. part of the tikkun olam funds raised at the 12th annual Women's Seder. Mindy was very moved. It was heartwarming to know that what we do in our Sisterhood and in our little shul reaches so far beyond the Keys, and really makes a difference to so many, in so many different ways.

Our May Shavuot dinner and celebration was scrumptious and enlightening, combining what we all love to do: eat, pray, and learn. Thank you as always to all of the women of Sisterhood who prepared the delicious dairy meal, and to Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman for a wonderful evening. I would also like to thank our sponsors of the dinner, Lorena and Michael Kaufman and wish them mazel tov on the graduation of their son Lance Royce from law school in San Diego.

Mark your calendars for noon, Sunday lune 14th, when Gloria and Jane will lead us in two new creative arts activities. All are invited. There will be pizza and salad to nourish our creative juices. A ten-dollar donation will cover all costs. Contact Gloria at geetavner@gmail.com so that she can plan the art supplies.

We are looking forward to our Shabbarbeque and a big celebration of Pauline Roller's 100th birthday, on Friday July 3, at 6:00 p.m. Our matriarch, our "Bubby," will be honored by many friends, relatives, and of course her own KICC mishpocha. It is an honor knowing and spending time with such a loving and kind woman, who comes from the same area in Romania as my grandparents, and who speaks a familiar Yiddish. I hope that we will see all of you there to celebrate this momentous occasion. Please rsvp to me at Hippiejap@hotmail.com and help me coordinate the side dishes.

Our upcoming year needs to be planned well in advance. We will meet on Sunday June 7th at 9:30 a.m. to discuss High Holiday preparations and ultimately decide which dinners we should plan, which events we enioved and would like to continue with, and any other new programs we would like to see evolve. We welcome everyone's input.

Our annual Erev Rosh Hoshanna dinner will take place on Sunday, September 13th. This will be a delicious traditional meat meal (with vegetarian options) complete with chicken matza ball soup, brisket, potato kugel, tsimmis, and more. Donation will be \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members and quests, with no charge for young children. Consider this option as you plan your holidays over the summer, and please remember to let me know if you are planning on joining us for this dinner.

Please keep in mind that over the summer our numbers dwindle, but there are often visiting guests at services, as well as the regulars who have to tough out the heat in the Keys, and enjoy Friday night services in our beautiful shul. Please consider sponsoring an oneg for a special occasion, or just to celebrate the friendship that really helps get us through the slow season. Contact lovce at Joycepeckman@amail.com for further information.

I hope that over the next few months you will all have time to relax and enjoy yourselves, stay healthy, and I look forward to seeing vou all in September as we begin our New Year 5776. I know it will be our best year yet. Enjoy your 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.

Book Plates	In Memory of	
Bofshever, Joel & To	by Joel Pollack	
Coltman, Barnet	Ellen Coltman	
Line, John & Arlene	Joel Pollack	
Plutzer, Arthur	Joel Pollack	
Roller, Pauline	Joel Pollack	
General Fund	In Honor of	
Pearlman, Richard &	Maddy Mort & Gene	
	Silverman's anniversary with love	

	In Memory of
Hartz, Steve & Jan	Joel Pollack
Pollack, Linda	Milton Wohl

Pollack, Linda	Milton Wohl
Meditation Garden	In Honor of
Levy, Roger & Danna	dedication of Orchid Pergola
Plutzer, Arthur	Pauline Roller on her
	100th birthday - brick
Roy, Medina & Carl	Bianka Kirschenbaum on
	her 100th birthday - tree
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine	Mort & Gene Silverman's
	anniversary - 2 orchids
	In Memory of
Rose, Skip	Joel Pollack - tree
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Joel Pollack - orchid
Schneyer, Martin & Judith	Joel Pollack - double brick
Seltzer, Stanley & Jane	Joel Pollack - brick

Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund

Peckman, Joyce In Memory of - Joel Pollack

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Sam Wainer, Rose Wainer

Scholarship Fund Hirsch, Suzanne	In Honor of
Sisterhood	Women's Seder
	In Memory of
Boruszak, Joan	Joel Pollack
Busker, Esta Jo	Joel Pollack
Coltman, Barney	Joel Pollack
Ehrenreich, David & Roberta	Joel Pollack
Gould, Maryon	Joel Pollack

Scholarship Fund (Continued)

Grant, Andrew & Randi	Joel Pollack
Jackson, Carol Winn	Joel Pollack
Kwalick, Teresa	Joel Pollack
Nitz, Stan & Duckie	Joel Pollack
Pincus, Linda	Joel Pollack
Pollack, Linda	Joel Pollack
Roberts, Paul & Susan	Joel Pollack
Roche, John & Bettye	Joel Pollack
Shuham, Martin & Caryl	Joel Pollack
Siegel, Robert & Marian	Joel Pollack
Singer, Mary Lee	Joel Pollack
Swartz, George & Muriel	Joel Pollack
Wohl, Joan	Joel Pollack

Sisterhood	In Memory of
Linda Pollack	Joel Pollack

Sunshine Fund	In Honor of
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Pauline Roller on her
	100th birthday
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Milton Wohl

Tree of Life	In Honor of
Pollack, Linda	Pauline Roller on her
	100th birthday - leaf

In Memory of

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin Joel Pollack - leaf

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan	Baruch Epstein
Dorf, Barry & Natalie	Manny Schafer
Emkey, Gerri	Gertrude Weisberg
Grossman, Stuart	Morris Moshe Grossman
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica	Morris Kornbloom
Roberts, Paul & Susan	Rabbi Milton Greenwald
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine	Nate & Richard Schulberg
Schur, Lee	Bob Schur
Steinbock, Steve	Susan Cimkowski

YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



Yom Yerushalayim

erusalem, the Holy City, the Kotel - Every Jew, religious or secular, who visits Israel wants to see it, to experience standing in front of those ancient stones. These stones are the remainder of the outer wall surrounding the Beit Ha'mikdash (The Holy Temple). Yerushalayim - Jews have always revered it as home. "B'shanah haba'a b'Yerushalayim ha'bnuya, - Next year in Jerusalem!" We recite this prayer at the end of the Yom Kippur service. It is an expression of hope to return to the Holv City, to return home.

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." The Aron Ha'kodesh (the Ark) in almost every synagogue around the world is oriented toward Yerushalayim, so that when we pray, we are facing Jerusalem.

Israel has paid a high price in lives for its defense of Jerusalem. The Haganah lost almost 2.000 men in the War of Independence (1948) defending the city against Arab attacks. Still, Israel lost the Old City of Yerushalayim and the Kotel to the Jordanian army. The armistice between Israel and Jordan established the division of Jerusalem. For nineteen years, Jerusalem was divided by concrete walls and barbed wire. And then came the Six-Dav War.

Before the Six-Day War started, when tensions were rising because of the imminent war with Egypt, Israel was hoping that Jordan would not enter the war. The Prime Minister of Israel, Levi Eshkol, sent a message to King Hussein of Iordan on the morning of June 5th through the offices of General Odd Bull, chief of the United Nations observers, assuring him that Israel would not attack Jordan if his country kept out of the fighting. King Hussein hesitated, but his commitments under a new alliance with Egypt and the atmosphere of hysteria in the Arab World (in their mind the destruction of Israel was already reality), determined his decision to go to war. Had he not joined the other Arab forces, he would have been labeled as a traitor to the Arab cause. To defend the Old City, Jordan assembled a very heavy concentration of Jordanian forces, and gave responsibility to the 27th Infantry Brigade of the Arab Legion, renowned for its fierce fighting, under the command of Brigadier Ata Ali.

In Israel, Colonel "Motta" Gur's 55th Parachute Brigade had been assigned to fight in the battle for Yerushalayim. Its mission was to break through the area north of the Old City at Sheikh Jarrach, The Police School and Ammunition Hill. This was the area that controlled the road leading up to Har Ha'tzofim, the Mount Scopus enclave, where a small force of 120 Jewish policemen had been isolated since the 1948 Independence War. They were guarding the old Hebrew University campus and Hadassah Hospital and were only supplied under the supervision of the U.N. An hour before midnight on June 5, 1967, the historic battle for Jerusalem began. The Israelis fired at the Jordanian's positions, using searchlights from the western part of Jerusalem and the Mount Scopus enclave, focusing

them on their targets. After two hours of heavy fire, Gur's paratroopers advanced across no-man's land in the area between the Mandelbaum Gate and the Police School. The soldiers attacked the heavily fortified complex of the Police School and Ammunition Hill. The Jordanian forces fought fiercely. After Gur's forces successfully passed through the fields of mines that the Jordanians had laid near their positions, they had to fight a series of close-combat battles, moving from room to room in the compound, clearing bun-

ker after bunker, fighting on the roofs and in the cellars. For four hours this desperate "seesaw battle" was fought, with the troops of both sides fighting incredibly bravely. The battle on Ammunition Hill has become part of the military saga of Israel.

Once Colonel Gur's forces were positioned between Mount

Scopus and the Old City, they were prepared for the final attack on the Old City. But first, it was necessary to ensure control of the hills overlooking Jerusalem from the East, Mount Scopus, the Augusta Victoria Hill and the Mount of Olives (*Har Ha'zeitim*). It was from this hill that the Roman Legions under Titus had surveyed the city walls of Jerusalem some 1,900 years earlier, in the year 70 C.E., before attacking the city and destroying the *Beit Ha'mikdash* (The Temple).

The Jordanian Governor of Jerusalem in 1967, Anwar el Khatib, was becoming desperate. Reinforcements promised by King Hussein never arrived, because the Israeli Air Force had attacked them along the Jericho road. Khatib was concerned about the area of the Dome of the Rock, where the Mosque of

Omar and the Al Aqsa Mosque are located. There was a big ammunition depot there and he feared that the fighting would set off these munitions, which could destroy the entire area holy to the three great religions. When the reinforcements did not arrive from Jericho, General Ata Ali realized that the military situation was hopeless. He decided to withdraw his forces and thus save them. Governor Khatib refused to accompany them; two days later he presented himself in Jerusalem to Chaim Herzog, who was appointed the first

Israeli Governor of the West Bank, and recounted the tense and dramatic tale of the battle for Jerusalem as seen from the Jordanian side.

Entering the Old City, the Israeli paratroopers encountered little resistance from the Jordanians. When the Israeli forces reached the holiest of Jewish shrines, the *Kotel*, a brief and very moving ceremony took



The battle for Jerusalem, June 1967. This photo was taken on Ammunition Hill, above the Temple Mount. In the center, helmetless, is Colonel Motta Gur.

place. The Chief Rabbi of Israel's Armed Forces, Shlomo Goren, managed to reach the Kotel even before the fighting had ceased, and he sounded the Shofar. The ancient sound of victory in the battles fought in Biblical times was again heard. Hardened veterans hurried to touch the ancient wall and to weep with gratitude. In the book "Siach Ha'lochamim" (Conversations Among the Combatants): a soldier recounted, "Though sniper fire continued, the paratroopers could not take their eyes off the Kotel. They gazed up at it and wondered why history chose them." On June 7, 1967, the last day of the three days of fighting in and around Jerusalem, costing the lives of 299 Israel soldiers. the Old City was captured, and East and West lerusalem were reunited. ♦

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Happy 50th Anniversary!

The Israel Museum in Jerusalem, ranked among the world's leading art and archeology museums, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an exhibit called "A Brief History of Humankind." The exhibit runs through January 2nd, 2016. There are a multitude of its unique displays worthy of a visit. Here are two in particular:

The "Nano Bible"

The museum's Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, is displaying the world's smallest Bible, which was created by two Israeli scientists of the Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute at the Technion -Israel's Institute of Technology. It is technically an engraving and is on a chip the size of a granule of sugar, meaning it is barely visible to the naked eve. The scientists created a program that guided an ion beam to inscribe the letters. The process took about an hour and a half - as opposed to about a year and a half for a scribe to complete a hand-lettered Torah. The text engraved on the chip needs to be magnified 10,000 times in order to be legible. In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI received one as a gift when he visited Israel. (www.theiewniverse.com, 5-5-15) The Oldest Copy of the 10 Commandments

The 2,000 year-old (or so) Dead Sea Scroll that contains the complete copy of the Ten Commandments is very brittle and will only be on display for public viewing for two weeks. It will then be returned to its pitchblack, climate-controlled facility. It was written before the birth of lesus and is just 18 inches long and three inches wide. (The only other Biblical-era copy of the Ten Commandments is the Nash Papyrus, which was discovered a century ago in Egypt and dates to about 150 B.C.E. More fragile than the Dead

Sea Scroll copy, the Nash Papyrus is housed at Cambridge University Library in England.) (www.diaitaliournal.com, 5-5-15)

An App That Looks Under Your Hood

Engie, a new Israeli app, can track your car's maintenance and notify you when there are problems. It also permits nearby repair shops to send price quotes and bid for your business. Engie, launched in 2014, is connected to a separate onboard diagnostic device in your car. (All modern cars have one.) Drivers enter the car model and year, which is then matched to model specifications. Codes from the computer let the driver know about the car's condition including engine problems, maintenance updates and gas mileage. When a problem is detected the driver can scroll through a list of prices for various parts and services. Currently. Engle can detect 60 to 70 percent of auto problems. The app and device are free but, as of this writing, it is only available for the Israeli market. The company is now working on an English language application for global markets. (www.worldiewishcongress.org, 5-8-15)

They Are Fruitful and Do Multiply

Borough Park, the ultra-Orthodox neighborhood in Brooklyn, claims to have the highest birth rate in New York City, with 27.9 births per 1,000 residents, making it easily the city's "baby capital." According to data from 2013, some 5,458 babies were born in the Brooklyn enclave. Still, the city's overall birth rate is at its lowest level since 1936 and has steadily declined in the past 10 years. (www.nypost.com, 4-27-15)

It's Official!

At the end of March, the Guinness Book of World Records certified a world record for the largest tallis (prayer shawl) to the Boca Raton Synagogue, a Modern Orthodox shul. It measured 1,471.74 square feet, almost the same size as the original "Star Spangled Banner," the huge flag flying over Baltimore's Fort McHenry during a naval attack by the British in the War of 1812 that moved Francis Scott Key (from Washington, D.C.) to write what became our national anthem. Efrem Goldberg, the synagogue's rabbi, claims that the large tallis can be used for kol hanearim, a Simchat Torah ritual where children gather together under a banner of prayer shawls as they are symbolically called up to the Torah. According to the Talmud, "G-d wrapped Himself in a tallis" to teach the lews how to pray. (*The Forward*, 3-25-15)

Honored by the Pope

At the end of April, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, the senior rabbi of Manhattan's 125-year-old Park East Synagogue, formally became a knight of the Papal Order of Saint Sylvester, an honor given to him by Pope Francis for his efforts to "promote peace and mutual understanding." The 84-year-old Holocaust survivor helped build close ties between Jews and Catholics after World War II. In 1965, Schneier founded the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an organization that has worked on behalf of religious freedom and human rights throughout the world. Other members of the Order of Saint Sylvester include Bob Hope and Oskar Schindler. Schneier is the first Holocaust survivor to receive Papal knighthood. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 4-30-15)

Israel Now Has Eight

Israel's Beit Guvrin caves. located in the Judean Jowlands south of Beit Shemesh and east of Kirvat Gat, have become the country's eighth location to earn certification as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Among the other already certified sites in Israel are Masada, the Old City of Acre, the "White City" of Tel Aviv, the biblical tells of Megiddo, Hatzor and Beersheva, the incense route of desert cities

in the Negev, Baha'i holy places in Haifa and the Western Galilee and the Nahal Me'arot caves in the Carmel. For Tel Aviv. the name "White City" refers to a collection of over 4,000 buildings spread throughout the city that were built in the 1930s by German Jewish architects who immigrated to British Mandate Palestine after the rise of the Nazis. The buildings are in the unique form of the Bauhaus or International Style. Tel Aviv has the largest number of buildings in the Bauhaus style of any city in the world. These eight Israeli World Heritage sites are a part of a group of 1,006 other places of outstanding natural and cultural importance around the globe. (www.jpost.com, 4-14-15)

Hike the Trail Without Leaving Home

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), in partnership with Google Israel, is in the process of photographing the Israel National Trail using Google Street View technology for Google Maps. This will be the longest hiking trail ever photographed to Google Maps and the first that stretches the length of an entire country. Volunteers are hiking the 620-mile trail carrying Google Street View Trekker cameras to map the trail. The Israel National Trail was inaugurated by SPNI in 1995, creating a hiking path across the entire country. The trail begins in northern Israel in Kibbutz Dan and ends at SPNI's Eilat Field School at the Red Sea. Google's Street View project was launched in 2007. It is currently available in 66 countries and allows users to explore neighborhoods and historical and cultural sites. (www.mfa.gov.il (Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs), 5-6-15)

Strangers Answer the Call

This past April on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Nate Remer's family, concerned that they might not have the ten people necessary to recite the kaddish (mourner's prayer) at his funeral in Jerusalem. posted a request on Facebook. About 150 people, most of whom had never met Remer, 82, or the few remaining members of his family, responded. They came from all over: a busload of Yeshiva boys, a paramedic firefighter visiting Israel from Tampa and an 18year-old who had never been to a funeral, to name just a few. Remer survived the Holocaust by hiding in a Ukrainian forest. More than 500 strangers responded to a similar request on Facebook for the funeral of Benjamin Schlesinger, another 82-year-0ld Holocaust survivor in the southern Israeli city of Ashdod. These requests via social media are not an isolated phenomenon in Israel: some 30.000 people attended the funeral of Max Steinberg, the 24-year-old American "lone soldier" who had volunteered for the Israeli Army and was killed in the war with Gaza in the summer of 2014. (www.nytimes.com, 4-17-15)

In Memoriam

• Jean Nidetch, co-founder of Weight Watchers (which was just recently ranked as the number one diet with the best long-term weight loss rate for its users), recently died. She was 91. Born Evelyn Slutsky, her compulsive eating habits began when she was a child; she realized many years later that she was raised in a family that ate as a consolation for disappointment. She had tried pills, hypnosis and fad diets with no success. In 1961, she was a 214-pound housewife with an addiction to cookies. When a neighbor asked when she was due (to give birth) she was prompted to do something about it. She invited six friends - all overweight women to her home in what turned out to be a group confessional that was to be the informal beginning of Weight Watchers. The women dieted together and pledged mutual support, and within two months 40 women were attending. It was a huge success. The group met weekly and Weight Watchers was incorporated in 1963. The company went public in 1968. In 1978, it was sold to H.J. Heinz for \$71.2 million, turning Nidetch and the co-founders into multimillionaires. The organization generated thousands of franchises and by 1968, five million people world-wide were enrolled in the program. (Nidetch reached her goal weight of 142 pounds in 1962 and was still the same weight in 2011.) (www.nytimes.com, 4-29-15)

Did You Know...

- According to a recent WIN/Gallup poll, Israel is one of the world's least religious nations. Sixty-five percent of Israelis described themselves as either not religious or atheists. In contrast, 75 percent of West Bank and Gaza Palestinians consider themselves religious. The poll indicated that China was the world's least religious country, with 61 percent claiming no religion. Thailand, on the other hand, was the most religious, with 94 percent claiming a faith. (www.jta.org, 4-21-15)
- According to Martin Abramowitz, president of lewish Major Leaguers, Inc., nearly 150 Jews have played Major League Baseball. These big leaguers have combined for 22,000 hits, compiled a batting average of .265, hit more than 2,000 home runs, and driven in over 10,000 runs. Abramowitz states that Jewish ball players have performed at or slightly better than the statistical average for all big leaguers. Three Jews - Sandy Koufax, Hank Greenberg and Lou Boudreau - are in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

(www.reformjudaism.org, 4-30-15)

- A team of officials from the Israel Antiauities Authority was on a routine patrol at the Horbat Siv archaeological site when they discovered a pile of dirt near the opening of a porcupine den. In the dirt, they found a 1,400 year-old ceramic lamp that had been unearthed by an Indian crested porcupine, common in Israel and known to dig burrows up to 15 meters deep. Horbat Siv is a large archaeological site from the Roman and Byzantine period. (www.timesofisrael.com, 3-24-15)
- · Alon Shaya, an Israeli-American, was named best chef in the American South by the James Beard Foundation. Shaya, 37, has been a finalist in the category for the past three vears. He was recognized for his work as the executive chef at the Domenica restaurant in New Orleans, which he opened in 2009. He recently opened a new restaurant called Shava in the same city, which offers an Israeliinspired menu using local ingredients. When Shaya was four years old, his family moved from Israel to Philadelphia. He attended the Culinary Institute of America in New York. (The Forward, 5-5-15) ♦

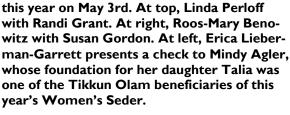


Photo Gallery

KJCC's Dave Feder, its host and impresario, at this year's Bay Jam at Islamorada's Founders Park (Dave is standing in the outdoor amphitheater he and Ron Levy built), auctioning off a cello custompainted by KJCC member and local artist Cathy Rakov. As Dave's tee-shirt proclaims, this was the 21st year for Bay Jam.





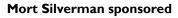




All the photos on this page were taken at the April 24th service, led by Randy, Jonah

and Oceana Gross. The day before had been Israel's Independence Day, so Yardena and Gloria sang some Israeli songs. The service concluded with Jonah playing Hatikvah on his trumpet. Gene and

We couldn't resist showing you the photo at right, of Gene and Mort at their high school prom, ages 17 and 18.





the evening's oneg in honor of their 60th anniversary. Gene and Mort are joined at bottom by daughter Robin and her partner Jerry.



All the photos on this page are from Rabbi Richard Agler's Saturday morning Torah Learning Service on May 9th, the last such service until after High Holidays in the fall. This was a special service for Rabbi Agler. It had been exactly fifty years since his Bar Mitzvah (his kippah proved it), and we discussed the same parshah he had chanted then.



As a special added treat, after the service Rabbi Agler led a discussion about the play those around the table had all attended together: New Jerusalem, a re-creation of the excommunication trial in Amsterdam in 1656 of philosopher Baruch Spinoza.





Creativity Unbound

Join art teacher extraordinaire Gloria Avner for Painting and Pizza — Sunday, June 14th, noon till 2:00 p.m. at KJCC

In this No-Fail
Art Workshop,
Gloria will
liberate our
creative
imaginations.
We'll use
string, India
ink and
watercolors to
create at least
one small gem



ONE BRUSH STROKE PAINTING:

Learn a lovely way to paint flowers and leaves with Jane Friedman. Beginners are welcome.

of a frameable abstract painting for everyone. It does not matter if you can't draw a straight line or have never painted before. You will have a good time and love your painting.

All materials along with pizza and salad will be provided. RSVP to Gloria Avner 305-619-0216. (A suggested donation of \$10 will cover all costs.)



The top three photos are from Steve Steinbock's recent trip to Dallas, Texas, where he visited Stuart and Lauren Sax and Ioan Boruszak. They took him to a rodeo, top right, and also ordered him a Texas-sized pizza. No, he did-

n't eat it all by himself. (But he could have.) Just below, Linda Pollack and



At right, those who attended a performance of Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" at Phil's Berry Farm in the Redlands on May 16th.

In the photo above, Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Steve Steinbock present a check to VNA/Hospice Clinical Director Debbie Premeza in Tavernier, another of the recipients of Tikkun Olam from this year's Women's Seder.

HOSPICE & VNA

of the Florida Keys

The Miami Beach Jewish Museum

A large contingent of the KJCC went to the Jewish Museum on June 17th. First to arrive was Morah Yardena, who had arranged for Chaim Lieberperson, the Museum's Educational Director, to work with our students. He spoke about

the history of Jews in Miami Beach. about the two synagogues that constituted the museum, and about lewish holidays, since we were visiting on Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day.) Then he organized a scavenger hunt, sending us in pairs around the room looking through

fascinating temporary "Shabbat" exhibit.

The second group came for the Museum's bimonthly lewish Food Walking Tour. After a brief introduction to the museum, they headed off for the coffee shop AROMA, the Miami Beach link of an international chain that we had enjoyed in



YALE

At top, parents, students and one morah from KICC's religious school stand in front of the lewish Museum on Miami Beach's Fifth Street. From left: Oceana Gross, Jane Friedman, morah Yardena Kamely (in rear), Stephanie and Randy Fink with

sons J.B and Max, Cole and Westley Silverman, and Mikhaela Bitton. That's Chaim from the museum next to Yardena.

Israel. Next was an Israeli-owned falafel shop, fish tacos at "My Seviche," and key lime pie at Joe's Stone Crab (started by Joe Weiss as a lunch



counter in 1913). Those on the Walking Tour returned to the museum for coffee as the kids and parents were finishing boxed lunch.

As the kids and parents left, the "foodies" enjoyed a multi-media presentation and talk about the lews who created and influenced the fashion world. Included in the group was Sylvia Whyte, who dressed many presidents' children, including Chelsea Clinton. Ms. Whyte was there in



person, celebrating her 95th birthday! Linda Perloff was thrilled to meet her. Linda disclosed that she still wears a raincoat by Sylvia Whyte that she's had for decades, and always bought and wore the designer's dresses while growing up in New York.

—loyce Peckman

At top, Westley and Cole Silverman inside the Jewish Museum at one of the exhibits. The center photo, left to right, features Linda Pollack, Bernie Ginsberg and Erica Lieberman-Garrett. At bottom is Mitch Harvey, Bernie and Linda Perloff. This group, which also included Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman,

also began their day at the Jewish Museum, but for a different reason. They were off on a food and walking tour of Jewish South Beach, a bi-monthly offering of the Jewish Museum.

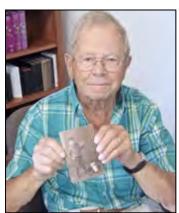
From Kristallnacht to the Keys

Saved by the Kindertransport

by Joyce Peckman

e first met Howard Tishauer several vears ago at an ecumenical Passover Seder in Marathon coordinated by Judy Greenman and Jessica Hernstadt. After Sam, Gloria and I made a failed attempt last autumn to interview him in Marathon, we were able to have him brought to the KICC. where he eagerly told his story.

Horst Simon Tishauer, now known as Howard, was born in Koslow, Germany on March 29, 1929, the youngest of three siblings. His brother Heinz was nine years older, his sister Erika three years older. Their father had fought as a rifleman on the front lines in WWI, receiving an iron cross, then settled in Koslow and opened a confectionery shop. They lived near the Oder River (which forms a border between Germany and Poland) and he remembered going swimming there. They were a comfortable middle class family, living in an apartment house next to the synagogue, and employed a nanny who worked with the children. He remembered going to shul with his father and watching his mother lighting Shabbat candles.

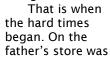


Howard displays a photo of himself as a child in the village of Kosle in Silesia.

Horst was four years old when the Nazis came to power. He remembered how people changed their greeting from "Guten tag" to "Heil Hitler" but until Kristallnacht was unaware of the brewing storm. He was nine years old when "the night of broken glass"

struck. Eighteen-year-old Heinz had already left home to work in another town. He vividly recalled his family huddled in the apartment. terrified. Because they had shutters on their windows, their glass was not broken, but next-door the synagogue was burned. His father was taken to Buchenwald. The nanny,

Elsa, worried that the rioters might harm the bov. smugaled him under her large skirt past the burning shul to her home. where he stayed for two days. Six weeks later, citing his service on the front lines in WWI. the Germans released his father. He was so gaunt that his son didn't recognize him.





Howard's original Kindertransport I.D. tag, no. 4615.

placed a sign "Juden - no Aryans allowed." The salesgirl who had worked for them was pressured into lying about the hours she had worked, resulting in a huge amount of back taxes owed, forcing his father to close the store. No other work could be found. Desperate. he resorted to picking up garbage from the streets. He was so ashamed that when Horst's mother sent him out to bring lunch to her husband, he hid from his son.

His brother's arm was badly injured in an industrial accident. It seemed clear that they would have to amputate. In an ironical twist. two doctors argued that because he was only Jewish, it was an opportunity to do experimental surgery on him, and so Heinz's arm

was saved.

Meanwhile, their cousin Ruth had been sent to finishing school in England, in preparation for becoming a debutante. She made the acquaintance of someone involved in sponsoring German Jewish children aged 10-13 to live in England for six months, as part of what would be known as the Kindertransport (This effort, that saved 9,743 children, was portrayed in the Warner Brothers' film "Into the Arms of Strangers".) Horst was

almost ten. and Ruth convinced the woman to sponsor her two young cousins.

And so forms were completed and visas arranged. His parents took him and his sister to Breslov, where he remembers taking an escalator (one of many new experiences) to the train that would bring them to Berlin, where a four inch square brown paper tag with his name, a seal and the

number 4615, was put on a string around Horst's neck. They were hustled onto a train with several hundred other children, and the doors shut behind them. No time was allowed to say good-bye to the parents that they would never see again.

The ride from Berlin to Holland took all night. At the border of Holland, SS officers boarded and searched their packages. They had already been warned that if the SS found any child over the age of fifteen, the entire train would be turned back. On the other side of the border, the children were greeted with juice and cookies and sent to the port. Although anxious to view the sea for the first time, the exhausted boy slept through the entire ride and voyage from Holland to England.

When they arrived, the children saw cars and families waiting at the dock, and slowly the other kinder were spirited away to their

new homes, but Horst and Erika still waited. Finally, a chauffeur took them to the home of Mrs. Wright, who had agreed to take in a number of children for a subsidy of fifteen shillings a week. The young wards were not treated well, and the siblings eventually followed the lead of another child and ran away.

The siblings ended up spending two years with a family in Surrey, eighteen miles from London, where Horst (now Howard) and Erika went to school. During those years, many

> German and Yiddish speaking lews were being sent to Australia due to English fear of a fifth column. Howard's English was halting, but the children were not allowed to speak German to each other. Howard vividly remembers hearing King George's famous radio speech, and feeling strangely comforted by the stammer.



Howard's identity documents issued in England just after the war.

Four more children joined them, so the family enlarged the attic and built a dormitory. During the blitzkrieg, the children had to run to the basement shelter during nighttime bombings. Sometimes no one was able to arouse Howard (remember the little boy sleeping through the voyage across the North Sea) and he remained alone upstairs. One night, after everyone else had descended to the shelter. the bright light of the London docks ablaze in the distance awakened him. In his bed were the yard cats, shaking in fear.

IB Priestley, the novelist and playwright. had founded a home that trained nurses to work with orphans. His sister went there, and Howard followed, staying in a subsidized hostel. It was there that his love for fishing began. Harry was interested in animals, and obtained a job at the Botanical Garden, where for fifteen shillings a week, he helped with the wartime vegetable garden and looked

after animals. At one point a sailor dropped off his little pet monkey, asking that it be cared for at the Gardens while he was at sea. The animal was assigned to Howard's care and stayed with him at the Gardens until the little monkey grew into a baboon that bit women. They were forced to cage it, and it soon died. Howard left the Botanical Gardens shortly thereafter to take a job as a dog groomer.

The war ended, but American soldiers remained in England, Over Passover, Erika assisted hosting some of them, and became acquainted with one who was assigned to go to Germany. She asked him to search for her missing older brother. The soldier complied, putting up signs wherever he went, "seeking Heinz Tishauer". One day a man who had seen the signs approached him. It was Heinz. He had survived Auschwitz and the death march to Bergin-Belsen. Their parents had not been so fortunate. Although a grandmother and several aunts and uncles made it to Shanghai, their father had been afraid that his wife was too frail to endure the long train ride. Grandmother perished in a typhoon, not a death camp, and the others emigrated to Canada and New York when the war ended. A cousin sent papers, and Heinz was able to go to America.

In England, Howard and Erika had joined Hashomer HaTzair, the left wing Zionist group, and were in training to join a kibbutz in Palestine. Heinz, now Harry, adamantly refused to join them in anything resembling a camp. The siblings explained their dilemma to the officials at HaShomer Hatzair, were released from their contract, and in March 1947, after eight years in England, set sail on a Polish ship bound for New York. The seas were so rough that almost no one else could eat, so there was food aplenty for them. Finally they disembarked in New York, where a small, thin man approached them. Erika ran to him, but Howard remained still. He did not at all recognize the big, strong brother that he remembered from his childhood.

Erika found employment as a nurse, while the brothers worked for a few years as runners on Wall Street, then as waiters in the

Catskills and NYC, and after a five day drive south on US1 in a 1936 Chevy, with a family in Miami Beach. All was well until their employers returned north. With no tourists due until Christmas, and no work to be found, the future was beginning to look bleak. Remembering the skill he had learned at the English hostel, Howard went fishing for dinner on the MacArthur Causeway. He caught and sold enough fish to support them until they could get a real job at "The Famous" restaurant.

Over the years, Howard married, served in the National Guard in Germany, opened a business in Connecticut, had children and grandchildren, was widowed and then remarried. When his children vacationed in the Keys, Howard joined them, and his love of fishing drew him here again. He has visited the KICC several times over the years on Yom Kippur or to say Kaddish.

Erika became active in the Kindertransport organization in New York. She was interviewed during the research for the film "Schindler's List," and her records are now in the archives in Washington D.C. Howard is the only one of the siblings still living. We are grateful that he took the time to share his story with us. >



Howard with son-in-law Harry Rich, far right, and grandson Brian Donegan, who brought him to KJCC for the interview.

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 Steve Steinbock 305-852-6152 or just bring to the KJCC.

The Trial and Excommunication of Baruch de Spinoza

by Joyce Peckman

aruch de Spinoza came to life at GableStage at the end of April in a drama written by David Ives. The well-acted play illuminated Spinoza's revolutionary ideas about God and religion through the framework of his rabbinical trial. On Tuesday, July 27. 1656 Baruch de Spinoza was summoned to Talmud Torah, the Congregation of Amsterdam's Portuguese Nation. He was guestioned (more like interrogated) and afterward

received one of the harshest writs of excommunication (herem) ever delivered. While the details of the trial are unknown - there is no transcript - in New Jerusalem playwright Ives used what little is known as a framework to showcase Spinoza's groundbreaking, or even world-changing, ideas and their unset-

tling impact on the world of Medieval Jewry. At the age of twenty-three, Baruch de Spinoza was the first to argue that the Bible was not the literal word of God. and that Divine Providence both followed and revealed itself through the laws of nature. He argued that true religion should consist of simple moral rules, not sectarian dogma, and was one of the first to argue for the right to philosophize without fear of governmental authority. He believed that God was everywhere and everything, and concepts of an anthropomorphic deity served by angels were illogical as well as theologically unsound.

The play portrays an energetic young man, recently orphaned, self-confident in his ideas, living at a time when the Spanish Inquisition was still active in other parts of

Europe. It shows the precarious situation of the Jews who had escaped Portugal to find a home in Amsterdam, and the role of religion in politics and in the daily lives of lews and Christians. (lews had been told in 1497 that they had to either convert to Christianity or leave Portugal.)

After the play there was a short discussion led by Producing Director Joseph Adler. We learned that, after his excommunication,

> Spinoza changed his first name to Benedict (which, like Baruch, means blessed) and moved near The Haque. He gave his share of the family business to his halfsister Rebeccah, and turned down an offer of a chair at the University of Heidelberg, so that he could remain an independent thinker. He earned a modest living as a



It was a day of ideas, and reflection, and drama.

lens grinder, was visited by other eminent philosophers, and worked on Ethics, which was published after his untimely death from lung disease at age 44. It has been said that this

fearless. strong and brilliant young Sephardic lew laid the aroundwork for eighteenth century enlightenment, and ultimately for modern conceptions of the self and the universe.





Joe

Any list of KJCC's most important members would inevitably include loel Pollack. He was grounded, and steady, and strong. He took on all the jobs. As a past president he provided counsel and an example for all who followed. He and Linda became KJCC's First Couple. We honor his memory here, through photographs (some from Chai-Lights archives, some from family) and your thoughts.

This is the most difficult of letters to write. about someone to whom for so many years I looked up

to and counted on.

I can honestly say that when I was head of Ritual Committee and then later as president of the KJCC, I could not have done either job without the help and guidance of certain people.

Joel was on my speed dial. I would call his home at all times of the day (and night). His patience was unending, to the point that when the calls got too much - I was invited to his home for breakfast!

Joel was my friend and my mentor and will be missed.

—Alan Beth

At top, Joe and Linda's wedding photo from February II, 1962. At right, a photo taken while aboard a cruise to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2012.

"It's funny," Linda said, " all my life I called him Joe. That's his name. But somehow, when we arrived here people started calling him loel, and that's what stuck." Another mark of the gentleman—this dignified, generous, sensitive man was too polite and concerned for others' feelings to tell us we'd gotten his name wrong.

—Gloria Avner



When I arrived here a dozen years ago. Friday services were often led bv the team of loel and Linda Pollack. I looked forward to those weeks. Thev worked so pleasantly together, making

the sanctuary a comfortable place to pray, and Joel always had something worthwhile and interesting to say about the Parasha. One Sunday I found that he had left his prayer book behind, full of sticky notes marking

the pages of special prayers. not all from the Friday service. I called to let him know that I had it and would leave it on the bimah. Joel was relieved to hear from me, explaining that he read from it every day at home. I dropped it off after the meeting.

Linda soon ascertained that I would be capable of leading services, and offered to co-lead one with me. She invited me to

their home and gave me a copy of the sheets that she and Joel used when they were on the bimah. with the introductions, pages and names of prayers, and one of their names listed next to each line. After we reviewed it, she edited the pages, replacing Joel's name with mine, and so began

my career as service leader. I think that Joel modeled the way for many of us. His quiet intelligence and dry humor gave a tone and direction to our actions, and his influence will live on.

— *Joyce Peckman*

Some photographs provided by Linda: at top, Joe as an 18-year-old batting champion of all New York City. That status earned him a tryout with the Yankees. (He decided to go to college and dental school

instead.) In the center, while in the Air Force in 1960. At bottom, as chief resident at lackson Memorial Hospital: this is the Dr. Pollack to whom Linda was first introduced. (She was quickly smitten.)

Jan and I first met our neighbors Joel and Linda Pollack almost 29 years ago. And I think that we have been the best of neigh-

> bors ever since. We have enioved great times on and off the water and comforted each other in the challenging times of our lives. Joe was an extraordinarily gifted and compassionate man whose skills as an athlete, oral surgeon. coach, community leader and friend were truly unique. He bore his long illnesses with grace. In all of it he drew great spiritual comfort from the enormous natural beauty of the Keys. He loved his numerous family members and friends. And we all loved him back. He needs no eulogy; all who loved him are his eulogy. His spirit will always be with us and will find enduring expression in our lives and in the life of the KICC.

> > -Steve Hartz

Jim and Joel were a real team. For many years, a week or so before the High Holidays, they would assemble their special cleaning supplies and prepare to make the silver Torah breastplates and finials shine. Each of those years the entire congregation would gasp the first time the newly polished Torahs were revealed. It was truly a labor of love and friendship.

—Joan Boruszak

Joel was president of the KICC when we joined. He quickly set the

standard of leadership of the congregation. His style was simple and laid back, but when he was passionate about something he knew how to let the sparks fly.

Joel also had a passion for baseball as we



do. He embraced it from the field level as we did from the stands. Nothing defines his love of the game more than the occasion when the KICC played the Sons of Italy in softball several years ago. loel was covering third base when the batter hit a line drive in his direction. At



his age and state of health he could have let the ball continue into the outfield, but loel instinctively dove for and stopped the ball, preventing the runner from advancing.

In life, he was a fighter to the end, taking his game into extra innings. For that, we will always remember Joel Pollack as a KJCC Hall of Famer and its Most Valuable Plaver.

-Stuart & Lauren Sax

In the summer of 2008. I was alone in the Keys when I received the sad



news that a dear friend of mine in Toronto. David Finkler, had passed. We were very close and would spend time together going to synagogue. I felt very distraught and was not connected to the KICC except for knowing Gloria. She informed me that on that evening they were having a havdalah service, which I attended. It was at Ioel and Linda

Pollack's beautiful bayside home, and I was greeted by Linda and Joel and made to feel so welcome. It greatly comforted me to be around such loving Jewish people, and it was after that evening, that I began to attend services and join the shul.

In 2010, I enjoyed our Yiddishkeit night, and the time I spent with Joel and Linda as we prepared for our roles in my play, "My Yiddishe Bubbe." Joel and Linda were such good sports and played the pharmacist and his wife in Woolworth's, back in the day. It was a fun night.

Joel was a wonderful man, and will be missed.

—Erica Lieberman-Garrett

loel once took me aside and told me that the very first thing he did when an issue of Chai-Liahts arrived at his home was to turn to my World Jewish Report column. He told me he loved reading it and that it was one of his favorite



sections. It was at that moment that I elected him president of my fan club.

Some more family photos. At top left, Joe and Linda poolside in Miami in 1967. At left, Joe with sons Jeff and Roy at Busch Gardens in 1976. (That's Roy holding the reins of the fake horse. Real Clydesdales, if you've ever been next to one, are even bigger and more impressive.) Just above, a familiar activity for the Pollack family during the 70s: baseball.

On one particular occasion, loel engaged me in a discussion of baseball. I told him I'm not that well versed in the sport, especially since I've been boycotting baseball since 1957, the year the Brooklyn Dodgers left

New York and moved to Los Angeles. He told me he was happy to learn that I only carry a grudge for a short period of time.

During practice for our infamous stick-ball tournament a few years ago against the Sons & Daughters of Italy - a team made up of men and women considerably younger than most of us at the KICC - Joel took a nasty fall but after just a few moments, he was back in action.

I will miss this very special man. -Medina Roy

When thoughts of Joel come to mind, we are reminded of a good guy always willing to help. While offering valuable input to keep things running smoothly, Joel received personal satisfaction for his volunteer work at Mariners Hospital, in the community, and at the KICC. He certainly deserves our appreciation and gratitude for all he has done. We were indeed fortunate to have known loel as a friend. —Nettie & Jules Seder

A person who aims to do just and good and kind deeds in life earns success, honor, and respect. This paraphrase of Proverbs 21:21 seems to us an apt description of Joel Pollack, a person who was always a privilege and a pleasure to know.

—Muriel and George Swartz

Thursday afternoons have always been mah jongg days. So, you say, what does this have to do with Joel? Well, while Linda and I

> were playing mah jongg, Joel would go down to "help" Bobby in his workshop. This appears to be innocuous enough, but the truth is. loel knew absolutely nothing about woodworking, and his greatest fear was that he would be taking Bobby to the ER because of using all the heavy equipment. I really appreciated the time loel spent with Bobby and it was truly a great testimony to Joel's friendship.

—Mary Lee Singer

Once Joe became a Keys fisherman, he pursued it with vigor, at top, and became very good at it. At right, with sons Roy (left) and Jeff in the late '80s at the dock next to their Keys home. Linda's caption info for the photo above had just two words: "Joe Cool."





The photo above shows loe davening with Israelis at a synagogue in Barcelona during a trip he and Linda took in 2007. At right, helping Cammie Berk (she prefers Cameron now) understand the story in the Passover Haggadah in 2008.

Joe was a very quiet individual. I asked him, while on board a trip to Tahiti the four of us took, just why he was so quiet. He responded with "You do know that I spent most of my life looking down into people's mouths. And I decided that was the only time I really liked those people so I took the path of least re-

sistance, and kept my mouth shut." That was Joe's sense of humor, and he did have one. He only became agitated, as did Linda, when Mort and I didn't reappear on board when we should have after an off-ship outing. They were sure that we had had a mishap and were either lost or hurt. When we did appear, with the rest of the people who had taken a side trip to Machu Picchu, they both chastised us, which we found extremely amusing. But loe wasn't laughing. To be lectured by him was a new experience, one I am sure only shared by Linda and their sons. He never raised his voice, but you knew he had been very worried and cared a great deal.

It was on this same trip that I saw him get excited, when they started the parade to serve the flaming Baked Alaska on our last night onboard. Joe loved desserts and felt really bad that Mort couldn't, or wouldn't, have any

> (Mort's diabetic). but Joe took up the slack by ordering at least two each night.

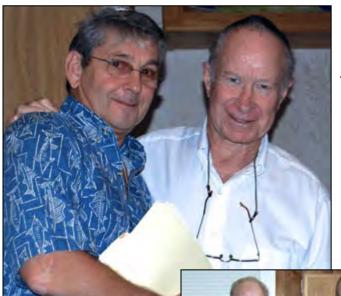
—Gene Silverman



son, talking about it always made us laugh.

Joe said he had not grown up with a lot of religion and was surprised to find himself the KJCC's Ritual Chair along with a host of other positions over the years, including Scholarship Committee Chairman and President. Like Bernie, he was passionate about education of Jewish youth. He filled all the shoes he wore well.

I think of Joe as a kind of Renaissance man, the quiet kind, with high standards and deeply held principles. When he and Linda led services (which they did a lot), I was



but how many knew he was an appreciator of literature? Joe Pollack not only liked to read poetry, he loved Shakespeare! We will always miss and love loe.

-Gloria Avner

Joe, even in the midst of his own illness, always had encouraging words for me. First he steered me to a doctor of his who continues to be one of my major practitioners. Then we had this sardonic running joke whenever we'd see each other at *shul*. The words "how are you doing" were understood but unspoken. What he said was: "I'll tell you what the doctors tell me: Well, you

LOOK good." Then we'd laugh. It felt good, finding humor in our situations. It was our own kind of "fiahtina back." I know it always made me feel better to share conversation, light or serious, with loe.

—David Gitin

Above, with Steve Steinbock at KJCC's Joel Cohen memorial celebration in November of 2007. At right, with Linda and Mort and Gene Silverman at KJCC's annual fundraiser in spring of 2009. (The entertainment that night was professional musician lules Seder.

grateful because they always included new, well-chosen prayers and made the even-

ing extra meaningful. Joe's leadership, with Jim Boruszak, of our Community Seders was a highlight of KJCC for many years. When there was opposition to having a youth group spend a sleep-away weekend at the temple because of a concern about facilities, he protested and said he had housed several dozen of his son's friends at his own house and we could and should do it, too, when asked by Jewish youth. He prevailed.

We know Joe was an excellent leader, an enthusiastic participant, and a fine athlete,

Joel is actually my first memory of KJCC. I remember walking in the door the first time and being immediately met by his smiling face. He welcomed me before the service, and again during. He made me feel so welcome, and I knew it was a great place to worship. Without a doubt, he is the reason I came back, and along with Linda, why I'm happily still a part of KJCC. It's not hard to say that KJCC was always just a tad brighter with Joel in the building.

I also got used to seeing Joel at the infor-

information desk at the Tassel Building at Mariners. And there too, it always brightened my day a bit.

To me Joel was (and is) KJCC. I know he

will be missed greatly, as I already missed his presence at services the past year!

—Ken Atlas

At right, with Gerry **Oshinsky, Steve Steinbock** and Yardena Kamely at a 2009 party in Michal's Venetian Shores home. At bottom, Joe with Pauline Roller during a very chilly Birchat in April, 2009.

Joel was the family golden boy. He was a good student. athlete. son and older brother. He walked me to elementary school and then took his place as a crossing guard. He enjoyed having fun by playing baseball and going to Yankee games with my father, but he was never

too busy or too proud to help with household chores. We attended the same schools all through college and he was always there for me whenever I needed help. Until now, I was never on this earth without him being more than a phone call away. I miss him now and always will.

— Judy Schneyer (sister)

It's nearly impossible to reduce thoughts about my Dad to just a few words, but here goes:

In my eyes, he was a cross between Su-

perman and the ultimate Renaissance man. "JP," "Doc." or "Joe" was an oldschool tough guy with numerous subtle talents that were quietly

displayed through various feats and words of wisdom. It was pretty cool to have a Dad that was not only bigger than life in his own kids' eyes, but also in the eves of the other kids that he influenced throughout my childhood. And there were a lot of other kids! I feel so blessed and just plain lucky to have had a special, intimate relationship with such a good man.

Some fun snippets

about my Dad:

-He was a Bronx, New York city boy - a latch-key kid that rode the subway from a young age. He didn't start diving, fishing, and boating until his 40s. But what passion once he started!

-As a teenage baseball player, he carried a poetry book in his back pocket, which he read on bus rides to the ballpark. And what





Joe co-leading the KICC Family Seder. above, in April of 2009, a task he performed nobly for many years, often together with Jim Boruszak. At right, Joe shaking the lulay during Sukkot in the KICC sukkah in October, 2010. The baseball grip and stance came naturally.

a ballplayer! He won the Babe Ruth Award and batting title in New York City at 17 years of age, which led to an invitation to try out for the Yankees.

-I have memories as a young child of my Dad being active in very competitive softball leagues.

though he stopped playing as my brother and I started playing ball and he coached both of us. I found out later in life that he stopped playing because he didn't want to show us up.

-I have fond memories of accompanying my Dad on any given weekend and/or week-

night, after receiving phone calls from different coaches or acquaintances throughout the city of Miami, asking him to provide dental services to underprivileged kids. He never expected any compensation, or recognition for that matter. In speaking recently with one of his long-time nurses, she said it was routine for them to tell him somebody was injured, in the waiting room, without insurance or money. His inevitable response: "bring 'em in, let's have a look."

-My Dad wasn't a real touchy. "huggie-type" guy and really didn't even say "I love you" too much until

> later in life (and then more in response after being told those words by someone first). Yet his actions taught love in such a wonderful wav. His love for my Mom was that of which fairytales are written and he displayed his love on a daily basis in numerous ways. She really was his princess and one true love. His love for my brother and me was unconditional and uncompromising. He loved his

sister, all his in-laws (which really morphed into blood relatives), and his nieces/ nephews. He cherished his grandchildren. His last audible words to me (over the phone) after being transported by ambulance from Key Largo to Miami, exhausted and dying, were: "how are the kids?"

At right, with Linda during the ceremony at Fisherman's Hospital honoring KJCC's Steve Smith as Country Doctor of the Year in February, 2010. Below, Joe posed with all the KJCC presidents, past and current, who attended the KICC 30th Gala in March, 2010. From left: Steve Steinbock, George Swartz, Ron Horn, Jim Boruszak, Susan Horn, Jeff Schocket, Bea Graham, Joe, and Alan Beth.

Well, I've written more than just a few words, so lastly here's one of my favorite tough-quy Dad stories. We were playing foot-

ball at the Moss' home (my Mom's sister) with my cousins. Dad cut open his chest on a sprinkler, creating a deep wound that needed stitches. L was probably 10-12 years old. I drove with him to his office to patch it up. He proceed-

ed to stitch himself, Rambo-style, without Novocain and without any expression. He looked up at me about halfway through the process and told me to sit down. Apparently, I was turning pale with queasiness and pain (that should have been his) and was on the verge of fainting. But that was my Dad - looking out for others even through what should have been his own crisis.

-Rov Pollack

To us, Joel Pollack was a kind man; a quiet soft-spoken man; a man of great integrity and a man who observed, heard and kept his own counsel except when necessary and right.

Joel Pollack was a family man, a very car-



ing father and an exceptional and beloved husband.

loel Pollack was a dear friend, someone who put himself out with nothing to gain. He was unselfish.

We will miss him so.

-Flinor and Herb Grossman

A guiet man of great integrity. He motivated many of us at the KICC to excellence. As a friend, he shared many meals and movies with Carol and me. He never said a bad word about anvone.

It was an honor to have known him and he will be remembered as long as I live.

-Steve Steinbock

A tribute to one of the most wonderful people - Dr. Ioel Pollack:

In the 70s I interviewed for a position as a dental assistant. That was the beginning of a relationship that I consider one of the most wonderful blessings I have ever had in my life. I was employed by Dr. Joel Pollack. I could write a book about this quiet, humble, kind, patient and professional man. His wife Linda and two sons leff and Roy were his life, but he always made time for people in need. He was a baseball coach for the Little League: he loved kids and they loved and respected him. He came to work with avocadoes to

share with the emplovees. We had patients come to our office that were in a lot of pain and had no money to pay for any services. That was "no problem" and they were taken care of at no charge. It was not about money for this man we called "J.P." He was a true doctor who cared about people. He was one in a million. No one was ever turned away. How often is that seen?

We went to Baptist Hospital to do surgeries and everyone loved him. They said how fortunate I was to work for such a great doctor. The nurses used to tickle him and tell him about his muscular and hairy forearms and he used to get so embar-

top, three KJCC presidents read-

At top, three KJCC past-presidents reading from the KJCC Holocaust Torah at a Shabbat service with Rabbi Agler in July, 2010. In the center photo, with sons Roy and Jeff during Joe's 70th birthday party at Snapper's in 2004. At right, helping serve from the KJCC kitchen during a dinner in October of 2007.

rassed because he was so shy.

He was respected by so many and loved by all. He was always embarrassed when someone complimented him.

Linda came into the office and did our books. I guess I could say that it was a pleasure to work for such a wonderful, kind and caring human being. It

was a fun job, with teamwork all the way. I felt I should have paid him to work there. He was a mentor to all.

He frequently spoke about growing up in the Bronx, how hard things were, his schooling and his family,

which was the most important thing to him. He and Linda worked out together. There were always there for each other. The lady that is his wife was there for him at home or in the office. She was there for him until the

day he passed. A beautiful ladv inside and out, she wouldn't have had it anv other way.

We have lost one of the most wonderful, kind, caring and giving people that

God made. He started a scholarship fund for others who are less fortunate. As I said, always others first. I was blessed to know him. There will never be another I.P.

Joel Bollack

God bless you, Linda, Jeff and Roy, and thank you for your friendship throughout the years. You will never walk alone.

—Carol Winn Jackson

I remember all of the rides that loel and Linda gave me in their car. When loel came to pick me up. he so enjoved talking about his early life aoina to dental school in

Baltimore

and raising their young boys there. He also talked about how he liked to ride his bike. and he rode much farther than I could walk.

I remember all of the Family Seders I went to at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Joel sat at the head table and led the service. You needed somebody who could take charge, and that was the skill he had. He sometimes told little stories, and knew how to include the whole group to keep everyone involved. He was one of the nicest

people.

—Linda Rutkin

I worked for this great man for 20 years. Best boss ever. Much love to his wonderful wife and children. He will never be forgotten.

—Laura Jackson

We were saddened to learn of Joel's passing. When I first met

him. I'm reminded of his wanting to be a professional baseball player. I don't know if it was loel himself or Tillie and Bill that turned that thought around. His professional career relieved suffering for many, including me. I remem-

At top, the plaque given to Joe by KJCC in thanks for his two years as president,

2003-2005. In the center, leading S'lichot services in September, 2009, a gift that he and Linda gave to KJCC for many years. At bottom, helping Steve Steinbock break ground for the then-new KJCC Meditation Garden in April, 2010.



ber his taking me to a friend's dental office when he and Linda were visiting New York and I had a terrible toothache on the week-

end. This was followed up by an invitation to visit with the two of them and Jeff

(in D.C.). while loel removed the impacted tooth. loel will be missed but he leaves many good memories.

-Olin Schnever

I have many fond memories of Joel throughout our Khoury

League days. He was a great competitor and friend and he most certainly will be missed.

-Bob Heggy

From the moment we met, we were struck by Joel's intelligence, kindness and sense of humor. Aaron loved talking baseball and football with him.

-Susan Horn and Dot Brooking

Joel set a fantastic example for those who will follow. We hope that his family is comforted by their fond memories and the support from the community that he worked so hard to develop.

-Randi and Andrew Grant

At top left, Joe and Linda at a formal event; the date is not exactly clear, but it appears to be in the early 2000s. (Why include it? Because how many photos have you seen with Joe wearing a tie?) In the center, straw-hat shopping with Linda during a trans-Panama Canal cruise they took with Gene and Mort Silverman. At bottom, Joe with a larger-than-life (but welcoming) island woman statue. (Note: same shades, same tee shirt, different hat.)

He was such a "Gentle Man."

-Maryon Gould

Birthday Greetings sent from arandchildren Will and Maddy (Roy's son and daughter), nine days before loe passed on.

From Will (age 14): Hey Poppy Joe,

Thanks for all the great times on the boat and on land. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for every

> moment. lesson or memory I have from you. I'll always remember sitting on the dock with vou fishing. Whether we caught anything or not. I alwavs brought something back from that. whether it was a big

snapper or more advice on life, women, and how to be a better person. Either way, the



most important thing I'll ever be able to get from going to Key Largo is not fish, diving, or vacation, but the time I spend with you. I would give any show, guitar, or amount of cash to have more time with you. I love you so much, Poppy Joe. I'm sorry for all the things I never got to do with you, but I'm still going to take you up on that fishing trip.

I love you, Poppy Joe - Will

From Maddy (age 12): Dear Poppy Joel,

I love you so, so much. I hope you are doing well and I hope you are having a great birthday. School is

really fun and the weather is finally warming up in Texas (on an unrelated note). You are such a role model to me. You are such a strong and positive man to the very end. They don't make 'em like that anymore! Bubbe is very lucky to have you and my dad alwavs savs v'all are a match made in heaven. I hope I find my

match someday.

I miss you every day I wake up and I always say my prayers twice for you. You are an amazing grandfather and person. I adore everything about you. Thanks for always having chocolate around, offering a piece of

> advice. and being here for all of us. I love you with all of my heart and I hope you know that. You have done so much for me and forever vou will be in my life. I hope to



All the photos on this page were taken during Joe and Linda's 50th anniversary celebration at KJCC in February, 2012. The photo at bottom is everyone who came, and they came from all around the country, gathered on the KJCC bemah steps.

publish a novel in a couple of years just like Aunt Judy and want you to know it will be written for you. I can't say it enough, I love vou.

I'll see you soon, whether in Florida or heaven, they are basically the same thing

anyway ©Congrats on being a year older. ha ha. Cheers to everything you've done and a long, happy life! You're everything I could ask for in a person and grandfather. I love you, I love you, I love you, and have an awesome day!

Love, Maddy

P.S. Miss you so much and love you, Bubbe.

Ioel Pollack was someone I would describe as a mensch, an integrated person,

an American Jew. full of interest and questions about Iudaism and reliaion in general,

a thinker. He was a scientist, a doctor, and as such was struggling with the answers the Jewish view gave him about life. He liked to engage in intelligent discussions and conversations about Jewish beliefs and spirituality with people knowledgeable persons about those matters. One of those people was my mother, Michal Kamely, a long-time teacher

of ludaism and lewish history. I remember deep discussions between the two. loel would ask her difficult, profound questions about religion. He was challenging with those guestions. She never shied away from listening

to his arguments and scientific view of things in life that mattered to him. None of them would impose their opinion on the other; they would try to understand the different worldviews they had, coming from a very different lewish education. There was a lot of respect in the discussions. For loel, my mother was an authoritative figure in Judaic studies; Joel loved to

study and she adored a challenging student like him. He enjoyed the conversations that made him think, and in various ways expressed to us (I also

> had the privilege to be his teacher) that he was content to discover how many Jewish ways of life he actually shared with us.

When Joel became president of the KJCC, my family had the opportunity to see how deeply he felt about his lewish responsibility. He was a man of action, he

The top three photos are also from Joe and Linda's 50th at KJCC. The photo at bottom of Joe and Roy was taken at grandson Will's KJCC Bar Mitzvah in October, 2013.



got things done, did many mitzvot (lewish commandments). The story of how he took upon himself to help me become a

U.S. citizen, I have already told. Joel went personally to Miami to see to matters at Immigration offices on my behalf. He made it his mission to reunite me with the rest of my family, finding a new home in America. Fortunately, after years of waiting, I could per-

sonally tell him: "Joel, mission accomplished, thank you, I love you.... before he passed away a couple of months later. I am so grateful to have known Joel and that he had let us know him.....

what a mensch!!! -Yardena Kamely

Ioel Pollack will be forever with us. He mentored our children in

Hebrew studies, taught our Sam the four questions in Hebrew for the Passover Seder. Showed us how to live our lives in the most honorable of lewish traditions.

Joel was our rock star in life's foundational mannerisms and lifestyle: how to take your wife to the ballet, then compromise with a Major League baseball

> game. Taught us that the marriage -and-life pairing is a compromise.

loel was quiet, yet a heavy hitter like Babe Ruth or Joe Di-Maggio. (Note: two Yankees. loe's lifelona

team.) He pointed us to the outfield bleachers to knock one out of the park for a grand slam home run.

Joel, "Thanks For the Memories."

-Richard & Barbara Knowles



The photo at top of Joe with George Swartz was taken during a Purim reading of the Megillat Esther in March, 2011. The next photo is of Joe with sister Judy at the 50th anniversary party. The two photos at bottom were taken at KJCC's beautiful Beth/Stanlake Garden gazebo in June, 2013, as Steve and Carol Steinbock renewed their wedding vows. They had asked Joe to perform the ceremony. Carol thanks him, left.

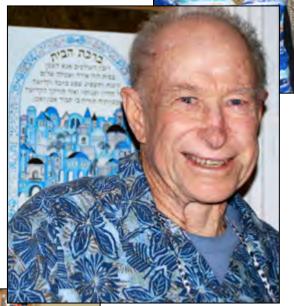
A Love Story Better than a Fairy-tale

Linda told this story at her house the night we all gathered to honor and remember Joe. She asked her family for permission to tell and they gave it. But a lot of people were outside on the terrace and couldn't hear. So we repeat the story again, as remembered by Gloria Avner.

Linda was very young when they met. working at Jackson Hospital. Joe was a surgery resident there. Joe's supervisor introduced them: there was immediate attraction

and they began to date. One night, home after an evening with Joe and alone in her house, Linda was moved to start dancing. She danced and whirled and twirled faster and stronger until she felt so ecstatic, so filled with spirit, she suddenly felt she could communicate with God. "Say what you want," said God. "Please have Joe love me," replied Linda.

The next day, Joe came to Linda's house and asked her to marry him. &



Our areat thanks to all those whose photographs we used in this special section, including professionals Barbara and Richard Knowles.

At top, a photo of Joe with Lee Schur, captured outside KICC after the oneg at which they'd both quietly celebrated their birthdays in March of 2014. (It was the same night that the Bloom family had the formal naming for Rachael's daughter Madison Rose, which got most of the attention.) At left with Linda at the Steinbock's annual Christmas Day Open House for Stray Jews in 2013. In the center, a wonderful photo of Joe taken at a Sukkot Havdalah for KJCC at Rabbi and Mindy Agler's house in 2013.

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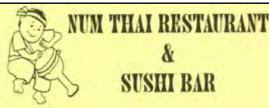


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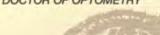
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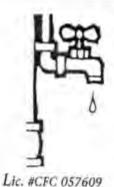


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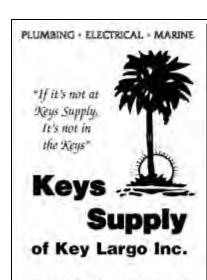
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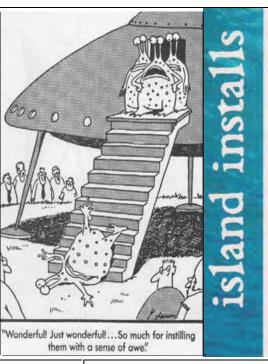
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September 2015

17 Elul 5775 - 17 Tishrei 5776

Remembering David Gitin - page 22 High Holy Days - page 24 A Milestone Shabbabeque - page 35

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September 2015

17 Elul - 17 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur Gene Silverman	5 S'lichot pizza & movie 6:00 p.m.
6 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11 Barney Coltman Joyce Peckman	12
13 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 6 p.m., Services at 7:30	Rosh Hashanah Day 1; Service Begins 9:30 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Day 2; Service Begins 9:30 a.m.	16	17	18 Joyce Peckman	Shabbat Shuvah Bernie Ginsberg 10:00 a.m.
20	21	Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre 7:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Yizkor Service	24	25 Yardena Kamely & George Swartz	26
Decoration of KJCC Sukkah 11:00 a.m.	28 Sukkot Day 1	29	30			

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

President's Message Sam Vinicur

Hello, September. (That's a straight calendar reference, by the way, not a melancholy musing about my life.) The annual lull of August is over, and Elul has taken its place. (A name, as are those of all Jewish months, gleaned from the days of the Babylonian exile. The word is said to be Akkadian in origin. There are similar words, no surprise, in both Turkish and Arabic. Elul is the twelfth month of the civil calendar, but only the sixth of the religious, even though at its end we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the "head of the year." Ours is a tradition and wealth of thought not always so simple to grasp.)

It is also six months into my term as KJCC president. (Yes, it seems longer.) In a couple of weeks I'll begin my first High Holidays, surely the crucible that officially propels every prez from rookie to veteran status. Most of the planning is done. I'm grateful to have had Steve and Gloria and Bernie and Rabbi Agler by my side, and thank them warmly (plus many others) for their time and toils. I'm also grateful that, after eight years, I've fully transferred to Joyce all the joys and challenges of Chai-Lights.

So, you ask (some have) how have my initial months flowed and felt? Every presidential term begins at the height of high season, so it's instant immersion. Still, it



seems we

together navigated a whirlwind that, though fairly short, ran the emotional gamut from truly painful to genuinely exhilarating. We had wrenching losses of irreplaceable friends. But we also celebrated a Bar Mitzvah, and hosted brilliant lectures by two internationally known scholars of lewish history. Our library has exploded with new donations. We replaced the old folding chairs in our social hall with comfy new padded ones. Gloria's art classes resumed. We added elegant new brick walkways to our Garden, one of which ends at a beautiful new orchid pergola built by Steve Steinbock and Foster Davidson. Oh, and our annual July 4th Shabbabague this year celebrated the 100th birthday of our matriarch. Pauline Roller. It only turned out to be the largest and most successful social event ever held at KJCC. Kvelling and bonhomie ensued.

Part of my job here is to sustain and expand the warm atmosphere that has always defined KICC, and to make every member feel appreciated and special. I do hope you'll all join us for High Holidays and partake of the KICC magic. And I wish L'Shanah Tovah to you and all of those vou love.

Nosh

A Sukkot and Havdalah Invitation

Save this date: .Saturday, October 3rd, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. We have been graciously invited to the home of Rabbi Richard and Mindy Agler for a pot-luck Sukkot celebration and that short sweetest of services, a Havdalah ceremony. There will be olives in the Sukkah, tables laden with food in the house, a sunset over the Gulf of Mexico, a braided candle, wine, spices and surely some wonderful tidbits of learning as the lulav is shaken and the heady aroma of etrog is inhaled. Their address is 168 Sunset Gardens Drive, Tavernier. Please RSVP and coordinate your dish with Erica Lieberman Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com.

Tikkun Olam News

Thanks to the suggestion of Mindy Agler, the KICC will be assisting Burton Memorial with one of their ongoing projects. They are collecting empty medicine bottles and sending them to Haiti, where hospitals and clinics lack the bottles to provide prescriptions to their patients. Please bring empty bottles after you have removed all personal information. They can use prescription bottles as well as bottles from vitamins and nonprescription medicines. We have a dedicated collection box in the lobby. Also thanks to Mindy's suggestion, we are exploring growing organic vegetables for the food bank at Burton Memorial. Steve Steinbock said he would be glad to help organize this. Although plans for this garden are still in their infancy, please share your thoughts on this with Steve or me, so we can consider them going forward with this project.

-- Linda Kaplan

Meditation Garden Orchid IN MEMORY OF ROBERTA NOVICK

By Roos-Mary and Jerry Benowitz

Fasting to end hunger

For the third year in a row, KJCC members and guests will have the opportunity to participate in "Tikkun Olam" (Repair of the World) as well as prayer on Yom Kippur. As we search our souls, ask forgiveness for misdeeds, and await our sealing in the Book of Life, we will fast with extra intensity in our intent. While we are hungry ourselves, let's help end hunger for others.

Shopping bags will be available in our hallway starting on Erev Rosh Hashanah. We ask you to take one and fill it. Use non-perishable goods please, foods that are canned or boxed. Fill to the brim and bring your bag back to the synagogue on Erev Yom Kippur. Our fast will be more meaningful and local hungry families will be beneficiaries. At the end of the High Holidays, KJCC volunteers will bring the food to Reverend Kerry Foote at the Burton Memorial Food Bank. Our community will be well-nourished in body and soul. 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 . . ."

Oneg Sponsors for September 2015

September 4th - Gene Silverman in honor of Mort's Birthday.

September 11th - Joyce Peckman to celebrate a safe return home.

Meditation Garden Brick

Sam & Leslie Janowitz

Honor the Memory of Leo & Beulah Grossman Michael & Lillian Janowitz **Eleanor Sonn**

September Birthdays

lst	Mildred Finkelstein
	Lloyd Wruble
4th	Chase Barrett
4th	Debby C. Block
6th	Steven Greenbaum
7th	Morton Silverman
	Stellar Levy
7th	Mindy Agler
8th	Susan Horn
9th	Maria Botwin
9th	Jacob Klimpl
I0th	Gerri Emkey
I3th	Lisha Lane
	Andy Tobin
16th	Larry S. Schur
	Ellen Ecker
18th	Shirley Krissel
18th	Avery Haviv
19th	Barbara Bernstein
19th	Steven Schur
19th	Joel Bofshever
19th	Brenna Nobil
22nc	dFred Hudson
23rd	lLauren Schur
23rd	IMaryon Gould
24th	Noah Bitton
25th	Michel Bitton
25th	Marla Berenson
26th	Joan Kay
28th	Jonathan Line

Meditation Garden Orchid

In Memory of Joel Pollack

by Stephen & Marsha Harris

Meditation Garden Brick With Loving Thanks

to Rabbi & Mindy Agler

May G-d Bless Them The Beiners and the Asofskys

September Anniversaries

		Years
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov	31
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith	37
30th	Ira & Anita Krieger	37
30th	Marsha & Tom Garrettson	25

A Personal Note From Medina

To my KJCC family,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your prayers, your loving support and encouragement during my recent illness. I firmly believe that the love I felt coming my way helped and continues still, in my recovery. Until I can find a better word, "thanks" will have to do.

With gratitude,

Medina

Medina also sponsored the August 21st oneg to thank the KICC for their prayers and support during her illness.

Meditation Garden Orchid

IN MEMORY OF MIKE RUBIN

By Dotty, Larry and Rick Wolfe

Meditation Garden Brick IN HONOR OF

60th Anniversary of

Gene & Mort Silverman

by Dr Alan Cooper

Meditation Garden Orchid

IN MEMORY OF JOEL POLLACK By Rita Conklin

Meditation Garden Brick

In Fond Memory of Joel Pollack

The Knowles Family

Leaf on the Tree of Life Barry Feinberg

Beloved Brother, Father, Grandfather and Husband by Arthur Feinberg

Yartzeit Plaque

Joel Pollack

Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather 3/29/1934 - 4/9/2015

Always in Our Memories

Meditation Garden Orchid

In Memory of Max Lieberman

by Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Meditation Garden Brick

Congratulations

Pauline Roller 100th

Dorf & Temkin Families

Meditation Garden Orchid

IN MEMORY OF IIM BORUSZAK

By Joan Boruszak

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IN HONOR OF PAULINE ROLLER'S
100th BIRTHDAY

By Toby & Joel Bofshever

Meditation Garden Brick

In Memory of

Joel Pollack

Bob and Susie Temkin

Meditation Garden Orchid

In Memory of Carol Steinbock

by Janice Cote

Meditation Garden Orchid

To Honor Joel Pollack

One of the kindest, gentlest, Most caring Person that anyone could know. Joe will always be a special part of our lives.

By Dick & Helaine Grossman

Meditation Garden Brick

In Memory of

Charlie Temkin

Bob and Susie Temkin

Meditation Garden Orchid

IN HONOR OF **GENE & MORT SILVERMAN** 60th ANNIVERSARY

Gene Silverman

Meditation Garden Brick

In memory of our Dear Friend

Joel Pollack

The Kamely Family

Yartzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory

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Meditation Garden Brick

In Loving Memory of Poppy Joe 2015

Will, Maddy, Roy

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CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KICC section. Call Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plague for posterity.

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC 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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Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tayernier, 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.

In Memoriam September 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Sam Roazen Goldie Berman Molly Feldblum By Marc & Ellen Bloom By Sylvia Berman By Sylvia Berman <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Moris Abramson** Jim Boruszak Lillian Goldstein By Joan Boruszak By Joan Boruszak By Joel & Toby Bofshever <><><><> <><><> <><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Sydney Edelman Ronald Repka Evelyn O. Coltman By Dale Chasteen By Nancy L. Cohn By Barnet O. Coltman <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Ida Hitzig Leo Rosenberg Albert Improta By Wes & Rita Conklin By Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea By Carol Field <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Hannah Improta H. Melvin Berkon Nettie Gorson By Carol Field By Janice Gorson By Jamie & Laura Goodman <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Paul Gould H. Robert Walters **Beverly Harvey** By Maryon Gould By Maryon Gould By Mitchell Harvey <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Leonard Roberts** Sadie Klimpl David J. Levine By Marshall & Myra Kaplan By Michael Klimpl By Steve & Luzviminda Levine

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In Memoriam Geptember 2015

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Anne Hendin Margulies	Toby Mitchell	Lorraine Martell
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies	By Linda Pollack	By Skip Rose
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
David Gulkis	David Schur	Max Rosenfeld
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Lee Schur <><><><>	By Morton & Gene Silverman <>><><>>>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Mollie Silverman	Charlie Temkin	Jim Boruszak
By Morton & Gene Silverman <>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	By Robert Temkin <><><>>>>	By Joan Boruszak <><><><>

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 three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KICC 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. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute; an outdoor plague is included in the price.

Sisterhood Erica Lieberman-Garrett



hope that you have all been enjoying your summer. One highlight was certainly the excitement of our matriarch Pauline Roller's 100th birthday celebration. It was a grand event, with a record crowd, full of love and gratitude. We all were so blessed to witness such a momentous occasion, such a simcha in our little community. It was even more special because the celebration was for Pauline. Her weekly attendance and participation in everything we do at the shul keep us humble and proud to know her. She will continue to be an inspiration to us all as we move forward into her 101th year.

Sisterhood is in full swing for the upcoming holiday season. Susan Gordon has stocked up the gift shop with beautiful new items, perfect for gifts, special occasions, or just because you love shopping.

Summer oneg sponsorships have been ongoing, as our core group of full time schvitzers gets together each week at services. Thank you to Barney Coltman, Barbara Knowles, Medina Roy, Linda Pollack and Gene Silverman for sponsoring their special occasion summer onegs. It is a blessing to have such generosity in our congregation. The oneg letter from Sisterhood has gone out, so please consider recognizing your simchas and other special events by sponsoring onegs for the upcoming year.

After the 'grime committee' met in August to reorganize and clean up the kitchen, our cupboards are orderly and we are ready to go!

We will begin the New Year with our traditional Rosh Hashanah dinner on Sunday, September 13 at 6 pm. We will sit down to a delicious flevshik dinner of matza ball soup, brisket, chopped liver, knishes, cucumber salad. vegetable dishes, kasha, bobka and more. Please rsvp to me, to let me know if you will be joining us. It is a lovely way to begin the year together. The donation for members will be \$20, with children under 13 free. The do

-nation for guests will be \$25 for adults, and \$10 for children. After morning services on both days of Rosh Hashanah, we will be having a delicious lunch of bagels/lox/cream cheese/salads/herring/rugalah, and of course honey cake. Please stay and join us.

Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, on Saturday ,Sept 19th , Sisterhood will sponsor a nice kiddush that morning at the shul after our Shabbat service. Then that evening we look forward to a wonderful Havdalah service and oneg at Linda Pollack's home.

Yom Kippur may be easier if you can look forward to breaking the fast with your KICC family. On Wed., Sept 23rd, this will be a potluck dairy extravaganza of scrumptious food, which tastes especially good after the big fast. Everyone's help will be needed and appreciated, since we always have a big turnout. Please get in touch with me to rsvp and let me know what dairy or vegetable dish you will bring to this dinner.

Hopefully you have relaxed and are feeling healthy as we begin our New Year together with a number of wonderful dinners and lunches, but most importantly with each other, at services, in our shul, connecting, and making memories. So much is always going on behind the scenes, with all the volunteers who work so hard to make everything happen, and do it with such love. Thank you for all the hard work that you do. I call it G-d Karma points. So if you would like to add more points, please come to our Sisterhood meeting on Sunday Sept 6th at 9:30 am, to help finalize all of these events. As we enter this new year, 5776, I wish you Shana Tovah, a happy and healthy holiday season to you and your family. >

Contributions to KJCC

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

	In Honor Of
	Pauline Roller
Car	ol Laskin & Foster Davidson
Pau	ıline Roller - 100th birthday
Bianka Kir	schenbaum - 100th birthday
& Muriel	Bianka Kirschenbaum
	- 100th birthday
& Muriel	Pauline Roller
	- 100th birthday
	Pau Bianka Kir & Muriel

In Memory Of

Avner, Gloria David Gitin, A Man of the Book Horn, Susan & Dot Brooking **Joel Pollack** Isenberg, Patricia Henry Isenberg Bernard Solas Solas, Elaine Steinbock, Steve Susan Schwaid David Gitin Swartz, George & Muriel Swartz, George & Muriel Myron Rubin

Chai-Lights

Scheinker, Miltra Pollack, Linda Silverman, Mort & Gene Gross, David & Patti Steinbock, Steve Roy, Medina Bernstein, Paul & Barbara

Holocaust Education Center

Steinbock, Steve Margulies, Stanley & Jenny Roy, Medina Isenberg, Patricia Bernstein, Paul & Barbara General Fund Alter, Barry Bolton, William & Donna Brush, James Conklin, Wes & Rita General Fund Cont. Dorf, Barry & Natalie Forst, Al

General Fund	In Honor of
Agler, Richard & Mindy	Tikkun Olam
Agler, Richard & Mindy	Mort & Gene Silverman -
	60th anniversary
Agler, Richard & Mindy	Jeffrey Schocket & Patty Silver
Agler, Richard & Mindy	
	Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
Benowitz, Jerrold & Ro	
	- 100th birthday
Ellner, Susan	Haggadahs
Gould, Maryon	Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
	Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
	Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
Horn, Susan & Dot Bro	
	100th birthday
Kaufman, Michael & Lo	
	birthday
Knowles, Richard & Bar	
	birthday
Margulies, Stanley & Jer	
	birthday
Marmar, David & Pame	
D 1	birthday
Peckman, Joyce	Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
Ruthen, Melvin & Joyce	
C	birthday
Sachs, Joseph & Susan	Mort & Gene Silverman -
Caballeana Alam O Flair	60th anniversary
Schulberg, Alan & Elain	
Cabun Laa Cur	birthday
Schur, Lee Gra	andson Michael & Felicia Watts
Singer, Mary Lee	- Engagement Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
	Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
	h Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
Williams, Jim & Rita	Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
Wohl, Joan	Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
, , o.ii, joan	radine Roller - roodi bii diday

General Fund

Feit, Larry & Elaine

Agler, Richard & Mindy

Goodman, Jamie & Laura

In Memory Of

loel Pollack

David Gitin

David Gitin

Hartz, Steve & Jan		David Gitin
Kwalick, Teresa	David Gitin	
Margulies, Stanley & Je	David Gitin	
Pollack, Linda		Steven Goldmann
Singer, Mary Lee	David Gitin,	Robert W. Singer,
		Jon R. Singer
Smith, Steve & Barbara	Joel Pollack	
Smith, Steve & Barbara	David Gitin	
Wohl, Joan		David Gitin
Wolfe, Larry & Doroth	Joel Pollack	

Meditation Garden

Roy, Medina Steinbock, Steve

Meditation Garden In Honor Of

Beiner & Asofsky double brick - Rabbi & Mindy Agler

orchid - Pauline Roller Bofshever, Joel & Toby - 100th birthday brick - Mort & Gene Silverman Cooper, Alan - 60th anniversary **Dorfs & Temkins** brick - Pauline Roller - 100th birthday Harris, Stephen & Marsha orchid - Pauline Roller - 100th birthday Silverman, Mort & Gene orchid - Mort & Gene Silverman -60th anniversary Steinbock, Steve Pauline Roller - 100th birthday Steinbock, Steve Happy birthday to Sean Kaufman

Meditation Garden
Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary
In Memory Of
orchid - Roberta
Novick

Berger, Carol tree - Joel Pollack Bofshever, Joel & Toby orchid - Carol Steinbock Chester, Nelson & Bobbie tree - Joel Pollack Conklin, Wes & Rita tree - Joel Pollack Conklin, Wes & Rita orchid - Joel Pollack Ellner, Susan Joel Pollack, Carol Steinbock Gould, Maryon tree - Ioel Pollack Grant, Andrew & Randi tree - Joel Pollack Grossman, Richard & Helaine orchid - Joel Pollack Harris, Stephen & Marsha orchid - Joel Pollack Harris, Stephen & Marsha orchid - David Gitin lanowitz, Sam & Leslie Beulah Grossman Kamely, Yardena brick - Joel Pollack Kamely, Yardena, Daphne & Uri brick - Ima Michal Kamely

brick - Joel Pollack

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica orchid - Max Lieberman Pearlman, Richard & Maddy tree - Joel Pollack Pollack, Jeff tree - Joel Pollack Pollack, Roy tree - loel Pollack brick - Joel Pollack Pollack, Roy & Will & Maddy (Poppy loe) Riley, Michele tree - Joel Pollack Sax, Stuart & Lauren Jan Shutan Finer, Howard Shutan Sax. Stuart & Lauren Joshua Moshe Schulberg, Alan & Elaine tree - Joel Pollack Silverman, Mort & Gene tree - Ioel Pollack Singer, Mary Lee tree - Joel Pollack Slovich, Sue tree - loel Pollack Vaselich, Felice tree - Joel Pollack orchid - Mike Rubin Wolfe, Rick, Larry & Dorothy Temkin, Bob & Susie 2 bricks - Joel Pollack, Charlie Temkin

Rabbi & Cantor

Avner, Gloria Bernstein, Paul & Barbara Bofshever, Ioel & Toby Bolton, William & Donna Brush, lames Chester, Nelson & Bobbie Coltman, Barney Cooper, Alan Dorf, Barry & Natalie Gross, David & Patti Hartz, Steve & Jan Kasinof, Steve & Amelia Kluger, Nancy Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Line, Jon & Arlene Peckman, loyce Pollack, Linda Roberts, Paul & Susan Roy, Medina Silk. Robert Silverman, Mort & Gene Steinbock, Steve Temkin, Robert

Scholarship Fund
Schur, Lee
Pauline Roller - 100th birthday
Bernstein, Paul & Barbara
Roy, Medina
Steinbock, Steve
Tallent, Lillian

Knowles, Richard & Barbara

Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of Horn, Susan & Dot Brooking **Joel Pollack** Joel Pollack, Kurt Kluger Kaminstein, Beth Kwalick, Teresa Bill Kwalick Schur, Lee **Joel Pollack**

Sanctuary Seat Plate

Margulies, Stanley & Jenny

Tree of Life

In Memory Of Feinberg, Arthur Barry Feinberg

Yahrzeit Plaques

Grant, Andrew & Randi Pollack, Linda **Joel Pollack** Wohl, Joan P. Milton A. Wohl

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan Priscilla Leshin Coltman, Barney Louis R. Coltman Dorf, Barry & Natalie Dorothy Schafer Gross, Mollie Emanuel Gross Grossman, Stuart Margaux Grossman Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Les Reitman Kaplan, Ronald & Debra Sidney Kaplan, Catherine Kaplan Kluger, Nancy Otto Kluger

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Max Lieberman, Shirley

Lieberman, Billie Kornbloom Riley, Michele

Roy, Medina Silverman, Mort & Gene Solas, Elaine Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Tallent, Lillian Taramona, Hermine Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Paula Travers Leon Kirschenbaum Sylvia & Jack Sachs Bernard Solas Mollie Cohen Ida Estrin, Ralph Tallent Robert Robinson Frieda Feinberg

In Memory Of

Yizkor Book

Agler, Richard & Mindy Alter, Barry Avner, Gloria Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary Berman, Sylvia Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark Bernstein, Paul & Barbara Bofshever, Joel & Toby Bolton, William & Donna Boruszak, Joanj Brodie, Thomas & Renee Cline, Meredith Coltman, Barney

Yizkor Book Cont.

Conklin, Wes & Rita Cooper, Alan Dorf, Barry & Natalie Ellner, Susan Emkey, Gerri Feinberg, Arthur Garrettson, Marsha Gilson, Michael & Suzanne Ginsberg, Bernard Goldfinger, David & Toby Gordon, Susan Gould, Maryon Greenbaum, Marilyn Gross, David & Patti Harris, Stephen & Marsha Hartz, Steve & Jan Harvey, Mitchell Hayden, Elizabeth Horn, Susan Isenberg, Patricia Itkin, Arthur Kaminstein, Beth Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Kaplan, Ronald & Debra Kay, Joan & Harvey Kluger, Nancy Kreitman, Marcia Krissel, Michael Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Line, Jon & Arlene Margulies, Stanley & Jenny Marmar, David & Pamela McNew, Rick & Roberta Olsen, Gerald & Sheila Peckman, Joyce Pincus, Linda Pollack, Linda Rakov, Neal & Cathy Riley, Michele Roy, Medina Sax. Stuart & Lauren Schur, Lee Shapiro, Libby Sheinker, Miltra Silverman, Mort & Gene Temkin, Robert Willner, Sherrie Steinbock, Steve Wohl, Ioan Tallent, Lillian Singer, Mary Lee Solas, Elaine Swartz, George & Muriel

YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



ROSH HA'SHANAH 5776 Reflection on Children's Questions

new Jewish year begins, Rosh Ha'Shanah 5776. On Sept. 27th we will begin a new vear with our Sunday school students, ages six to eleven. For one of them it will be the first year in religious school. The best students are those who ask many questions. Children ask about our religion and about the religion of their non-lewish friends and neighbors. They ask about God. They want to understand the world and their own place in it. As teachers in religious school, we try to give them a humanistic understanding of what God can mean to us within the framework of the lewish tradition. Bible stories are an excellent tool for teaching; they are one of the most precious, profound and fundamental aspects of our heritage.

The task of teaching children about God has two parts or steps. First, we must come to an understanding of what we ourselves are ready to believe about God. And then, we have to translate this concept into a child's language, using words that they can understand at their age. There are aspects of belief young children need, which they will later outgrow. Under a certain age, children have difficulties in understanding abstractions. They need the real, the concrete and tangible. Child psychologists tell us that the mind of the young child has a functional orientation; they want a neatly ordered universe in which everything has its place. They cannot comprehend the term 'evil', but they know all about 'bad guys'. When a child asks what a thing is, he is really asking what it does, what it is for.

He is not interested in a philosophical definition. When he asks about God, he wants to know what difference God makes in his own life.

"How do I know there really is a God?" When a child asks this question, he is really concerned about a stable, secure, purposeful world. He wants to know if he can trust the world. When an older child, a teenager, asks the question, he is probably concerned about right and wrong, justice and unfairness, in the world.

"Why can't I see God? Is he invisible?" The concept of invisible is psychologically frightening and it doesn't give us confidence and trust. What, then, do we say? Rabbi Kushner suggests: "God is intangible: we can't see Him because there is nothing there to be seen. He is one of those forces, which are real though they have no shape and don't take up space. Like love, joy, healing, hot and cold, we can 'see' God only through the difference He makes in the people and things of the world. We can't see or touch love or joy: we can see and touch people whose lives are changed by love and joy."

"Who made God?" My six year old grandson surprised me the other day with this question. He is very interested in space, planets, and stars, and was explaining to me how the world, according to science, was created. When I mentioned that in Judaism we believe that God created the world, his question came up because he assumes that everything in the world was made by someone for some

purpose. So who made God? I think we should not child's feelings of security and self-esteem. be afraid to say to our children that this is a very difficult question, which people have been trying to answer for very many years.

"Why does God make bad people?" We can explain that when God creates people, they are born with abilities and options, and then they

choose what sort of person they want to be. Some use the choice and the power they have for good and some use it for evil. We still have not answered the child's question. He doesn't really want to know about God: he wants to know why there are

bad people - that is, why some people choose to do bad things. We must admit that we don't really about how decisions we make for this New know what makes people behave one way or another. There may be different reasons why a person does bad things. We can discuss them with the child and reassure him that there are ways to change bad behavior. This is important for the

Our first class of KJCC Religious School starts right after Rosh Ha'Shanah and Yom Kippur. The conversation will be about good and bad deeds, about repentance, forgiveness and changes we can make. We will be discussing the questions: 'Does it make a

Prayer book), about self-examination, and

Year may determine what our lives will be

like. And all of these conversations will be in

the language of my six to eleven year old stu-

Shanah Tovah U'metukah to all

difference if I am a good person?' 'Why does our Torah speak so much about the mitzvot?' I'll teach our young students about the prayers in our Machzor (High Holidays

From "Children's Letters to God"

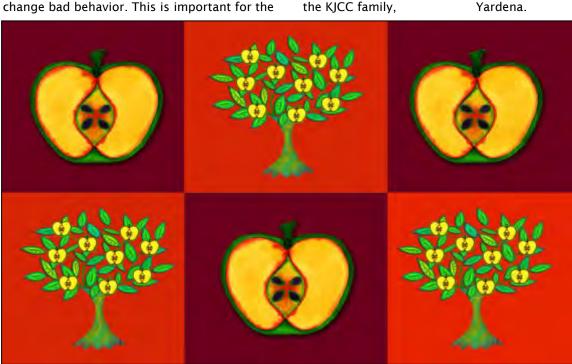
Dear Honored God.

What are your feelings towards those who don't believe in you?

There is a boy (another one, not me) who wants to know.

dents.

- A friend - Ya'ir



World Jewish Report Medina Roy



To Seek Justice and Repair the World

On August 1st, over 150 rabbis, along with other Jews and a Torah scroll, joined the NAACP's "Journey for Justice," an 860-mile pilgrimage beginning in Selma, Alabama and scheduled to end 45 days later on September 15th in Washington, D.C. Each rabbi will take turns carrying the Torah. "Nobody is walking the whole route," said Chicago Rabbi Seth Limmer. "The Torah is the only marcher going the distance. The Torah carries us spiritually. We are carrying it physically." The march began at the site of the historic civil rights march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1965: beatings of those marchers by Alabama police, shown on national television, led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Traveling through six southern states, the 2015 recreation is a call to action not just to honor the nation's civil rights pioneers of fifty years ago, but also to bring attention to present-day issues: economic inequality, fair wages, education and criminal justice reform plus modern attempts to suppress voting rights in each of the states they visit on the march. Regardless of the weather, the Torah will be carried almost daily for each 20-mile stretch. The sacred scroll will miss only one day - September 14th - when it stops at a Washington-area synagogue for Rosh HaShanah. "The obligation to fight oppression is made clear in the Torah," Rabbi Limmer, 42, said. "We were freed from Egypt...to fight for those who are oppressed the way we were. That's the lewish take-away from having been slaves and then freed." (Unfortunately the recent film "Selma" never depicted prominent Rabbis Abraham Joshua Heschel and Maurice Eisendrath holding a Torah while walking with Dr. King or the outpouring of support demonstrated then by the Jewish community.) (www.chicagotribune, 8-1-15)

The Dead Sea is Shrinking

Israel's Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth - almost 1,400 feet below sea level. Its waters are vanishing at a rate of about three feet per year. Hundreds of sinkholes - some the size of a basketball court, some two stories deep - are swallowing up land where the shoreline once stood, wreaking havoc along the coast. The two-lane desert road - the main north-south artery - was shut down six months ago when a gaping hole opened up beneath the asphalt. Hundreds of new sinkholes are appearing every year, taking down power lines. Beneath the newly exposed land is a 98-foot layer of salt formed over thousands of years. Without the Dead Sea waters to protect it, fresh water from rain or desert flash floods seep underground and dissolve the salt layer, creating a cavity that eventually collapses.

According to an Israeli research group, the main reason the sea is shrinking is because its natural water sources, which flow south through the Jordan River valley from Syria and Lebanon, have been diverted for farming and drinking water along the way. Mining operations, where minerals are extracted for export around the world, account for the remaining 30 percent of the deterioration. The sinkholes will only stop when the waters of the Dead Sea are restored. This would require an international initiative, since the Dead Sea also borders Jordan and the West Bank. Even if everyone agrees, it would take decades to reverse the ecological damage. Israeli officials worry that tourism might be seriously affected, since visitors enjoy floating effortlessly in the salt-rich waters and treating their skin with the sea's mineral-rich mud. Two popular beaches have already been forced to close. (The Forward, 7-29-15)

It's a "Triumph of Good over Evil"

Seventy years after Hitler attempted to prohibit Jews from competing in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, more than 2,500 Jewish competitors from more than 36 countries participated in the 14th European Maccabi Games at the very same Olympic stadium built by Hitler. The games, held this year July 27th through August 5th, are Europe's largest Jewish sports event. Officials are quoted as saying that Germany is full of pride that the country responsible for the Holocaust was selected to host the 10-day "Jewish Olympics." The games are held every four years in different cities, two years after the Maccabiah Games held in Israel. The European Maccabi games were established in Prague in 1929, when lews were looking for an alternative competition free of discrimination and anti-Semitism. Shortly after that, Jewish sports associations were banned. They were reinstated 30 years later in 1959 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The last games were in 2011 in Vienna, highly symbolic since it was the first time since World War II that lewish athletes from all over Europe competed on the territory of the former German Reich. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 7-28-15)

Tenth in the World

The Weizmann Institute of Science, located in the Israeli city of Rechovot, has been ranked 10th in the world for quality of its research. It is the only institution outside the United States to make the top ten. The ranking was conducted by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (known by the Dutch acronym CWTS) at Leiden University in the Netherlands. The study analyzed 750 research institutions around the world between 2010 and 2013. The ranking is based on the number of scientific articles published by the institution's scientists and the number of citations these publications generate. According to CWTS data, the Weizmann researchers published 2,414 scientific articles over the period studied, and these articles were cited some 27.859 times. In addition, 460 of these articles (19 percent of the total the institute published during this period) were among the top 10 percent of all articles published worldwide in terms of their impact, as measured by how often they were cited. The Weizmann Institute received high scores in the fields of sciences and medicine. Fifty-seven Weizmann articles made it into the top one percent, indicating that they were among the most influential articles published worldwide between 2010 and 2013.

(www.haaretz.com, 7-19-15)

"I Have a Debt to Repay"

Lord George Weidenfeld, a lewish member of the U.K.'s House of Lords who was rescued from Nazi-occupied Austria by Quakers and Plymouth Brethren Christians and transported to Britain in 1938, is funding a rescue mission of Syrian and Iraqi Christian refugees who are suffering at the hands of ISIS. Weidenfeld, 95, is spearheading Weidenfeld Safe Havens Fund, an organization aiming to rescue 2,000 Christian refugee families from Syria, the war-torn country that has produced some four million refugees as a result of persecution and the ongoing civil war. Once the refugees are resettled, Weidenfeld's program will offer twelve to eighteen months of financial support as they adjust to their new lives. Weidenfeld was inspired by Sir Nicholas Winton, who organized the rescue of 669 mostly Jewish children out of Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia via the *Kindertransport* to the United Kingdom between 1938 and 1940. (Winton. known as the British Schindler and reported on in the December, 2014 issue of Chai-Lights, died in early July. He was 106.) Weidenfeld's program has been criticized for not including Muslims since they, too, are threatened by ISIS. But Weidenfeld defended his program saying, "The primary objective is to bring the Christians to safe haven. I can't save the world..." In early July, 150 Syrian Christians arrived in Poland on a privately chartered plane, making them the first beneficiaries of his resettlement project. Weidenfeld made his fortune ten years after arriving in Britain with only a few shillings in his pocket, establishing the Weidenfeld and

Nicholson publishing business.

(www.worldjewishcongress.org, 7-17-15)

In Memoriam

-Lou Lenart, an American fighter pilot who led a daring Israeli air attack that stopped the Egyptian assault on Tel Aviv during Israel's War of Independence in 1948, died in July at the age of 94. Born Layos Lenovitz, he was the son of Jewish farmers and grew up in a small Hungarian village near the Czech border. Anti-Semitism drove the family to the United States when the young Lenart was 10 years old. The family settled in Wilkes-Barre. Pennsylvania. At seventeen, Lenart enlisted in the U.S. Marines and after eighteen months of infantry training, he talked his way into a flight school and then survived a mid-air collision during training. Discharged at the end of the war, he learned that fourteen of his relatives in Hungary had died at Auschwitz. That motivated him to join the secret effort to smuggle war surplus planes into the budding State of Israel in early 1948. Just a few days after Israel declared independence, Egyptian forces advanced to within 16 miles of Tel Aviv. Israel decided to gamble its entire air force - four poorly designed Czech versions of the German Messerschmitt - and attack the Egyptians. Lenart was the most experienced pilot and he led the attack. He was backed by Ezer Weizman, (who would later become president of Israel) and two other pilots, one of whom, Eddie Cohen, was killed. Assured that Israel had no aircraft, the Egyptian troops were stunned and retreated. Lenart, known as "The Man Who Saved Tel Aviv," was quoted as saying, "It was the most important event in my life. I survived World War II so I could lead this mission." After the war, Lenart participated in the airlift of Iragi lews to Israel, became a pilot for El Al Israel Airlines and produced six movies, including "Iron Eagle" and "Iron Eagle II." (www.ita.ora, 7-21-15)

-Theodore Bikel, best remembered for his longtime portrayal of Tevye in the stage production of "Fiddler on the Roof" – beginning in 1967, he played the role more than 2,000 times – died at the end of July. He was 91. Born in Vienna, Bikel's family moved to pre-State Israel when he was thirteen, after the 1938 Nazi *Anschluss* annexed Austria. Living

on a kibbutz, he discovered his love for drama. In 1943, he began acting in Tel Aviv's Habimah Theatre. In 1946, he moved to London to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. He moved to the United States in 1954 and became a U.S. citizen in 1961. Bikel was known for the diversity of the roles he played; he appeared on stage, in films and television, in musical dramas and comedies. He was a prolific recording artist - 27 albums - and could sing in 21 languages, recording some albums of only Yiddish songs. In an early role, in 1951, Bikel played the German World War I naval captain who captured Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn in "The African Queen." He received an Oscar nomination in 1958 for his portrayal of a southern sheriff in "The Defiant Ones." He played the Russian submarine captain in the Oscar-nominated 1966 Cold War comedy "The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming." In 1959, Bikel co-founded the Newport Folk Festival with Pete Seeger and George Wein, an event that draws hundreds of thousands to Rhode Island every July and launched the careers of many notable musicians, including Joan Baez and Bob Dylan. Bikel was a staunch supporter of Jewish causes as well as human rights groups. In 1986, he was arrested outside the Soviet embassy in Washington, protesting the Soviet government's refusal to let Jews leave the country. In 2013, at an event marking the 27th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Austrian government honored Bikel with its highest honor in the arts. For his finale, Bikel asked the audience to rise as he sang the "Song of the Partisans" in Yiddish.

(www.israelnationalnews.com and www.reuters.com, 7-22-15)

-Burt Shavitz, beekeeper and co-founder of *Burt's Bees*, maker of natural personal care products, died in July. He was 80. Born Ingram Shavitz, his bearded image became the face of the brand. Shavitz grew the company with business partner Roxanne Quimby, who bought out Shavitz's share in the company in the mid 1990s. *Burt's Bees* was sold to *Clorox* in 2007 for \$925 million. Shavitz was a veteran of the U.S. Army and had worked as a photographer for *Time-Life*. (www.jta.org, 7-6-15)

Photo Gallery

May 22nd saw the dedication of the new Orchid Pergola.







Roger and Dana Levy dedicated the pergola in memory of their beloved parents.





Steve, Sam and Foster are justifiably proud of the fruit of their labor.

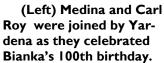
On May 22nd Rabbi Agler brightened our Shavuot learning with poetry and rabbinic imagery.



Our May 22nd Shavuot pot luck dinner began with a rousing Kiddush led by Gloria. As we eagerly served ourselves, Erica looked approvingly at a table overflowing with dairy and vegetarian dishes.



(Right) Mary Lee celebrating her birthday with family in New York.





yearly contributions to KJCC.

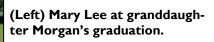


On June 14th
Gloria Avner and
Jane Friedman led a
well attended and
enjoyable art workshop. They even
got past and present Presidents to
play in the paint.

Summer Fun

(Right and Below) Road warriors Susan and Joyce met up with Joan, Lauren and Stu in Dallas, then Mary Lee and Bobbi Henry (a former KJCC Mah-Girl) in Santa Fe.





(Right) Lee Schur taking in the sights.



(Left and Above) The **Pollacks conquer** Yosemite.



During the August 9th Board Meeting this uninvited visitor attempted to check some books out of the KJCC library.



Chai-Lights September 2015

On August 8th Sean

David Gitin

Poet, Educator, Friend



pursued the depths of



finding and unlocking the well-spring of every student is reflected in the many notes Gloria has received, from around the world, offering love and gratitude

for what David taught them and the vibrant legacy he left them

Rest at last in peace, David. Say hello to Shakespeare and Yeats and Eisenstein and John Coltrane and Miles Davis and, of course, to Frank.

Your friend and admirer,

Sam Vinicur

film and music more passionately than David. He was internationally renowned as one of the last of the post-beat-generation poets. Though he ended up teaching much of his adult life, his journey to poetry began with a restless and unlimited imagination, plus an innate allergy to conventional pedagogic inanities, which put him on the road at a very young age. Something led him to Greenwich Village in the late 50s when it was the epicenter of American ideas and, led by the arts, fairly erupting with the seeds of a coming American sensibility. He sat in cafes and bars with others of geothermal creativity and rejection of grayness - poets and novelists and musicians and composers and filmmakers and painters - and

found his place among them. His work ended up in the same pantheon as, and considered fully peer to, that of the indelible, iconic figures of



modern American poetry. As a teacher, his long memory and insistence on

High Holidays 5776

Get into the mindset (and heartset) of the Days of Awe with encouragement and enlightenment from Rabbi Agler, Head of Ritual Gloria Avner, our own Joyce Peckman and new cantor Michael A. Dzubin



hat season is upon us once again. You know the one. That season when the "real" new year begins. That season when summer begins its turn toward fall. That season when we look at ourselves and pose the ever present questions: Who are we-really? What have we accomplished since the last of these seasons-really? What are we going to do

with the time between now and next year-really?

The questions may make us uncomfortable; but of course, that is their point. We understand enough about the human condition to recognize that our actual remains far below our potential. There is more we can do, and better, than we have yet done. This is the time to spur ourselves to reach for more than we have grasped.

We know the battleships that are our souls turn slowly, but we have the power to steer them. It is not really an option. Without direction, we will wander aimlessly. Life is too short, and important, to go through that way.

In the presence of one another and in the presence of what we call God, we will come together as a community and dedicate our-

selves to the best that is within us. We will sing, pray, listen, learn, fast and hopefully, grow.

There will be many opportunities to do so. Each will build upon the previous and set the stage for the next. From *Slichot* through *Neilah*, from the first *shofar* sound to the last, the purpose of it all is draw us closer to that which is *kodesh* and make the holy more a part of our lives than it has been.

It is my privilege to be with you once again during these Days of Awe. May all that we do bring us blessing, both in this holy season and in new year to come.

Mindy joins me in wishing all the members of our KICC family a

Shana tovah, Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

Meet Cantor Dzubin



halom! there won't be much of an opportunity to meet all of vou prior to the High Holidays, we thought that you might want to know a little bit about the person who has been chosen to be vour Chazzan and lead the congregation in prayer during

the upcoming *Yomim Nora-im* (Days of Awe) Services.

I am a South Florida native - yes, really! I was born in Miami Beach, grew up at Beth

Moshe Congregation in North Miami, and later moved to North Miami Beach. While preparing me for my bar mitzvah, Cantor Moshe Friedler began training me to lead services, and placed me in our adult choir. I continued to learn from him and occasionally served as shaliah tsibbur (emissary of the congregation, or prayer leader) in his absence.

I've always loved singing, and in fact, I convinced my Boy Scouts years ago that I know EVERY song on the radio! I mention "my Scouts"; I am an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow. I started as a Cub Scout, and have been involved pretty much ever since (31 years now)! I am a member of the South Florida lewish Committee on Scouting, and in 2009 helped start a Jewish Boy Scout Troop (Troop 18 of Hollywood, FL), of which I am currently the scoutmaster. I then helped form a second Jewish Scout Troop (Troop 613 of North Miami Beach, FL), so for two years, I was scoutmaster of two troops at the same time (because I am a bit of a masochist, and have a hard time saying 'no')!

I had decided in seventh grade that I was going to be a meteorologist (my parents always said I had my head in the clouds). As I pursued a degree in meteorology at Florida State University, I was quickly recruited by the rabbi of the FSU chapter of Hillel to serve as the cantor for High Holiday services. I continued to serve for the weekly Shabbat services.

After returning to Miami, Rabbi Jory Lang gave me an opportunity to begin an intensive three-year, on-the-job apprenticeship under Cantor Aaron Shifman, a seventh-generation orthodox cantor, to take over his role as the cantor of Beth Moshe, as he moved to another synagogue. I had only 4 ½ weeks to learn the full High Holidays services, and then five days later, had to know the tunes and prayers for *Sukkot*! This rather unique opportunity gave me valuable experience that would be

hard to match, as each week and each holiday offered another opportunity to put into practice what I had learned. Rabbi Lang also placed me in charge of the B'nei Mitzvah Program, and had me teaching third through seventh grade of the Hebrew School. I was then hired to be a part of the "Renaissance" of Temple Emanu-El of Greater Miami, as hazzan sheni under the internationally renowned Cantor Yehuda Shifman (Cantor Aaron Shifman's uncle). For a while I was in the interesting situation of serving as the cantor of two synagogues simultaneously, and training all of the b'nei mitzvah students for both!

"A major component of the responsibilities of a cantor is to not only pray on behalf of the congregation, but to encourage the congregation to join in prayer together."

I moved to Albuquerque. New Mexico to become the cantor of Congregation B'nai Israel, and three years later to Henderson, Nevada, to take on the challenge of becoming Midbar Kodesh Temple's first cantor in their young history. In each of these synagogues, I taught t'fillah (pravers) to the students, as well as confirmation and numerous adult education classes.

Now I will have the opportunity to work with you at KICC. A major component of the responsibilities of a cantor is to not only pray on behalf of the congregation, but to encourage the congregation to join in prayer together, especially since most of the praying will be for the

welfare of the congregation and its constituents. However, if you feel that your Hebrew isn't quite up to speed (as is unfortunately the case with many lews in the world today). I'll let you in on a little secret. Hundreds of years ago, they didn't have prayer books to hand out to the congregation, as they had not yet invented the printing press, and handwritten scrolls of all the prayers of the service were prohibitively expensive. The accepted practice was established that as long as you are paying attention to the service, and re-

KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule 5775--5776 (2015)

Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin

	Saturday, September 5:	
	Pizza/Movie/Slichot Service	6:00 pm
	Sunday, September 13:	
	Ereve Rosh Hashanah Dinner, R5VP required	6:00 pm
	Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	7:30 pm
The Fa	Monday, September 14:	
/ // SA	Rosh Hashanah, Day 1 Shacharit (Morning Service)	9:30 am
1 (10)	Break after Shofar Sounding	12:00 noon
1111	Musaf Service	12:15 - 1:30
	Kiddush Lunch	1:30 pm
	Taschlich at Ocean Pointe	4:00 pm
ma III	Tuesday, September 15	
2100 111 111	Rosh Hashanah, Day 2 Shacharit (Morning Service)	9:30 am
43	Break after Shofar Sounding	12:00 noon
I MI 1	Musaf Service	12:15 - 1:30
1	Kiddush Lunch	1:30 pm
	Friday, September 18:	
	Erev Shabbat Shuvah Service	7:30 pm
	Saturday, September 19:	
	Shabbat Shuvah Service	10:00 am
	Havdalah at Linda Pollack's house	7:45 pm
	Tuesday, September 22:	
	Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre Service	7:30 pm
	Wednesday, September 23:	
	Yom Kippur Service	9:30 am
	Yizkor (Memorial Service)	11:30 am
	Children's Service	11:30 am
	Break after Morning Service	12:15 pm
	Musaf Service	12:30 pm
	Afternoon activity times are approximate:	
	Informal "Fast Talk" with Rabbi Agler	2:30 pm
	Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler	4:00 pm
		test feet Table

Neillah (Reading Story of Jonah)

7:15 pm

Ma'ariv Service Havdalah

Break-the-Fast

Keys Jewish Community Center Post High Holiday Ceremonial Cycle Events 5775--5776 (2015)



Sunday, September 27: Sukkot decoration

Monday, September 28: Sukkot Day 1

Friday, October 2: Sukkot celebration after services in KJCC Sukkah

Saturday, October 3:
Sukkot Havdalah Service & Potluck at Rabbi Richard and
Mindy Aglers' home and Sukkah
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Sunday, October 4: End of Sukkot

Monday, October 5:

Shemini Atzeret and celebration of Simchat Torah: 7:00 pm -includes Yizkor Service, HaKafot, Torah blessing and dancing with Torahs (7 times around Sanctuary) and Rabbi Agler's seven minute reading of the entire Torah (not to be missed).

At the KJCC.

spond to the blessings appropriately, then you get credit for having said the entire blessing yourself! "How does one respond to the blessings appropriately", you ask? Like this: After the prayer leader begins the blessing (when he says "Barukh Atah Ad-nai"), one should respond with "Barukh Hoo, Oovarukh Sh'mo" (which means "Blessed is He, and Blessed is His Name"). Then, when the blessing is finished, the response is (I bet you know this one!) "Amen", which basically means "Yes, I agree with what he said, and may it be so". Now that you know the secret to being an active participant in services. I fervently hope that you will join me in singing (or at least giving a hearty response in the appropriate places) as we pray together during these High Holyday Services!

"L'shanah tovah tikateivu": May you (and your family) be inscribed for a good year! Cantor Michael A. Dzubin

"Sukkah, Sukkot, Count Your Mizvot."

The High Holy Days, so loaded with concentrated prayer, contemplation and emotion are barely over, when the construction begins. This year, Sukkot falls four short days after Yom Kippur. Wednesday night we will hear the Shofar blown, and Sunday morning will build and decorate our sukkah for the holiday that will begin that evening. We will move from our sturdy homes and sanctuary to a small, fragile structure that is open to the sky. On Rosh Hashanah the Almighty sits in judgment. On Yom Kippur the verdict is signed. After Yom Kippur, before we know the verdict, we build our sukkahs. We celebrate our trust in G-d and our hope that we received a positive verdict. On the last day of Sukkot, Hoshanna Rabba, the final seal is placed on the Book of Life.

In the flimsy dwelling, open to nature, we recognize that we are not sole master of our fates. We acknowledge that G-d protects us today, just as for forty years G-d protected the wandering Children of Israel in their frail

structures. On this harvest festival, we remember the farmers who lived in huts, and we look through the roof to see the stars of heaven. We also remember those who were forced to leave their secure homes and wander, seeking countries of safety.

We wave four species: etrog, lulav (palm) hadas (myrtle) and arava (willow). The species are tied together to symbolize the unity of the Jewish people, as well as the need to unify our feelings, outlook, speech, and actions. On the Aish website I learned that the etrog represents the heart, the two willow the leaves our lips (speech), the palm - our spine, source of action, and the three myrtles branches have leaves shaped like eyes- our outlook. We wave them in all directions to symbolize that the power if the Almighty is everywhere. They are used each day during the Hallel prayer and in the sukkah, except for Shabbat.

During Hoshanos, the ark is opened and one of the congregants (mourners are given preference) removes a Torah scroll and holds it at the bima. The introductory four verses are recited, and anyone who has a set of species holds them while standing still. While reciting the following paragraph the congregation circles the bima counter-clockwise once, holding the species in two hands. On Hoshanna Rabba, the seventh day, all of the Torah scrolls are removed from the ark, and

we circle the room seven times, holding the etrog and lulav. The procession ends with removing the willow branches and beating them on the ground. This dates from Temple days, when the priests

Yosef Peckman praying, holding his etrog and lulav in the family's sukkah in Denver



when the priests would blow the shofar and cry, "Hosha Na" ("Bring salvation please!"), and the people would wave willows around the altar.

After Sukkot the four species should be treated with respect and not disposed of in the regular garbage. Many have the custom of using the branches as fuel in the fire when baking matzah or when burning the *chometz* on *erev* Pesach, and making jelly from the etrog.

Shemini Atzeret (the eighth day of assembly) is actually not a part of Sukkot, and no festivities take place in the sukkah. "Atzar" means to collect or store; rabbis suggest it is the time to reflect on and store the insights gained from the previous month of holy days. On this day we sing the prayer for rain.

One of my favorite aspects of Sukkot is the concept of *ushpizin*, or guests. But we not only invite earthly guests to join our outdoor festivities. It is said that the spiritual energy of Sukkot invites the essence of seven great leaders to join us. Abraham brings love and kindness. Isaac brings personal strength. Jacob brings beauty and truth, Joseph bring holiness, while Moses brings the eternal wisdom of Torah. Aaron brings empathy and Divine splendor, and finally King David brings the hope of heaven on Earth. I wish you and all of your guests a joyous holiday.

Joyce Peckman

Rosh Hashanah Musings ~ What's in a Word?

A bit of Hebrew learning came to me several years ago as I listened to a talk by Rabbi Darrah Lerner in a temple member's home on Mt. Desert Island, Maine. Her topic was "Fifty Words Every Jew Should Know." The more I study Hebrew and become familiar with the roots of words, the more I see how each of our words contains not one but many layers of meaning. One three-letter root (*shoresh*) with tiny changes, endings, and prefixes can fill a whole page in a dictionary. We are noth-

ing if not subtle and complex. Within our roots is our story.

The Rabbi started with the word "Torah. "Yes, it means Jewish law. But new to me was the fact that it also means to aim, as in archery, to direct, to throw, to seek direction. Torah, our foundational document, literally points us in the right direction and sets us on the correct path.

Her second word," Halacha", we understand to mean Jewish law.
Seventy percent of the Talmud is spent interpreting Halacha. Within the word for law however is the same root, "holech," as for the word "to go" or "walk." "Lech Lecha" says God to Abraham: "Go away from here." So begins God's covenant with the Jewish people. Monotheism and the laws relating to proper human conduct are not just the law. The laws are also "the way," the way to walk a fruitful life.

We talked about "avar," "avayra," and "ivri" (Hebrew), all coming from the same three-letter root meaning 'to cross over." As a people we are called the "Ivrim" or Hebrews because we are the ones who crossed over from worshipping myriad idols to practicing monotheism; we are also the people who crossed the Nile, with G-d's help, journeying from slavery to freedom.

Words four through eight are words that will be on our minds and in our mouths frequently in the coming "Days of Awe." Most of them refer to different ways in which we "stray" from the "path." "chet," sometimes translated as "sin," really means we "missed the target," another archery metaphor; we failed to achieve our highest potential. Usually such an error is unintentional. When we stray off the path even unintentionally, we miss our goal. "pasah" is deliberate transgression, trespass, or rebellion. "avone" is the heaviest leaving of the path, an act of deliberate iniquity. "kippur" refers to the divine covering over or cleaning up the mess.

There are consequences for getting off the path—punishments inflicted by self, others,

and nature. But what a generous religion we have! There is always a way to get back. The very word for redemption, "tshuvah," comes from the root meaning "return." We return through prayer, acts of kindness, and asking forgiveness of those we have wronged. We come together for "Selichot" the week before Rosh Hashanah (Saturday, September 5th, at 6 pm). "Selicha" means "I'm sorry." On this night we ask together for divine pardon. With sincere prayer and acts of generosity we can return to the path, the way of Torah.

I will end with "sefer," the word for "book." We are the people of the book, but in this same root, with tiny permutations are found the words "story," "relate," "telling," "counting," and "census." We are always and forever telling our children and ourselves our story. It is how the people of the book survive. We have such an audacious theology. What we put in the Divine Mouth is what we want G-d to say. Our telling. Our story. Does G-d pray? What would we want G-d to pray for? I was moved by Rabbi Darrah's suggestion: we would pray, "that God's mercy is greater than God's justice."

L'Shanah Tovah. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a Good Year.

Gloria Avner

Making our own Mazel Ritual Foods for the High Holidays

Sometimes I think that being Jewish is like being part of a giant, richly colored, handwoven carpet, or a great painting, or a masterful poem. Every little thread, each daub of paint, each word is not just a little part but a reinforcement of the whole. Wherever you look, there it is, all of it—even when you are talking about fish heads and round challahs. For us, food is symbol as well as nourishment.

On Rosh Hashanah, we put away elongated challahs in favor of round ones to symbolize unity, oneness with creation. Our first taste of the New Year is apples dipped in honey. We eat it together to augur a year of

sweetness. We are encouraged in the fine print of some *siddurim* to eat fish heads for a good start to the head of the year and pomegranates to increase merit as we eat of the 613 seeds, one for each of the sum total of positive and negative mitzvahs.

We are, as we are eating, creating our own omens, says Rashi. In Talmud Tractate Kareisot, the famous teacher Rabbi Abaye writes that a person at the beginning of the year should eat gourds, fenugreek, leeks, beets and dates. Some of these foods grow very speedily. Some are extraordinarily sweet. According to Rashi, we are foreshadowing, preparing the ground for a blessed year and for our own "mazel" to blossom. We think of "mazel" as meaning good fortune or luck, and it does, but the literal meaning is "stars." Through our food choices we are creating a fortunate alignment in the heavens under which to thrive for the coming year.

Even the letters spelling out the names of these fruits and vegetables carry meaning. The Hebrew word for fenugreek, "roobya," stands for the first letters of the phrase. "Let our merits be abundant." The letters of the word for leek, "cartay," echo "let are adversaries be cut off." Beets or "silkah" allude to a phrase "let our enemies be removed." The letters in dates, "tamrey," hold the message "let our adversaries be extinguished."

Very little of this eating is about hunger. All of it is about "kavanah" or intent. Our refraining from eating on Yom Kippur, helps deepen our sincere prayer and repentance. Our final communal breaking of the fast heightens our joy.

When we name and bless the foods we are eating this Rosh Hashanah, we reinforce our hopes and wishes for ourselves, our families, and our world. Come to our synagogue for vour pre-Rosh HaShanah meal, "Es Gesundt" and "L'Shanah

Tovah." Eat healthy and have a good year. Gloria .



Keys Jewish Community Center

We cordially invite you to our

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

On Sunday, September 13th, 2015, at 6:00 pm, we will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of matzo ball soup, chopped liver, brisket, turkey, kasha and knishes, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more.

Reservations are necessary. Contact Erica
Lieberman-Garrett by September 10th if you would like
to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to
Sisterhood. Mail to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL
33070.

Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com (305) 393-1162

Members - \$20

Member Children under 13 - no charge

Non-Members - \$25

Non-Member Children under 13 - \$10



Sunday, September 5, 2015 6:00 pm Pizza and Movie followed by Slichot Services led by Steve Steinbock

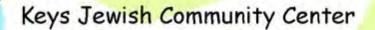


Every Time We Say Goodbye is a 1986 drama film starring Tom Hanks and Cristina Marsillach, Hanks plays a gentile American in the Royal Air Force, stationed in mandatory Jerusalem, who falls in love with a girl from a Sephardic Jewish family.

RSVP TO **GENESILVERMAN122** @GMAIL.COM



THE EVENING IS SPONSORED BY STEVE & GENE AND MORT. COME AND ENJOY!



Wednesday, September 23, 2015 Dairy Dinner after the final service

We welcome your home cooked dairy dish, prepared with love, to share with your KJCC Mishpocha

Please Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com (305) 393-1162 to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space

> RSVP: by September 18 Sponsored by the KJCC No Charge

The L'Shanah Tovah Page

The KJCC family from here in the Keys and across the country send their wishes for the best possible New Year. Here's to a happy, healthy and prosperous 5776 to all

Shana Tovah to our KICC Family Mindy & Richard Agler

Wishing our KICC Mishbocha A happy and healthy 5776 Toby & Joel Bofshever

A very happy and healthy new year To our KJCC family Joan Boruszak

> Wishing everyone the Very best New Year ever Alan Cooper

L'shana Tovah I am blessed to have such A wonderful KICC family! Susan Gordon

To our dear friends Shanah Tovah A good and healthy 5776 Kamely Family

L'shanah Tovah To all our mishpocha Have a healthy New Year The Knowles Family

Wishing my KJCC family A sweet healthy & prosperous New Year lovce Peckman

To our KICC Friends A happy & healthy 5776 The Wolfe Family

Shanah Tovah To my KJCC Family Linda Pollack

To my extended KICC family Happy and healthy New Year Lee Schur

Libby Shapiro Wishes all a wonderful year

Mort & Gene Silverman Wish our family and friends a Happy New Year

To all who make the KICC So special A happy & healthy New Year Steve Steinbock

> To the Mah Girls -Happy New Year See you in April Rita

To our KICC Mishpocha A Happy Year Y'all Come See us. Hear? Stuart & Lauren

Shana Tovah May this year Be the best year yet Erica Lieberman-Garrett

A Once In A (Long) Lifetime

Shabbabeque

Happy 100th.

Pauline!

With love from all of KSCC

SHABBABEQUE (n.) A combination of Shabbat and barbecue. Held each year with great celebration at the KICC.

On Friday night, July 3rd, 155 friends from across the state and around the country packed the KICC to

celebrate the birth of our country and the centennial birthday of Pauline Roller. Councilwoman Sylvia Murphy presented Pauline with an Honorary Conch Proclamation. Then

this largestever crowd feasted on burgers and hot dogs grilled by stalwarts Roy Pollack, Evan Moss, Barney Coltman, Joel Bofshever, Skip Rose and Jeff Schocket.

led by lwarts / Pollack, n Moss, ney Colt-n, Joel shever, p Rose d Jeff locket.
Next we

retired to the Garden to dedicate a tree in Pauline's honor. Most returned for Sabbath services, led by Joyce, and then more birthday cake at the oneg.













py 100th

This party was brought to you through the untiring efforts of a team of friends, shown at right. Co-chairs Marc Bloom and Bernie Ginsberg, and committee Susan Gordon, Gene Silverman, Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Jane Friedman (absent) were helped by Mitch Harvey and Joyce Peckman. Richard and Eve Knowles deserve credit for the photos that captured the joy of this memorable occasion.



Keys Jewish Community Center Food Drive

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Remember to Bring "Fast" Food

We at KJCC are continuing our tradition of making our fast more meaningful by helping to spare others from hunger. As part of our Yom Kippur Tzedakah, we can each bring a bag of groceries to Shul with us 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 vou shall be like a watered garden . . . "

The next day our offerings will be delivered to the Food Bank at Burton Memorial Church next door. Our Days of Awe actions will bring sustenance to others as well as to ourselves. May we all be written and sealed in the Book of Life for a good and healthy year.











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

> For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585



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 Steve Steinbock 305-394-0143 or just bring to the KJCC.



Keys Jewish Community Center Tikkun Olam Project

How many prescription and vitamin bottles do you discard almost on a daily basis? We have the opportunity to contribute to an ongoing project at Burton Memorial. They are collecting empty medicine bottles and sending them to Haiti. The hospitals and clinics there are in need of these bottles in order to provide prescriptions to their patients.

Simply bring your empty bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. Remove all personal information and medication information first.





Note that this is a request for bottles, not for medications.

The Palace Gardens Difference

For nearly 25 years, The Palace Gardens Assisted Living Community in Homestead has been known as a leader in providing outstanding care to seniors. While our grounds and the campus are beautiful, there are more than a few reasons why The Palace Gardens is different from all others.



1. Continuum of Care -

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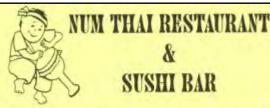


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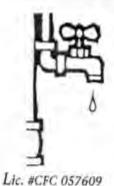


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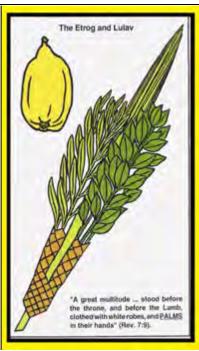
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October 2015

18 Tishrei - 18 Cheshvan 5776

The Shabbos Project - page 23 Rabbi Agler on Holiness - page 25 Rosh Hashanah Retrospective - page 28

October 2015

18 Tishrei - 18 Cheshvan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	Joel Bofshever Mitch Harvey	Havdallah at Agler Home 7:00 p.m.
4 Sisterhood Meeting 9:00 a.m. KJCC Board 11:00 a.m.	5 Yizkor & Simchat Torah 7:00 p.m.	6	7	8	9 Ken Atlas	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Jane & Harry Friedman Barbara & Richard Knowles	17
18	19	20	21	Challah Making 5:00 p.m.	23 Dinner 6:00p.m. Erica Lieberman- Garrett & Mitch Harvey Steve Steinbock	24 Rabbi Agler Service 10:00 a.m. Havdalah Peckman Home 6:30
25	26	27	28	29	30 Joyce Peckman	31

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the

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

President's Message Sam Vinicur

As I sit here wondering what to write about, images from the three elements of KJCC's just-finished Rosh Hashanah celebration parade PowerPoint-like before my mind's eye. I more than just see them; other senses join in, and I can practically hear and taste them, too.

I remember first walking into the KICC Social Hall on the Sunday afternoon of Erev Rosh Hashanah, to erect the portable sound system and wait for Cantor Michael Dzubin to arrive. Erica and Susan had finished set-up for the upcoming dinner. Beautiful, small floral centerpieces adorned each table: bright, bold infusions of primary colors that, along with the special napkins and plates they'd bought, would soon evoke an unspoken, warm message of "prepare for a festive and happy time, all ye who enter here."

Around 5:30, as requested, all those who had cooked began to appear. The room was suddenly redolent with memories of childhood holiday dinners at (in my case... my older sister's one-year-old attempt at "grandma") Bama's house: brisket and potatoes and chicken and cranberry sauce. I don't eat those things now, but olfactory pleasure imprinting never fades.

I teased David Gross about wearing a laundered white shirt and crisp silk tie. He joked that the tie at least



had a fish design on it.

There were members we don't get to see too often, like past-president Susan Horn and partner Dot, who now live in Port St. Lucie. A member who lives in Miami pulled me aside to say how much she looks forward to receiving Chai-Lights every month, that it makes her feel so connected to all we do.

Suddenly every seat in both rooms had a resident tush and I was walking around with the microphone welcoming everyone to the first component of High Holidays at KICC, this wonderful feast of a dinner planned and prepared by Sisterhood. The first course was to be kneidlach (I looked up the spelling), matzoh ball soup, in my memory the most endearingly Jewish of all food. (Maybe it's because it was one of the few things my Bama could actually make, and I never liked anything about chopped liver.)

During dessert, Rabbi Agler asked me to announce that services would begin in five minutes. And they did. The cantor soon began to sing, lilting, soaring Rosh Hashanah melodies, making a full house into a suddenly rapt community, in a unique and timeless - today or possibly even a thousand years ago - Jewish moment. Gloria and I caught each other's eye across the room and simultaneously smiled. ♦

Chai-Lights October 2015 3

Nosh

See you at 7:30 PM!

This is a reminder that each Friday evening, Shabbat services will now begin at 7:30 PM. After years of 8PM starts (I can still hear the voice of Jim Boruszak summoning us from the hallway at the appointed hour, "It's 8 o'clock; let's get inside!"), we have moved the time back half an hour to 7:30, and will be eliminating the early start at the end of the month. We hope to see you there.

Contributing Comfort

Eating, relaxing and schmoozing in the Cathy Kaplan Social Hall has been much more comfortable recently, since the old folding chairs have been replaced with soft and stable banquet chairs. You are invited help pay for them. For a donation of \$36, you can sponsor a seat. A plaque with your name will be affixed to the back. Then come on down and enjoy its use!

Oneg Sponsors for October 2015

October 2nd - Mitch Harvey to celebrate his birthday.

October 16th - Barbara and Richard Knowles in honor of Barbara's birthday.

October 23rd - Steve Steinbock In Memory of Carol.

The Shabbos Project dinner on October 23rd will be sponsored by Stan and Jenny Margulies.

Sisterhood and KJCC Board Meetings

The monthly meetings of Sisterhood and the KJCC Board are now being held on the same day. Both meetings will be taking place at the KJCC on the first Sunday of the month. Sisterhood will meet at 9:00 a.m. and the Board will meet at 11:00 a.m. As always, all members of KJCC are welcome and encouraged to attend. It's your KJCC; add your voice to the decision making process.

Oneg Sponsorships

The annual letters from Sisterhood have gone out, suggesting reasons to sponsor a Friday night Oneg. But there are many possibilities besides birthdays and anniversaries. For the modest sum of \$60, you can also commemorate a yartzeit, celebrate an engagement, bar mitzvah, or the visit of a loved one. You can show gratitude for safe return from a journey or recovery from illness. Please send back the form with your contributions and chosen Fridays. Contact Joyce Peckman at <code>joycepeckman@gmail.com</code> or 305-451-0665.

Havdalah Services

We have two opportunities to enjoy the lovely Havdalah service together this month. We have been graciously invited to a dairy pot-luck Sukkot celebration and Havdalah ceremony Saturday night, October 3rd at 7 p.m. in the home and sukkah of Rabbi and Mindy Agler. There will be olives in the sukkah, delicious food in the house, a sunset over the Gulf of Mexico and inspiration as the lulav is shaken and the aroma of the etrog is inhaled. Their address is 168 Sunset Gardens Drive, Key Largo. Please RSVP and coordinate your dish with Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippieiap@hotmail.com.

On Saturday, October 24th at 6:30p.m., Joyce Peckman will host a Havdalah service at her home as part of KJCC's participation in *The International Shabbos Project*. What better way to end Shabbat and usher in a new week than to share a glass of sweet wine with friends! The address is 235 Lee Avenue Key Largo, and contact information is above.

Saturday Morning Torah Learning Resumes

As part of our three-day 25-hour International observance of Shabbat, Ritual Committee is pleased to announce that Rabbi Agler will lead a Torah service on September 24th at 10:00 a.m. You will be elevated, educated, entertained, and possibly enlightened by Rabbi Agler's warm, interactive, informal style. Refreshments (a Kiddush) will follow. See you there.

October Birthdays

2nd	Michael Gilson
4th	Michael Krissel
4th	Michael Kanarek
6th	loel Bernard
6th	•
7th	lordan Feig
I I th	
	Cynthia Arsenault
12th	Benay Krissel
13th	Richard Kaufman
I4th	Paul Friedman
I4th	Sidney Finkelstein
15th	Marcia Kreitman
15th	Matthew A. Silverman
16th	Kiersten Persoff
17th	Stacey W. Seewald
18th	Payton Borisoff
20th	Barbara Knowles
21st	Sammy Knowles
22nd	Susan Roberts
22nd	Joseph Shabathai
24th	Stacy Temkin
25th	Richard Wolfe
25th	Landon Strasser
29th	Shyella Mayk
29th	Adriana Sherman
29th	Patricia Schocket
30th	Katie J. Schur
30th	Mark Hitzig
30th	Franklin Greenman
31st	Brittany Schur
	•

Yartzeit Plaque

In Memory of Ralph L. Tallent

Lillian Tallent

October Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Jonathan & Arlene Line	39
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein	21
15th	David & Toby Goldfinger	56
22nd	Steve & Luzviminda Levine	3
23rd	Michael & Suzanne Gilson	14
25th	Todd & Maria	23
3 lst	Harvey & Judith Klein	61

Mark Your Calenders and Save The Date

KJCC will be participating in the "Shabbos Project," an ambitious worldwide event. At least sixty-five countries will be taking part this year. And we are one of some 103 synagogues in Florida participating.

The goal of this project is to encourage a true 25-hour experience, to deepen our experience of the joys, the process, and the learning inherent in Shabbat observance. Our experience starts on October22nd and runs through Havdalah service on October 24th. For full details and schedule please see Gloria's article on page 23 and the notice on page 22. You can also check out the web site at www.theshabbosproject.com.

Social Hall Chairs

In Honor of Rosie Biskar, Artist by Sam Vinicur In Memory of Jim Boruszak by Sanford & Nancy Yankow In Memory of Joel Pollack by Sanford & Nancy Yankow In Memory of Carol Steinbock by Sanford & Nancy Yankow

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IN MEMORY OF **Joel Pollack**By Yardena Kamely

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CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KICC section. Call Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, 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, 305-451-0665.

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In Memoriam October 2015

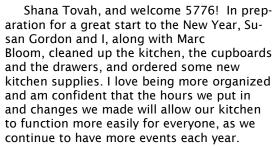
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By Gloria Avner	By Sylvia Berman <><><>>>>	By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
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By Norbert Birnbaum <><><>>>>>	By Marc & Ellen Bloom <><><>>>>	By Barbara A. Calev	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
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In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
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By Carol Field <><><>>>>	By Eina G. Fishman	By Jane Friedman	
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By Susan W. Goldberg	By Jamie & Laura Goodman	By Susan Gordon <><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
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By Mrs. Marty Graham <><><>>>>	By Mrs. Marty Graham <><><>>>>	By Mrs. Marty Graham <><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
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Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



We are off to a great start for the New Year, with a fantastic month full of meaningful services, scrumptious Rosh Hashanah dinner and lunches, an incredible Yom Kippur break fast dinner, havdalah at Linda Pollack's and special onegs. It is so wonderful to have begun the year with so many people ioining together at our annual traditional and festive Erev Rosh Hashanah brisket dinner.

As I prepared the matza ball soup for the dinner, I reminisced about cleaning chickens with my mother Maxine in Toronto when I was a child, grimacing at holding the raw chicken and remembering her words. " It all washes off with soap and water!" Maybe that is where my germ phobia began!

I learned from my mom, as she did from her mother and the generations before, why we cherish our traditions, the smells and the tastes of the food that we share. The brisket, tsimmis, chopped liver, knishes, turkey and stuffing, cucumber salad, green beans with almonds, chocolate and cinnamon babka, and of course our traditional honey cake, all yummy. We keep our holiday spirits alive each year as we break bread (in our case, challah) together.

A lot of energy and time goes in to making these beautiful meals happen.

Susan Gordon beautified the room and found our new tablecloths, which were generously donated by Patti and David Gross: Gene Silverman decorated with the beautiful flowers, and Jane Friedman shopped till she almost dropped at BI's and Costco. Thanks also go to all of the women who cooked: Gloria Avner,



Barb Knowles, Luz Levine, Linda Perloff, Ellen Bloom, Barb Bernstein, Linda Kaplan, Susan Gordon, Iovce Peckman, Pauline Roller, Gene Silverman, Muriel Swartz, Linda Pollack, Beth Hayden and Jane Friedman. Having such talented women who love to make their special traditional dishes adds the haimish feel to our gatherings. I would also like to thank Marc Bloom for his special herring and sour cream, and David and Patti Gross, Andy Tobin, Skip Rose, Arline Line, The Kaufman familv. Toby and Joel Bofshever, Mitch Harvey, Gerri Emkey, Steve Steinbock and Dr. Bernie Ginsberg for their generous contributions to everything from the fresh authentic bagels to the whitefish salad, lox, knishes, babka, honev cake and more.... Without all of the help from our KJCC Mishpocha, our food would be cookies, carrots and hummus!! So again thank you for making this spectacular holiday season.

Sisterhood will meet on Sunday, October 4th at a new time: 9 am. I hope that you will be able to join us as we plan new events and discuss future meals!

We begin October with a special oneg on Monday evening, Oct. 5th after our Simchas Torah service.

On Thursday, Oct. 22nd at 5 pm we will have a special event in connection with The Shabbos Project. (More information on this worldwide event can be found at Theshabbosproject.org.) We will honor Shabbat by learning to make mini challahs. Sisterhood will provide all the materials for us to make challah dough together. We will then let the dough rise and be baked at home either for your own Shabbat meal, or to bring to schul on Friday night or Saturday morning. Please ioin us - it will be a lot of fun. >



World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Planning to Live on Mars

Dr. Sheyna Gifford, 36, recently joined five other crew members in the NASA-funded Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS) habitat, training for a simulated space mission to Mars. For the next 365 days. Gifford - a lewish medical doctor. science journalist, astrophysics researcher and space enthusiast - will along with her team be isolated in a geodesic dome measuring 36 feet in diameter. The two-story habitat simulates space missions, to help identify risks associated with long-term human space exploration. Gifford will serve as medical doctor, neuroscientist and habitat journalist for the mission. "We're looking at what you need to feed and water people for a year...and how the crew manages," Gifford said. The round trip to Mars is estimated to be a three-year journey. She also has a blog titled "A Shtick by Any Other Name: Being Jewish on Mars" where she explores being the only Jew on the mission. "When you're in a space station that circles the Earth every 90 minutes, experiencing multiple sundowns daily - when, precisely, do you get your Jew on?" She says she will turn on the electric candles (no fire-making in space) using Hawaii time, the same time as ground control. (www.jpost.com, 8-30-15)

Helen Keller and the Rabbi

Going through Rabbi Charles Mantinband's documents, a history team at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) based in Jackson, Mississippi, discovered a thank-you note written to him in 1936. The note had been written by Helen Keller, who sent it shortly after the death of her caretaker and companion, Anne Sullivan. "...it is winter in my life since the guardian angel of fifty years no longer walks by my side on earth," Keller wrote. "Out of the darkness in which she died and I still am living I thank you, o friend, for the joy of lending a helping hand to those

whose eyes seek the light in vain...May God's blessing rest upon you for your generosity to the American Foundation for the Blind, whose activities comfort the sightless with the rod of counsel and the staff of self-help." Born in New York City. Rabbi Mantinband and his family moved to Alabama, then later to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where the rabbi became an active participant in the civil rights movement. He was also a supporter of the American Foundation for the Blind, founded after World War I and still existing today. Helen Keller was a member and contributor to this organization.

(www.myjewishlearning.com, 8-12-15)

Honoring Sister Louise

Gabrielle Sourgens, also known as Sister Louise, saved at least four Jewish children during the Holocaust, Now, 70 years later. testimony from the Visual History Archive is being used as evidence to posthumously award Sister Louise, who died in 1971, the highest honor for Holocaust rescuers, the title of "Righteous Among the Nations" from Yad Vashem. Sister Louise was a nun at an orphanage in Levignac, a rural French town. Knowing they were Jewish, she arranged for Henri Weinzweig and three other children all about 8 to 10 years old - to live in the orphanage to protect them from the Nazis. The four young Jews lived with the other children in the orphanage and did everything they did, including going to school and church (Weinzweig was an altar boy, and it was his job to collect the milk every morning). The children remained in the orphanage for several years, until the war was over. Amazingly, both of Weinzweig's parents survived and returned to pick him up in August 1945. (www.sfi.usc.edu/news, August 2015)

lewish Life on Campus

According to Hillel International's annual college rankings of "Schools that Jews Choose," four of the top twenty public universities with the largest number of Jewish undergraduates are in Florida, with the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando coming in at number two among schools in North America. UCF edged out the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, which had been the top public school on Hillel's list. (This year, UF dropped to number five nationwide and Rutgers University in New Jersey moved into first, with 6,400 Jewish undergraduates.) UCF has more than 50,000 undergraduates, with an estimated 6,000 Jewish students. Florida International University (FIU) in Miami ranked number fourteen and Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee was number twenty. University of Miami (UM), at number eleven, was the only Florida private school to make the top of the list. Hillel is the largest Jewish student organization in the world. (www.miamiherald.com, 7-7-15)

The Numbers are Rising

According to a recent survey released by the Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI), located in Jerusalem, global Jewish population has now reached 16 million and now stands at almost the level of the 1930s. Bowing to modern reality, the report looks at Jewish population in two parts: those with two lewish parents are now seen as having reached a total of 14.2 million. But when including people with one Jewish parent and those who identify as partially Jewish, the number almost reaches the pre-Holocaust levels of 16.5 million lews. According to the report, the rise was due to natural growth, primarily in Israel. Also, about three-fifths of adult children in the United States who have one lewish parent identify as Jewish. Israel is home to about 6,103,200 Jews. The United States comes in second with an estimated Jewish population of 5,700,000. The JPPI report claims that, over the last decade, the total Jewish population has increased by eight percent, the biggest increase since the end of World War II. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 8-24-15)

"Epigenetic Inheritance"

A new study published in the journal Biological Psychiatry has provided the strongest proof yet that the trauma experienced by Holocaust survivors can be passed along genetically to their children. The study was done by researchers at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital. It compared the genes of 32 Jewish men and women who survived a Nazi concentration camp, witnessed or experienced torture or hid during World War II with the genes of their children, as well as with a control group of people of a similar demographic. The results are the clearest examples in humans of the transmission of trauma across generations through what is known as "epigenetic inheritance," the theory that genetic changes caused by the environment over a lifetime can be transmitted to offspring. Genes contained in DNA have been thought to be the only way to pass biological information from parent to child. But environmental factors like smoking, diet and stress modify genes all the time via chemical tags that attach themselves to DNA, switching genes on and off. Only Holocaust survivors and their children showed chemical tags on the FKBP5 gene, which is associated with how people respond to stress. The correlation did not show up on the control group and their children. Exactly how parents pass the epigenetic tags to their children remains a mystery. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 8-25-15)

An Injustice Righted

Ingeborg Sylim-Rapoport was denied a Ph.D. by the Nazi regime in the 1930s. She has at last received the honor. Sylim-Rapoport, a retired neonatologist who lives in Berlin, is 102 vears old. She submitted her doctoral thesis on diphtheria in 1938. As the daughter of a Jew, she was not permitted to complete her oral defense because she was categorized as a "first-degree crossbreed" under Hitler's race laws. In 1938, she emigrated to the United States and worked as a pediatrician at a Cincinnati hospital. She and her husband moved to communist East Berlin in 1952, where she became the head of the neonatology department at Charite Hospital.

(www.nbcnews.com, 5-18-15)

lewish Wiz Kid

On his most recent annual visit to the Museum of Science in Boston, Joseph Rosenfeld, a 15-year-old high school sophomore from Virginia who loves mathematics, questioned the accuracy of a display in the museum's Mathematica exhibit of the formula for the "golden ratio," a number approximately equal to 1.618. The "golden ratio" is said to be found throughout history in art, geometry, nature and architecture going back to the Greek Parthenon, the Egyptian pyramids. works by Leonardo da Vinci, as well as modern architects. (Charles and Ray Eames had developed the formula in question in 1981.) The museum's display of the formula included minus signs. Rosenfeld expected to see plus signs, since that was the way he learned it when he studied it for a special project. Rosenfeld checked some websites, left a note at the museum and followed up with an email. Initially, the museum responded and acknowledged the error, but later issued a statement affirming that the way the museum displays the "golden ratio" is less common but still an accurate way to present it. (www.ita.ora, 7-9-15)

In Memoriam

-Goldie Steinberg, believed to be the world's oldest Jewish person, died in August. She was 114, two months away from her 115th birthday. Steinberg worked as a seamstress until she retired at age 80 and lived independently until she was 104. (The Forward, 8-18-15)

-Jacob Bekenstein, physicist who made great advances in the science of black hole thermodynamics, died in mid-August at the age of 68. Using advanced mathematics, Bekenstein's contribution described the "true and complex nature" of black holes. At first. physicist Stephen Hawking, an expert on black holes, disagreed with Bekenstein's theory. But later in his book "A Brief History of Time," Hawking made his own calculations and recanted, saving that Bekenstein was indeed correct. The theory is now called Bekenstein-Hawking radiation. Dr. Bekenstein was a longtime professor at the Hebrew University

in Jerusalem. (www.washingtonpost.com, 8-27-15)

-Oliver Sacks, neurologist and best-selling author who explored some of the brain's strangest pathways, died at the end of August. He was 82. Sacks wrote several books using his patients' struggles and disorders like "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat," a case study of a man whose brain lost the ability to decipher what his eyes were seeing. Dr. Sacks was instrumental in introducing syndromes like Tourette's or Asperger's to the general public. He humanized and demystified his patients as well as their conditions. Sacks won widespread attention in 1973 for his book "Awakenings," about a group of patients with an atypical form of encephalitis at Beth Abraham Hospital in the Bronx. (In 1990, the story was made into a movie starring Robin Williams and Robert de Niro.) In 1966, when Sacks started his clinical career at Beth Abraham, many of his patients had been catatonic for decades. He gave them the drug L-dopa and watched as they emerged from their catatonic state. Sacks wrote more than a dozen books. He was born in London but moved to New York as a young man. Raised in an Orthodox home, Sacks was not observant as an adult but often wrote about lewish subjects.

(www.nytimes.com, 8-30-15)

Did You Know...

-Birthright, the organization that sponsors Jewish young adults between the ages of 18 to 26 on free ten-day trips to Israel, has brought a record 30,000 young people on its trips this past summer, the highest number of participants in Birthright's 15-year history. The individuals came from 32 countries. Overall, half a million people have gone on Birthright trips. (The Forward, 8-19-15)

-The United States Navy has named a combat ship for former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, the first Jewish woman elected to statewide office in Arizona. Giffords stepped down from her congressional seat in January 2012 after being shot in the head at a political event in Tucson, Arizona, where six people were killed. (www.jta.org, 6-14-15) ♦

Contributions to KJCC

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

Chai Lights

Smith, Steve & Barbara Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

General Fund

Miller, Steven & Tonia Sledd Schulberg, Alan & Elaine Yankow, Sanford & Nancy

Holocaust Education Center

Kamely, Yardena Swartz, George & Muriel

Meditation Garden

Rose, Frank Kamely, Yardena brick - Joel Pollack

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Davidson, Foster Goodman, Jamie & Laura Mont, Dave & Georgia Landau Smith, Steve & Barbara Vinicur, Sam

Sisterhood – Onegs and Contributions

Coltman, Barney Itkin, Arthur Knowles, Richard & Barbara Peckman, Joyce Roy, Medina Pollack, Linda-Granddaughter Maddy's bat mitzvah Pollack, Linda Sisterhood Williams, Jim & Rita

Social Hall Chair Plates

Vinicur, Sam Rosie Biskar, Artist Yankow, Sanford & Nancy Jim Boruszak Yankow, Sanford & Nancy Ioel Pollack Yankow, Sanford & Nancy Carol Steinbock

Tree of Life - Leaves

Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna - In celebration of 50 Golden Years - Johanna & Arthur Willner

Yahrzeit Plaques

Tallent, Lillian Ralph L. Tallent

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan Jim Boruszak Cooper, Claire Sarah Sandberg Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Len Roberts

Yizkor Book

Calev. Barbara Chasteen, Dale Davidson, Foster Goodman, Jamie & Laura Kamely, Yardena Laskin, Carol Rose, Frank Schulberg, Alan & Elaine Smith, Steve & Barbara Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

Photo Gallery



Above, Skip Rose furls an American flag he provided for a client.

At right, Lee Schur with grandchildren Nathan and Cate and a friend aboard The Schur Thing in Chicago.

Barbara & Richard Knowles cutting their 16th Anniversary cake on August 14. They sponsored the Oneg.



Mort Silverman wonders why there is only one candle on his birthday cake. We helped him celebrate at the Sept. 4th oneg, below.



When Lauren & Stuart Sax traveled west, they stopped in Albuquerque to visit Sandy and Nancy Yankow, and introduced Shayna to Lola.



Joyce Peckman is clearly glad to be back



The bimah is bedecked in lovely new silk flowers for the Holidays. Thank you, **Gene Silverman** and Sam Vinicur, for traveling to Miami to procure them.



At left, Sydney! Faye-Davis helps **Bernie** with Kiddush at a Friday night oneg Shabbat.



Artist Marcia Kreitman points to the name of 2015 honoree Carol Steinbock, which she just added to the Women's Seder tapestry.

The Days of Awe Begin

We begin the High Holy Days not with Rosh Hashanah, but with Slichot Service, saying "I'm sorry" to G-d. For added incentive, there is pizza and a movie. This year, the event was graciously sponsored by Gene and Mort Silverman, and by Steve Steinbock, who also led the Slichot Service.

Pizza and salad fed the body so our souls could be ready to be nourished as well. Thank you, Gene.

> Above, Foster Davidson and Pauline share a moment.

> No, that basket at left is not filled with etrogim for the upcoming Succot holiday. Gene and Mort's Italian lemon tree had a bumper crop, so they brought enough to share.



Simple Torah and the Dancing Feet

by Gloria Avner

Mazel Toy! The lewish ceremonial cycle is complete. We've read and discussed (well, at least discussed) every parashah in the Torah. Now, on Monday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate both that ending and a new beginning with a joyous Simchat Torah celebration. We are "rejoicing in the Law," and already we look forward to starting to read and study it all over again.

t's October 5th. The seven days of Sukkot are

over. Shemini Atzeret. ■ the "Eighth day of Assembly," has begun. (It is time to pray for rain now - and all Jewish worshippers will continue to add that special line of the Amidah asking for "rain to fall and the wind to blow" until Pesach.) But the big news of the day

is Simchat Torah! It is time to parade our Torahs (in Hebrew, of course, the plural would be *Torot*), silver trappings and all, to hold them as tender-

ly as we hold our precious children and to dance with them. One wise old teacher said: "The Torahs want to dance. Let us be their dancing feet." So we go circling the sanctuary. (These "circlings" are called HaKafot.) Seven times around we go, as we sing joyful songs and recite special prayers. Bernie is usually the one to chant the set of seventeen verses, called Atah Ha'raita, and he also keeps track of how many times we have done our HaKafot. Grown-ups take turns being the Torah's dancing feet, and the children wave special Simchat Torah flags. Bernie remembers as a child being given apples to stick on the point of the flag for a treat after the dancing.

If this sounds not merely ioyous to you but also rambunctious, you get it. Bring your children. This is a youngster-friendly happen

ing. Remember little Rachel Levine running up and down the aisles last year? Her eves were wide, marveling as the grownups danced. Those eyes were fastened in wonder on the growing length of the Torah as we unrolled it. She, and the rest of us as well, then listened intently as Rabbi Agler told us the world's best bedtime story, the full story of us, the Jewish people.

Rabbi Agler has graciously agreed to do it again on Monday night, October 5th, performing his now-famous seven-minute on-the-spot

> translation of the entire unrolled Torah (the student scroll generously donated to the KJCC Religious School by David, Suzi, and Nvan Feder on the occasion of Nyan's Bar Mitzvah) while we of the congregation support it with our hands.

Rabbi Agler's recitation is a genuine learning experience, as well as a highly entertaining one. You don't want to miss it. Why is

it on a weekday night and not (as we would typically do) on a Friday? Because this year it happens to fall exactly between two Fridays. We are celebrating Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, and the second mandated Yizkor of 5776 on the actual eve on which we are instructed to observe them. It's a mitzvah. Come to remember your loved ones. Experience joy, sorrow, remembrance, respect, jubilation. This night has it all. And all of it is important. Bring your little ones if you have them. We will start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. so that all students (young and not-so-young) can go home and get a good night's sleep. The rest of us can stay and schmooze. There will of course be refreshments.

Join us. Come and watch the Torahs dance. And perhaps feel a little of the unique Torah magic yourself. >





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

> For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

One Tribe to Another: A Tallit of Many Colors

by Gloria Avner

I sat in the third row on Erev Rosh Hashanah and was struck by the beauty of our Cantor's Tallit. In the reception line after services, I took a closer look. After years of collecting, researching, buying and selling indigenous

art, textiles in particular, my instincts said native Guatemalan weaving. "Right you are," said Cantor Dzubin. "but there is more to the story."

hen Cantor Michael Dzubin was spiritual leader (or Kol Bo) to the only Conservative shul in all of New Mexico. Congregation B'nai Yisrael in Albuquerque, he became friends with a pureblood Navajo man. They had many long discussions, about religion in particular. As were most of the

Navajos, this man had been educated to worship as a Christian, but he never felt comfortable with that path. It did not fit him or the be-

liefs of his ancestors. He researched other religions, and the more he read and learned, the more he came to feel that his native Navaio beliefs were more in synch with ludaism than any other religion—especially in regard to respect for nature, the belief in justice and correct behavior, dedication to helping others. respect for elders, devotion to familv. He converted.

I think the psalm where "rivers clap hands in gladness" might have had something to do with it.

Navajo and Jew may come from different tribes, but both are descendants of people who lived on the land, agriculturists and hunters, dependent on rain in proper amounts and

> season, watchers of stars, and people who pray directly to the one Great Spirit that animates all of creation.

> Wanting to do something for Cantor Michael, this Navaio man created a tallit for him. Not only is it made of cloth hand-woven by Guatemalan Indians, but it has Native American spiritual symbology woven into the corners, with specific colors and

> > squares for the four sacred directions, all with multiple meanings, echoing our own emphasis on directions as pointed (and timely) as our shaking of the *lulav* durina Sukkot.

Everything has meaning. Look at these photos. What a fine combination of what we call kavanah, or intent, and purely aesthetic beauty. A man "of the cloth," Cantor Michael Dzubin, a man of faith of our particular tribe, walks in beauty the Navajo way in his not-quite-traditional ceremonial cross-cultural garb and it all makes perfect sense - one tribe to another. >



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The Shabbos Project

KJCC Sisterhood Challah Making

Thursday October 22, 2015 5 pm in the Cathy Kaplan Social Hall



Sisterhood invites all KJCC members, men as well as women, to join in a worldwide celebration and honoring of Shabbat. We will embark together in our making of Shabbat's most important ritual food: challah. All supplies will be provided by Sisterhood.

Those with experience will teach those of us with none, and each of us will make enough dough to take home and bake two mini challahs. At our Erev Shabbat Oneg, Friday, Oct. 23rd, and after our Torah service with Rabbi Agler on Saturday morning, Oct. 24th, we will eat and enjoy the fruits of our learning.



Please rsvp by Monday, October 19th, to Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com. For more information visit theshabbosproject.org



A Challah Tutorial

by Joyce Peckman

n Thursday, October 22 at 5 p.m., the KICC Sisterhood will be sponsoring a challah making event. Men and women will share the experience of making challah dough "from scratch", and then taking it home to rise and bake. There is nothing in the world guite like the aroma of fresh baked challah bread! So I decided to do a little research on the history and tradi-

tions surrounding our traditional Shabbat and holiday loaf.

According to Gil Marks, author of "The World of Jewish Cooking," until the 15th century most Ashkenazim used their weekday rectangular or round loaves for Shabbat. Then German lews began making a "new

form of Sabbath bread, an oval, braided loaf modeled on a popular Teutonic bread" ("The World of Jewish Cooking," p.276). Seeds were added, some say to symbolize the sweet manna that fell from heaven while the Israelites wandered in the desert after the Exodus from Eavpt.

In traditional homes, two loaves of challah (challot) are placed on the table, in commemoration of the double portion of manna that was provided each Friday to the Israelites. The loaves are usually covered with a decorative cloth, to remind us how layers of dew protected the manna. I grew up hearing another explanation; when a person eats two or more different foods, they should bless and eat them in the order that they are mentioned in the Torah. Since grain is mentioned before grapes, it would follow that the bread should be eaten before the wine. Yet the meal is being served in honor of Shabbat, which begins when candles are lit, and is sanctified during the recitation of Kiddush. We therefore cover the bread ("wheat") in order that it not be "shamed" by the fact that we bless the candle-lighting and drink the Kiddush wine

("grapes") before we bless and eat challah.

In Sephardic communities the pieces of bread are sometimes tossed to people instead of passed on a tray, representing how food ultimately comes from G-d, not the host of the dinner. Occasionally the dog benefits from this tradition.

Why do we dip the challah in salt? According to Kabbalah, salt, which is bitter, repre-

> sents divine justice, and bread, the staff of life, represents divine kindness. Both the Hebrew word for bread, lechem, and the word for salt, melach, contain the same letters. So we always add salt to our bread.

The word "challah" also refers to the portion of dough that is traditionally separated from the rest of the dough before

baking, and offered back to G-d. The origin of the offering is found in Numbers 15:18-20: Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them. When you enter the land where I bring you.... Of the first of your dough you shall lift up a cake as an offering... throughout your generations." The common practice, discussed in the Talmud, is for the home baker to remove about 1/24 of the dough and toss it to the back of the oven to burn. (Commercial bakers are to take only 1/48.) Look on your boxes of matzah for the words "Challah is taken" or "The laws of challah have been fulfilled."

I noticed that Orthodox women always use an entire five pound bag of flour, freezing or giving away what they do not need that week. I assumed that baking once a month was for efficiency's sake, but there is more to it. There is Talmudic consensus that dough made from five pounds of flour meets the minimum size requirement for saying the blessing, "... who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to separate challah." One should never miss the opportunity to perform a mitzyah.



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015

The Shabbos Project Covered Dish Dinner

~DAIRY~

Contact Joyce Peckman to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish. Please reserve by October 19.

joycepeckman@gmail.com, 305-451-0665



Sponsored by Ritual Committee - no charge

The Shabbos Project

KJCC Joins the World

bv Gloria Avner

et ready for a full experience of Shab-■ bat (Shabbaton). That is the intent of the two-vear-old "Shabbos Project." an ambitious worldwide event with roots in an unexpected place: South Africa. At least sixtyfive countries will be taking part this year. Already 850 people are on a waitlist for a Challah Bake in London. Last year in Johannesburg 3,006 raincoat-clad women prepared challah in torrential rain. And we are one of some 103 synagogues in Florida participat-

The goal of this project is to encourage a true 25-hour experience, to deepen our experience of the joys, the process, and the learning inherent in Shabbat observance. It seems totally in keeping with the message we heard from Rabbi Agler on Day One of Rosh Hashanah. (For a reprise of his speech "Being Holy," see page 23.) Naturally, such a 21st century happening has a website on which all participants can list their events and tell their stories. See ours at: www.theshabbosproject.com

But Shabbat begins at home, not on the Internet, and we will begin in our spiritual social home, the KICC Cathy Kaplan Social Hall, well before Shabbat arrives. One of the most important parts of Shabbat is the preparation for it. On Thursday, October 22nd, the day prior to the main event (i.e. Shabbat itself), we will meet at 5:00 p.m. to enjoy each other's company and to learn to make our own challahs. We will mix the dough with ingredients provided by Sisterhood, learn to braid it, then take our dough home, bake it, and bring our finished mini-loaves to share at the rest of our events. This will be a three-act play, taking place over 25 hours from the first hello to the last goodbye, all of it enacted with and within "Shabbat Shalom."

Candle lighting at our Friday night dinner

at 6 p.m. on October 23rd will mark the beginning. The dinner, sponsored by Stan and Jenny Margulies, will be potluck. The contact person to RSVP and coordinate your vegetable or dairy covered dish is Joyce Peckman (iovcepeckman@amail.com or 305-451-0665).

The festive spirit will continue in the sanctuary at a tuneful and celebratory *Erev* Shabbat service, held every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. They will be led that night by Erica Lieberman- Garrett and Mitch Harvey.

On Saturday, October 24th at 10:00 a.m., we will eagerly gather for the first of Rabbi Agler's 5776 Shabbat morning Torah learning services. Rabbi's interactive services are a highlight of our season, as anyone who has attended one or more will tell you. They are engaging, uplifting, educational, and, yes, entertaining. You won't want to miss this. Of course it will be followed by a luncheon, both relaxing and stimulating, with fascinating conversations happening simultaneously (and a touch too loudly, but what can you do? Perhaps it's the acoustics of the social hall...) in all corners of the room.

That same Saturday evening at we will gather once more, at the home of Joyce Peckman to enjoy a light repast, "seudah sh'lishi," the traditional third meal of Shabbat. The evening will conclude as we say goodbye to sacred time and space with our braided Havdalah candle, aromatic spices, and wine. Short and sweet, the service will end in song and the slight hiss of candle flame doused in wine. It will be time to return again to the secular world, but this time we will enter it especially refreshed, renewed and with greater understanding of why *Shabbat* is THE most important of all Jewish holidays, outranking even the High Holy Days. Shabbat keeps us, as we keep it. >

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 Steve Steinbock 305-394-0143 or just bring to the KJCC.

Thoughts On The New Year From Rabbi Agler

Those who attended Rosh Hashanah services Day One were so moved by Rabbi Agler's d'var on holiness that we are repeating it here, slightly abridged, so that we all can experience once again the richness and depth of his thoughts.

emember when the idea of teaching self-esteem was all the rage? The word was, if only we could increase our children's self-esteem, we could solve a whole host of problems .from academic underachievement to crime to addiction to you name

it. We pretty much went all in on this. American students in recent decades have earned ranks like 15th, 23rd, and 34th in math, science and history. not so impressive for the industrialized world, but by golly we are #1 in self-esteem! It turned out the idea was not all it was cracked up to be-though we shouldn't be too hard on the promoters. High self-esteem is in fact correlated with doing well in life.

But it's more an effect than a cause. It is the result of doing well, not the reason people succeed in the first place. Selfcontrol on the other hand, turns out to be the real deal. If you want to do well in almost any area of life, the more self-control you have. the greater your chance for success and in turn, happiness, blessing, and yes, selfesteem.

Which brings us to the Torah. The Torah says basically nothing on self-esteem. There is no verse that goes, "Do this mitzvah and you will feel better about yourself." The Torah does however, have quite a bit to say about self-control. There are 613 commandments detailing how to overcome this impulse, master this desire, control that craving. And when the Torah says that this is the path to a fulfilled life, it is time tested and proven.

At the same time the Torah teaches that happiness, fulfillment and blessing are the byproducts of a life lived with holinesskedushah as we say in Hebrew. Holiness. Yes, I was trying to find a term even less fashionable than "self-control." It is a word almost alien to our culture. We don't see it on television. It doesn't trend on social media. We don't use it in the workplace. But if we intend to live a higher life, we need, at the very least, a working

> relationship with it. This is true whether we believe in God or not. whether we consider ourselves very religious, not so religious, or even anti-religious. It doesn't matter. The more holiness we live with, the better our lives become.

We know the religious path can be a difficult sell these days ,especially for those who may be a little bit on the outside looking in. Horrible things are being done in religion's name, not only in faraway lands, which you don't need me to catalog, but here as

well .Denying women access to reproductive health care for one. Legalizing discrimination against gays for another. Disenfranchising the poor and the needy.

But even if we set all that aside, it is not easy to have faith in this world. We see far too much undeserved pain, disease and tragedy. We can't pretend it isn't there and we can't pretend it's easy to deal with.

Where does this leave us? Well it leaves me. for one, in pursuit of a more sacred life. Sure. you say, I'm the one wearing the white robe. That has nothing to do with it. Judaism's intention is to create holy people--as the Prophet Isaiah put it, "a light unto the nations." We start to become that by making ourselves holy as individuals. In time, the theory goes, other nations will see how well we do and emulate our best. This would be a good thing. The idea of serving the One God who demands justice and in turn, holiness, began with a small tribe led by a man called Abraham. It has made considerable inroads since. For starters there are Christianity and Islam, our daughter religions. They're followers of the one God who demands justice too. Today there are also reportedly millions(!) of South Koreans studying the Talmud - our wisdom. The Dalai Lama meets often with Jewish leaders. Ask them why and they'll tell you they want to succeed as we've succeeded. We have in fact been a light unto the nations!

But back to you and me. Rosh Hashanah focuses on our personal relationship with God. Again, many people think if you are going to live a life of faith, you somehow need answers for all of your doubts; that if you don't have satisfactory explana-

"You don't

have a soul

You ARF

a soul.

don't have satisfactory explanations for injustice, terror, natural disaster, and all the rest, you are somehow being false.

If that were the case, there would be very few thoughtful people of faith. I can assure you there are many.

Author and journalist Julia Baird recently wrote, "...As courage is persisting in the face of fear...faith is persisting in the presence of doubt." In other words, doubt is not kryptonite for faith. Doubt is part of the equation. And that equation can lead to sharper understanding. We don't have to throw out the baby of faith with the bathwater of doubt. And I'm speaking personally here, not academically.

Persistence in the presence of doubt is but the beginning. Living with faith also means believing we are part of something more, something ultimate. That we are more than just a body that's taken its share of licks and more than a mind, that try as it might, cannot figure it out. Faith is about accepting that we are also a soul. Yes, soul, that thing we say we see in one another's eyes. Philosopher Alan Watts was once asked if he believed people have souls. His answer, "You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body."

It is easy to lose sight of this. We don't usually treat one other as souls. We're lucky if we respect one other as minds and bodies. More often we look at our fellow human be-

ings as sources for money, votes, sex, or whatever else we can mine for our own benefit.

One of the reasons we are in the Keys is we appreciate that the beauty of creation, which is right outside our doors and windows, somehow nourishes our souls. One of the reasons we build synagogues and sanctuaries is we understand that a community without a place devoted to strengthening the soul is incomplete. One of the reasons we pray, meditate, and need our alone time--our soul time is we recognize that without it, we lose touch with who we are.

Our souls are not strengthened by default. They atrophy by default. They are strength-

ened when we commit to them. The way we commit to our families, careers, health, or anything else that matters deeply to us. None of us want to go through life and have it said about us that we were "just there." What do we want said? Hopefully that we were a source of love and joy, comfort, friendship and assistance; that we made a difference. Maybe even that we uplifted others

But without a spiritual life, without an inner life, without a life that at least partially recognizes that we are a soul that has a body and not the other way

around, it is way more difficult. Faith gives us a language for holiness. Religion is how we translate it into reality - and we'll get to that in a moment.

Holiness also gives us a way to respond to life's mysteries. No matter how religious--or not--we consider ourselves to be, we all marvel at nature, we are all speechless at the miracle of new life, we are all moved more than we can say by beautiful music and breathtaking works of art; we are all uplifted by love and devastated by loss.

How do we make sense of all that? Science and technology, for a change, don't give us language for this. We are in the realm of the spiritual, the holy. For starters we can be mindful of Watts' distinction between what we have— a body, and who we are— a soul. We can accept that faith is always about growth, about new ways to face the questions that lie

at the heart of every life. In his book My Bright Abyss, Christian Wiman of Yale wrote, "If you believe at 50 what you believed at 15, then you have not lived...you have denied the reality of your life." Or, as Rabbi Hillel put it two thousand years ago, "If you do not increase (in understanding), you decrease."

In any discipline, if we are not always increasing we are decreasing. Whether our field is law, medicine, finance, sales, music, teaching, auto mechanics or fishing. It is the same with faith. One of the ways we can increase our faith is by trying to live in ways that the Creator loves.

Marx said that religion was the opiate of the masses. That may have been the case 150 years ago but today I'd disagree. The opiate of the masses is the screen--the ones in our hands, the ones on our desks and the ones on our walls. Reality TV, "If you

believe at 50

what you be-

lieved at 15,

online gaming, social media, surfing the net, the NFL, is there any question? Second place goes to actual opiates and related substances.

Religion? According to Wiman,

it is about finding and "feeling the you have not ultimate existence within our daily lived." existence." That is not opium. That is quest--for a life of higher meaning and yes, holiness. Yeah, I'll take a hit of that. Wiman also writes, "You can't really know a religion from the outside. No matter how much you learn about it, it remains mere information, so long as your own soul is not [in the game.]" He's right about that too. Our souls need to be in the game.

Science and history teach that there is no such thing as absolute knowledge--at least not yet. Anyone who claims to have it, be they politician, scientist or believer, is a danger to himself and others. In the words of Bertrand Russell, "The whole problem with the world is that the stupid are cocksure while the intelligent are full of doubt."

If we accept this, and I'm guessing most of us do, however we may see ourselves politically or socially, we are liberals religiously. We live non-orthodox, non-fundamentalist, question-filled Jewish lives. This is good because it gives us freedom of inquiry as we try to get our souls in the game. It is challenging insofar as it requires us to find our higher path in a largely non-spiritual world.

The new year is the time for us to renew that search. It is the time to ask, "What is keeping me from pursuing a life of greater holiness?" (The name of another person is not an acceptable answer.) The High Holydays are spiritual "me time." "What can I do to make my journey more elevated this year?" I'll give you some time to think about it. You have 20 seconds. Go.

Hopefully that was enough to start. This year I am going to be slower to anger, more empathetic, kinder, quicker to forgive. This year I am going to eat healthier, maybe even kosher-er. This year I am going to do less in-

dulging of myself and more serving of others. This year I am going to treat others more like I want to be treated myself. This year I will make an effort to know my faith better. This year I will take it to heart that I don't have a soul - I am a soul.

Give it all you've got. It will take self-control. It will build self-esteem. and the foundations of a life of holiness at the same time. Our faith holds that people can change. The Rabbis taught that when we attempt

to live with even slightly more holiness, it elevates the quality of our own life as well as the lives of those around us. They also taught that it is never too late. And they were right. At the new year we reflect on the fact that everything changes constantly, from the universe's grandest galaxies to our bodies' tiniest particles. We cannot step in the same river twice and we are not the same people we were a year ago. To say nothing of seven Rosh Hashanah's ago, since according to some biologists, every cell in our bodies has been replaced since then. We can change and we do change. Not only in body, but also in soul. We are all evolving. It is just a question of how. May it be with holiness in 5776. L'shana tovah. (To read of his thoughts on

this and other subjects, please visit

Rabbiagler.net.) >

Rosh Hashanah Retrospectíve

Our mishpocha, 85-strong that night, gathered at our dining-room table (all twelve of them), to join together in welcoming the New Year — with apples, honey, and a beautiful fruit sculpture by Barbara Bernstein. We lit candles, blessed wine and then feasted before services began.



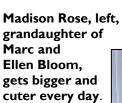
Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner



Our matriarch Pauline Roller sits with Carl Roy.

What a treat to see founding member and past president Susan Horn, here with partner Dot.

We were happy to welcome Dr.
Sue Sigel and husband Bill Pomenti (far right).







Rosh Hashanah services begin after dinner, led by Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin.



Shacharit, the morning service, ends with the congregation performing the mitzvah of hearing the blowing of the shofar. As he has in previous years, Bernie Ginsberg performed the rite, joined on the bimah this year by KJCC's

most recent Bar Mitzvah, Jonah Gross

Kudos to Jonah Gross, whose final Tekiah Gedolah (the final blast on the shofar), was probably the longest ever heard at KICC.

Kiddush lunch featured luscious desserts by Linda Perloff and Luz Levine, to usher in a sweet new year.



Paul and Barbara Bernstein (who worked for **DAYS**) creating her magnificent fruit bowl.



Services and lunch concluded on Day One, we joined Cantor Dzubin at Ocean Pointe for Tashlich. Susan Gordon brought a large bag of bread, which we all broke into small pieces

and then cast upon the water as a symbolic casting away

of our "sins."





On the second day, an intimate crowd listens intently to the sound of the shofar and Rabbi Agler's intriguing Talmudic discussion about types of leaders. Do we want a "Mount Sinai or an uprooter of mountains," he asked, meaning a traditional, stable leader or an innovator willing to make dramatic changes. Our sages and rabbis, debating this for centuries, have yet to arrive at a firm answer.



Singing "Etz Chaim He," we return the Torah to the Ark, hoping to be written for good year.



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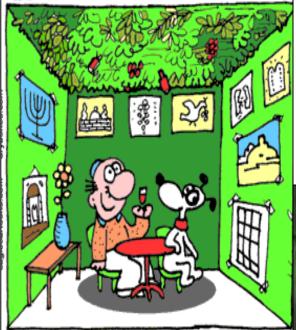
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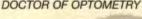
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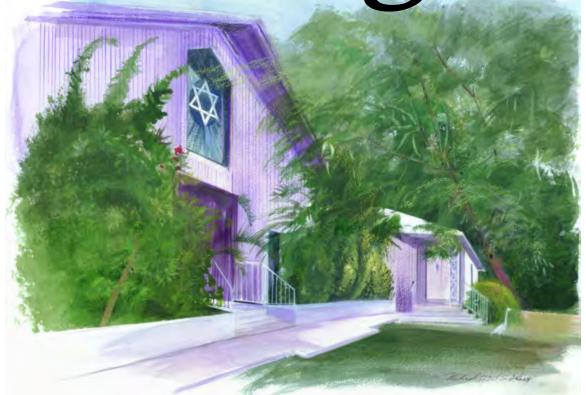
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November 2015

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November 2015 19 Chesvan - 18 Kislev

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood 9:00 a.m. KJCC Board 11:00 a.m.	2	3	4	5	6 Beth Hayden & Linda Pollack Stan & Jenny Margulies	7 Rabbi Agler Service 11:00 a.m.
8	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12	Steve Hartz Italian Night Dinner 6:00 p.m.	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur Gloria Avner	21
22	23	24	25	Thanks- giving Day	27 Steve Steinbock Roy Pollack	28
29	30					

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the

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

President's Message Sam Vinicur

Pick your classic metaphor: things have layers, or ripples. One never knows when a seemingly everyday occurrence might end up filled with meaning, the flung pebble that begets outgoing circles of new possibilities. It pays to keep one's eyes open and - despite the occasional problems borne by a life open to complexity - your imagination switch set to "on."

(We Iews have been plumbing the elusive arts of understanding since Ezra returned from Babylon to Judah around 500 B.C.E. When the Torah was read aloud to the populace a translator was necessary; Jews had forgotten Hebrew in the several generations since the exile. Inevitably the translators also became explainers, and thus the first Biblical exegetes. This process, seeking and discerning meaning, continued with Hillel and Shammai, then fully flowered with rabbinic Judaism after the Romans destroyed Herod's Temple. It really is no surprise that our culture has produced so many scholars and writers and philosophers. Intentionally or not, Jewish religious study hones the mind. Read the poetry of our own David Gitin. The grandson of a rabbi, David practically demands, without remorse or coddling, that you translate imagery into meaning: find the meaning, find the richness. How intensely Jewish he was.)





were photographing portions of our Holocaust Torah to send to Cantor Michael Dzubin prior to High Holidays. Bernie and Gloria noticed that many letters were broken or faded. We asked Rabbi Agler to look. He confirmed that the Torah needed restoration, checked with sources and recommended a sofer in North Miami Beach. Our Torah is there now.

I've asked the KICC Board for permission to do a full repair, and they've agreed. It isn't unusual, by the way, for a Torah written on animal skin around the time of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral to need work. KJCC also did some repairs fifteen years ago. This time we're going to go further, to also brighten and clean the parchment. We'll ask the congregation to participate, and both Gloria and I are sure that we'll find the money we need. But the intriguing guestion is: will this just be something routine, another small component of KICC life, or might it become something bigger, with more emotional depth and meaning? We've already seen a dramatic level of emotion from the Board about this iconic and irreplaceable Torah. Will whatever project we implement not only raise money but also, somehow, magically reach in and awaken the tender Jewish core of all our members? Will there be ripples? Stay tuned.

Chai-Lights November 2015 3

Nosh

New Memberships

We are always elated to welcome new members to our KICC mishbocha. With each new membership, we feel like we have gained new relatives in our ever-growing extended Keys family. Over the past few months, we have welcomed Renee Salant & Sam Weis who live in Islamorada, Sydney! Faye-Davis who recently made the move to Key Largo, and who has become very involved in KJCC activities, and the Key Largo family of George Smyth, Lori Richardson, and her mother Ruth Riveles. Most recently, Scott & Mary Anne Pearl, who reside in Tavernier, and Mark & Jeanette Denker and their five children, of Ocean Reef Club and Boca Raton, have become members. It is wonderful to see our membership growing so well, and we welcome all members, both new and old (I don't really mean OLD) to attend weekly Shabbat services, special events, dinners, educational programs, and much more...In other words...come hang out with your family, the people who love you!

Susan Gordon KICC Membership Chair

Oneg Sponsors for November 2015

November 6^{th} - Stan and Jenny Margulies in memory of their parents and grandparents. November 20^{th} - Gloria Avner to commemorate her birthday.

November 27th- Roy Pollack in honor of Will's birthday.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of **David Gitin**

A Man of the Book by Gloria Avner

Calling All Volunteers

Gene, Gloria and I were eating lunch at Mariners Hospital, and noted how many of our members volunteer there. It occurred to me that we are a hard- working, giving group of people. I would like to do an article in a future issue about the varied places our members (kids included) volunteer. If you give your time to help out anywhere, please send me just a few sentences describing what and where, and perhaps why... photos are optional. Please send it to joycepeckman@gmail.com. Thanks.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Henry Isenberg by Patricia Isenberg

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of

Bianka Kirschenbaum

100th Birthday
by George & Muriel Swartz

Let's Go Places — Volunteer Needed

Do you remember the outings to musicals and dramatic performances at Actors Playhouse and Biltmore Stage? Trips to dance performances at the Arsht Center? Rendezvous at Founders' Park? Some of these events brought in money to Sisterhood; others simply strengthened KICC camaraderie. All were enjoyable. We need a point person to coordinate and perhaps suggest similar events in the future. It might involve collecting money and making reservations, or just listing names. It might involve having your name listed as the "go to" person if another member has an idea, then contacting the president for feedback. You might on occasion deputize someone to help. You will definitely get the gratification of knowing that you have provided enjoyment to others. Please contact Sam Vinicur or Joyce Peckman if you can help out.

November Birthdays

2nd	Matt Temkin
2nd	Madalyn F. Tobias
2nd	Jeremy M. Schur
2nd	Brian Boruszak
	Katherine Shabathai
4th	Herbert Grossman
4th	Zoey Barrett
7th	Michele Lindenbaum
7th	Joel Stein
	Nico Wilbur
	Cathy Dutton
13th	Tami Ántelman
13th	Marilyn Greenbaum
	Larry Wolfe
	Rae Wruble
l6th	Lorelei Alexander
17th	Jason Orans
18th	Ross Alexander
19th	Michael E. Schur
19th	Georgia Landau
22nd	Gloria Avner
22nd	John Luis Greenbaum
22nd	Christopher Gould
24th	Will Travis Pollack
24th	Arthur Lee Willner
25th	Nancy L. Cohn
26th	John Douglas Greenbaum
	Nicole Hudson
29th	Benjamin Rakov
30th	Steven Horowitz

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of **Foster Davidson** by Gloria Avner

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of **Bernard Solas** by Elaine Solas

November Anniversaries

		Years
lst	Jeffrey & Patty Schocket	12
6th	Thomas & Renee Brodie	22
I4th	Donald & Nancy Zinner	28
26th	Roger & Danna Levy	48
27th	Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea	12
27th	Stanley & Jenny Margulies	
28th	Joseph & Leslie Reamer	22
28th	Sam & Leslie Janowitz	18
29th	Louis and Linda Ulman	34

Saturday Morning Torah Learning

Rabbi Richard Agler has graciously offered to lead Saturday Torah services on November 7th. Be there by 10:00 a.m. to join in an informal, thoroughly enjoyable experience. If you haven't come before, this is a great way to carry out those resolutions you made on Yom Kippur. If you have previously attended, I know you'll be there again. You may also want to save the date of December 12th, when the next service is scheduled.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of Susan Schwaid by Stephen Steinbock

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of **Myron Rubin** by George & Muriel Swartz

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of **Pauline Roller** by George & Muriel Swartz

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of

Pauline Roller's

100th Birthday
by Gloria Avner

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of **Ellen Coltman** by Barney Coltman

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of **David Gitin**by George & Muriel Swartz

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of

Bianka Kirschenbaum

100th Birthday by Linda Pollack

BOOK PLATE

In Loving Memory of **Joel Pollack**

from Susan Horn and Dot Brooking

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of **Pauline Roller** by Gloria Avner

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, 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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, 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, 305-451-0665.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Mitch Harvey, 303-521-5240, to arrange your donation.

KJCC BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 for information.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, 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.

LIVE GREEN – RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, idevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box I332, 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.

In Memoriam November 2015

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Eugene Agler	Loretta Messer	Harold Goldstein	
By Richard & Mindy Agler	By Marc & Ellen Bloom	By Joan Boruszak	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Robert Scott Coltman	Jack Dorf	Edward Deutsch Davis	
By Barnet O. Coltman	By Barry & Natalie Dorf	By Sydney! Faye-Davis	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Dr. Alvan Field	Lillian Skolnick	Donald Graham	
By Carol Field	By Susan Gordon	By Mrs. Marty Graham	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Susan Ban	Helene Tulsky	David Jacobs	
By Franklin & Judy Greenman	By Patricia Isenberg	By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs	
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In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
David Kamely	Sol Levy	Herta Schapira	
By Yardena Kamely	By Beth Kaminstein	By Harvey & Joan Kay	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Jacob S. Raub	Fanny Kluger	Ethel Hankin	
By Harvey & Judith Klein	By Nancy Kluger	By Richard & Barbara Knowles	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Deborah K. Cannon	Adele Kaufman	Murray Pincus	
By Michael Krissel	By Jeff & Lisa Miller	By Linda Pincus	

In Memoriam November 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Tillie Pollack **Abraham Travers** Harry Brownstein By Linda Pollack By Michele Riley By Pauline Roller <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Selma Moore Sachs Seymour Schocket Shirley Schulberg By Joseph & Susan Sachs By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Albert Kaminsky** Shirley Singer Florence Cohen By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By Lee Schur By Jules & Nettie Seder <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Martin Lewis** Albert Silverman Phillip Silverman By Robert Silk By Morton & Gene Silverman By Morton & Gene Silverman <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Ida Cohen Sachs** Rose T. Steinberg Marianne Cimkowski By Stephen Steinbock By Morton & Gene Silverman By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Bertha Swartz** Samuel Tallent **Kenny Temkin** By George & Muriel Swartz By Lillian Tallent By Robert Temkin <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Dick Jacob **Esther Gold Willner** Diana Wolfe By David & Pat VanArtsdalen By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

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In Memoriam Hovember 2015

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Morris Mazur Katy Kram Eve W. Zinner

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow 000000000000

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow 000000000000

By Donald Zinner <><><><><>

MISHEBERACH — A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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 lochebed.)

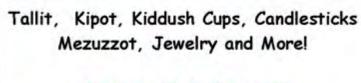
When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

The KICC 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, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KICC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.







For further information contact: Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

Sisterhood Erica Lieberman-Garrett



The beginning of October saw the flurry of High Holiday activities continue on a windy night in our KICC succah. Rabbi Agler shook the lulay and we smelled the etrog. We had wine and snacks, then proceeded inside to another delicious oneg, this one featuring a special, scrumptious Dairy Queen birthday cake celebrating Mitch Harvey's birthday.

The next night our Sukkot celebration continued at Rabbi and Mindy Agler's home. As Carla and I helped set up the food, Gene Silverman was taking pictures of the water on the bay slowly encroaching the house. The storms had blown the sukkah down, so plan B- we looked at the bay from inside the house while we sniffed the delicious spices of the Havdalah.

Sisterhood met the next morning for our first earlier 9 a.m. meeting. We were tired and full, but managed to eat a healthy breakfast and conduct a good, quick meeting.

Our holiday season ended with Simchas Torah on Monday night, and a special oneg of cheese cake and flan ended the fressing for a while. Skip Rose thanked me at the board meeting for the six pounds that he gained over the holidays. Ov!! I thank all of our KICC mishpocha who helped cook, shop, bake and sponsor all the lunches, dinners, onegs and havdalahs. Susan Gordon and Sydney! Faye-Davis made the rooms look so inviting and warm. I really liked the time spent with little Rachel Levine, who was so anxious to assist. Help gladly accepted.

This holiday my life has been enriched in ways that I could have never imagined. I hope that you also experienced this feeling.

We continued to enhance the spirit of our KICC with our Shabbos Project weekend, which began with our Challah Bake. Last year in Toronto, I saw the promotion for this worldwide event, but missed the opportunity to join 4000 women who baked challah to

gether there. I loved the idea of a worldwide connection, and this year we joined the Shabbos Proiect.

My mom Maxine loves to bake and used to always make challahs for Shabbat - a big incentive to get home for Friday night dinner. Having never baked a challah before, I consulted my mom to get tips on making the dough and braiding the bread. How hard can it be? YouTube was helpful too!!

So we all gathered and made our dough, kneaded, waited, practiced our braiding, and took our challahs home for baking. The smell of my challahs baking brought back childhood memories and the mitzvahs and great traditions that we want to continue.

The Shabbat Dinner the next night, the Saturday lunch following Rabbi Agler's Torah Service, and finally the Havdalah service at Joyce Peckman's home completed our commitment to honor Shabbat and elevate our spirits and faith even further. I want to thank Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman and Susan Gordon who made this experience incredible. We may be small in numbers but we are all connected near and far!

Our annual Oneg letters have gone out and we have received many replies, including generous sponsorships for dinners. I feel grateful and thank all of you for this support. It shows Sisterhood that you all enjoy what is going on, and you continue to make it all possible.

We now look forward to November. which includes our November 1st, 9 a.m. meeting and our annual Italian Shabbat dinner on Friday, November 13th at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Contact me by November 7th, at hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-393-1162 to reserve your spot. I hope to see you, and our returning snowbirds, there. ◊

Contributions to KJCC

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

Holocaust Education Center

Beinfest, Bennett & Deborah

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Davidson, Foster Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin for the inspiring services

Knowles, Richard & Barbara Shabathai, Joseph & Katheriine

Sisterhood - Onegs In Honor of

Coltman, Barney Harvey, Mitch

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Erica's birthday
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Anniversary –

Erica & Ron

In Honor of

Schur, Lee Bar Mitzvah Jeremy Schur

Sisterhood - Onegs
Margulies, Stan & Jenny
Nobil, Lynn
Our Parents, Joel & Sara
Cohen

Yahrzeit Plaques

Miller, Jeffrey & Lisa

Yahrzeits

Fishman, Eina Nettie Fishman Isenberg, Patricia Henry Isenberg Kluger, Nancy Kurt Kluger Kluger, Nancy Eliza Christensen

Yizkor Book Berk-Moshe, Zoe

Knowles, Richard & Barbara

Book Plates In Memory of Coltman, Barney Ellen Coltman

Avner, Gloria Ellen Coltman

David Gitin, a man

of the Book

Isenberg , PatriciaHenry IsenbergSolas, ElaineBernard SolasSwartz, George & MurielDavid GitinSwartz, George & MurielMyron Rubin

Steinbock, Stephen Susan Schwaid Horn, Susan & Brookling, Dot Joel Pollack

In Honor of

Avner, Gloria Pauline Roller
Avner, Gloria Foster Davidson
Swartz, George & Muriel Pollack, Linda Pauline Roller
Bianka Kirschenbaum,

100th birthday

Swartz, George & Muriel Bianka Kirschnenbaum 100th birthday

General Fund In Honor of

Agler, Richard & Mindy Joel & Toby Bofshever Beinfest, Bennett & Deborah

Cole, Ronald Love offering

Congregation

Davidson, Foster Sam, Gloria, Erica et al

for making the holidays so special Horn, Ronald & Dorothy Yontif

Rose, Frank Maryon Gould's 90th birthday Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine

General Fund In Memory of

Williams, Jim & Rita our dear friend, Carol Steinbock

KJCC Religious School — B'reishit

by Gloria Avner

tudents, teachers and parents initiated this school year when we decorated our Sukkah, but the real beginning of classes occurred on Sunday, October 11th. With three teachers at the helm, Susan Gordon, Bernie Ginsberg, and Gloria Avner, a great exchange took place. And it all started with B'reishit, the beginning. Oshi Gross helped Bernie roll our student Torah back to the correct spot and they began to read this week's parshah. By the end of class, the students had read the story in English, learned key words in Hebrew, reviewed the importance of number seven and Shabbat, solved puzzles, blessed candles, grape juice and ice cream cake, made their own lamp black (the ink with which sofers write Torahs, as taught by Reb Bernie Ginsberg), asked amazing guestions about God, the Creation, and past lives, and talked their teachers into telling them the stories of their own neardeath experiences.

Their serious interest and curiosity were inspiring.

Oshi lit candles. Max Fink read the English story beautifully, Mikhaela Bitton excelled in deciphering new Hebrew words, and J.B. Fink captured the essence of Judaism in a spontaneous drawing of the Holy Ark, our Torah, and the Ner Tamid (eternal light). He would not leave class until we had written down in Hebrew for him the first two verses of B'reishit and made copies for everyone to take home. The last "lessons" of the day were dismantling our Sukkah and creating heartwarming, artful cards wishing Morah Yardena complete healing.

Onward in future weeks to mastering the blessings before reading from the Torah. Cole Silverman, Mikhaela, and Oshi are on their way to becoming b'nei mizvot. KICC Religious School is alive and well. >

(Below) Bernie demonstrating how ancient --and modern-scribes make their ink to write Torahs out of "lampblack".





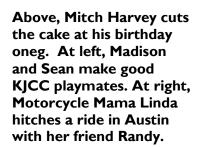
Photo Gallery

Rabbi Richard Agler was a featured speaker at Washington, D.C.'s George Washington University Hospital conference on organ donation.



Sam, Gene and Bernie blossom among the new bimah flowers with floral designer Marisol.





World Jewish Report Medina Roy



\$100 Million to Search for....Aliens?

Yuri Milner, a Russian-lewish tech billionaire, is teaming up with renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking to search for intelligent extraterrestrial life. Milner, who has invested in tech companies like Facebook, Twitter and Spotify, is pledging \$100 million to Breakthrough Listen Initiative, a ten-year project using powerful telescopes that can reach farther than previous ones. The project will be able to scan ten times more area and is said to be 50 times more sensitive to sound or other wavelengths of communication than previous attempts. Hawking however, is worried about the dangers associated with the project. "A civilization reading one of our messages could be billions of years ahead." he said. "If so, they will be vastly more powerful and may not see us as any more valuable than we see bacteria." (www.jta.org, 7-23-15)

Scan Your Snacks

Want to know exactly what's inside that Granny Smith apple you're snacking on? Now, thanks to Israeli tech start-up ConsumerPhysics, you can see its chemical and caloric make -up and also find out if it's truly organic. According to Dror Sharon, co-founder and CEO of ConsumerPhysics, the company has just released "the first molecular sensor that fits in the palm of your hand." The gadget is called SCiO. How does it work? When you point the SCiO at the apple, it shines a light, stimulating the fruit's molecular make-up and creating a unique optical signature. SCiO then collects the light reflected, breaking it down for analysis and then translating the results. which are then sent to your smartphone. Within five minutes you know the food's chemical properties. As new products are scanned, the database of information available through SCiO is growing every day. (www.thejewniverse.com, 9-21-15)

Not Your Normal Catalogue

French publisher *Flammarion* has released a book belonging to Nazi leader Hermann Göring - commander of the Luftwaffe, President of the Reichstag and once Hitler's designated successor - in which he listed more than 1.750 works of art looted by the Nazis from lews and others during World War II. Göring's catalogue includes paintings by Botticelli, Velazguez, Renoir, Monet and Van Gogh, as well as sculptures and tapestries. Previously, this comprehensive documentation of the theft was only accessible to scholars and others with special authorization. Now the catalogue is available to the general public. Detailed information about the works of art are included in the catalogue and it is expected to enable owners or their heirs to recover their property.

(www.worldjewishcongress.org, 10-2-15)

"To Live Remaining Years in Dignity"

The Obama administration has allocated \$12 million from the Department of Health and Human Services to go to the lewish Federations of North America (JFNA). The money is part of an initiative launched in 2013 by Vice President Joe Biden to address the needs of Holocaust survivors in the United States, a quarter of them living below the poverty level. The initiative includes matching private funds and will be disbursed over five years. The money will be used in a variety of supportive services for Holocaust survivors. Congressional sponsors of the funding included U.S. Representatives Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) According to U.S. government estimates, there are currently some 130,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States. (The Forward, 10-1-15)

To Correct a "Historic Mistake"

Earlier this year, Spain's parliament adopted a law granting citizenship to the descendants of Jews who fled or were expelled from Spain over five hundred years ago during the Spanish Inquisition. As a result, the country has now granted citizenship to some 4.300 people who identify themselves as descendants of those Sephardic Jews. ("Sepharad" is the Hebrew word for Spain.) The decree aims to correct what the current Spanish government has called the "historic mistake" that forced lews into exile in 1492. Applicants do not have to be practicing Jews, but their ancestry must be vetted by Jewish authorities. They must also pass tests showing their knowledge of the Spanish language and have some awareness of Spain's history. The law allows applicants to maintain dual citizenship with another country. Portugal passed and implemented a similar law last year. (Baruch Spinoza was Portuguese, and only went to Amsterdam when forced to leave.) Historians believe that at least 200,000 lews lived in Spain before Isabella and Ferdinand ordered them to convert to Catholicism or leave the country. As many as 3.5 million people around the world are thought to have Sephardic Jewish ancestry. According to the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain, the majority of new applicants desiring citizenship come from Venezuela, Morocco and Turkey. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 10-2-15)

Don Francisco Says "Adios"

In early September, after a 53-year run, Univision, the Spanish language television network, aired the final broadcast of "Sabado Gigante," the Spanish language variety show. The popular Miami-based show was a consistent ratings-leader among Latino audiences, drawing an average of 2.2 million viewers each week. It was the top Saturday night Spanish-language show in the United States and the world's longest-running variety show on television. (The show aired in 40 countries and ran for some 3.000 consecutive Saturdays.) What's the lewish connection to this story? It's Don Francisco, the show's 74-yearold Chilean creator and host. He was born

Mario Luis Kreutzberger Blumenfeld, the son of German Jews who fled the Holocaust before he was born. The family settled in Chile. The elder Kreutzberger, a tailor, wanted his son to join the family business and sent the young Chilean to New York to learn the trade. But once in New York, young Kreutzberger discovered television and, upon returning to Chile, his goal was to become the country's Johnny Carson. He pitched his idea of an American-style variety show to enthusiastic television executives, but they had a problem with his name: it was "too difficult to pronounce and not easy to remember." And so he became Don Francisco, Kreutzberger's show premiered in Chile in 1962, the same year Carson began his 30-year tenure as host of "The Tonight Show." In 1963, the broadcast was moved to Saturday and in 1986. it began broadcasting in the United States to appeal to the rapidly growing Spanishspeaking community.

(www.huffingtonpost.com, 9-16-15)

Crazy Jewish News

Jordan Zeidman, 20, has successfully sued his mother for withholding the \$5,000 his grandmother - "Baba" - had promised him for his 2007 Bar Mitzvah. The gift was to go towards his college fund. The money was initially given to Zeidman's mother Shirley, who made a deposit to the boy's college fund with a note which read, "I owe Jordan \$190.00 + \$5,000 from Baba." Shirley Zeidman claims she doesn't remember writing the note but said it's possible she did. The judge awarded Jordan Zeidman the money that his mother "held for [his] benefit and continues to hold. in violation of her fiduciary duty." Shirley's lawyer is likely to appeal the judge's decision. If that happens, with court costs and interest. the final judgment could be closer to \$10,000. Oy. (www.nypost.com, 8-26-15)

In Memoriam

· Rabbi Eliyahu Avichail, founder and director of Amishav, the organization that represents the Dispersed of Israel, died in September. He was 83. He dedicated much of his life to researching the fate of the descendants of the ten lost tribes. Avichail founded *Amishav* in 1975 to help the *Bnei Menashe* communities in India, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Israel. (Bnei Menashe are people who claim to be descendants of the Tribe of Menashe, one of the ten lost tribes.) The rabbi was also an educator, teaching at religious institutions. Along with his wife Rivka, Avichail won the *Yakir Yerushalayim* award for outstanding citizenship in 2012. Rabbi Avichail wrote six books on the Ten Tribes. As a result of his work, thousands of people - primarily from India and other communities thought to be descended from the lost tribes, made aliyah to Israel. According to the rabbi's grandson, Avichail also helped Marranos in Spain return to Judaism and come to Israel. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 9-17-15)

· Daniel Thompson, who 50 years ago invented the bagel-making machine that could mass-produce hundreds of bagels an hour, making the bagel a staple of the American diet, died recently at the age of 94. Consumers were grateful for the invention, but to many stalwart bagel-lovers, the machinemade bagel was a tragic event: they claim that such bagels lost their "lewish flavor." The traditional bagel was originally a totally ethnic Jewish food, with roots going back hundreds of years in Europe. Until the mid-1960s, it was only available in the United States in cities with thriving Jewish neighborhoods. (In 1960, the New York Times Magazine described it as "an unsweetened doughnut with rigor mortis.") The bagel was rolled by hand, coiled into rings and boiled in a kettle. Then it was baked in a wood- or coal-fired oven. It was said to symbolize the circle of life. A traditional bagel-maker would produce about 120 bagels in an hour. Thompson's machine allowed a single, unskilled worker to turn out 400. British-born. Thompson was the son of a Jewish baker. His family moved to Los Angeles when he was a baby. A California math and woodshop teacher, Thompson also invented the first wheeled, folding ping-pong table that became a fixture in many American basements. In 1963, his bagel-making invention ended up in the hands of Lender's, then a small Connecticut bagel-maker, which led

to frozen, bagged bagels. Lender's still uses Thompson machines to produce 750 million bagels a year. (By the way...the largest direct retailer of bagels in the country, which last year sold more than 224 million, is Dunkin' Donuts.) (www.nytimes.com, 9-21-15)

· Arpad Goncz, Hungary's beloved writer. translator and first democratically chosen president, died recently. He was 93. Goncz took part in the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising and was charged with treason. He was sentenced to life in prison by Hungary's Communist authorities. In prison, he learned English and later translated works by many prominent writers. Under a general amnesty in 1963 Goncz was released. In 1990, after a free election that ended four decades of communist rule. Goncz was elected president by parliament. Although his position was largely ceremonial. Goncz was credited by many for using his limited powers to enforce Hungary's fledgling constitution. Towards the end of World War II, Goncz had been called up to fight for Hungary - then allied with Nazi Germany - but escaped from his unit and joined the anti-Nazi resistance, rescuing lews and others being persecuted. (www.ap.org, 10-6-15)

Did You Know

- · Facebook will launch an Israeli-made satellite that will bring Internet access to sub-Saharan Africa. Israel Aerospace Industries is building the \$300 million satellite, known as AMOS-6, which will be operated by the Israeli company Spacecom in partnership with Eutelsat Communications of France. AMOS-6. set to launch in 2016, is expected to operate for sixteen vears. (www.reuters.com, 10-6-15)
- · This year, for the first time, Israel is submitting a Farsi-language film as its Academy Awards entry for best foreign language film. "Baba Ioon" has already won the award for best picture at the Ophir Awards, Israel's version of the Oscars. The film is directed by Iranian-Israeli Yuval Delshad and produced by David Silver, who produced the Oscarnominated foreign film "Beaufort" a few years ago. "Baba Ioon" centers on a family conflict between three generations of Iranian Jewish men. (www.tabletmag.com, 9-22-15) >



Our extended brick walkway is in place. Come and spend some time walking around our peaceful and beautiful Meditation Garden. Bricks and benches can be purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Trees line the walkway and are available for dedication to our loved ones or to memorialize a happy occasion.

Also newly dedicated is our Orchid Pergola. We invite you to become a part of this fresh undertaking. Make your donation toward a new and beautiful orchid. The orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.

Information regarding pricing for orchids, bricks and benches can be obtained by visiting our website, keysjewishcenter.com.

Tikkun Torah

Making Both Repair and Mitzvah

by Gloria Avner

or the first time since the beginning of the new millennium, our Holocaust Torah is missing in action, absent from KICC. When we rise to chant Aleinu, our Aron Kodesh (Holy Ark) looks like a mouth with a missing tooth. Don't be alarmed. The Torah is on a short Sabbatical in a spiritual rehabilitation center. We have transported it to experts for a consultation and repair, but we will continue to say our last *Kaddish* for the Torah's former owners in Susice at each ser-

vice. iust as we agreed to do when we accepted it on permanent loan from the Westminster Synagogue in London over 30 years ago.

The happy news is that in several months, we will welcome back a rejuvenated, corrected, beautified and completely Koshered Torah: there will be no more broken. crumbling or faded letters, dark age spots or weakness in the sewing of parchment. There will be great cause for celebration (by

us and the souls connected to us who once lived in tiny Susice).

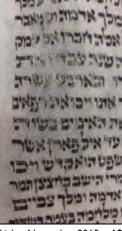
Our Torah is in good hands. The *sofers* (Torah scribes) that we met in North Miami Beach have trained under masters who had trained under previous masters, going back countless generations. These Orthodox men, warm and open to answering all our guestions, are well versed in Torah and history as well as ancient and modern Hebraic calligraphy. Their art is such that they can duplicate any Hebrew typeface. (Just as there are myriad typefaces used in English - we recognize names like Palatino, Helvetica, Garamond, and Lucida Sans, the one you're reading now - there are also a variety of distinct styles used throughout history for Torahs. Who

knew?) As a matter of fact, the rabbis took one look at our Torah and exclaimed, "what a beautiful Bet Yoseph script!" By that script they also easily identified both the era when it was written, the 1880s, and our Torah's region of origin -



Rabbi Eliyahu Golan describes the koshering process, as Bernie, Sam, Gene, and photographer Gloria listen intently.

Bohemia, the once thriving Jewish sector of central Europe, its capital in Prague, now part of today's Czech Republic.



Trained *sofers* also get clues from the letters - their shape, size, and décor (crown-like fine lines etched on top of certain letters, which are the first initials of words making up sacred phrases in a sentence meant to protect us from misdeeds and malicious intent of others. Yes, it's very *kabbalistic*. All the letters, words, and even the sentence itself have literal and symbolic meanings too complicated for this student to relay after a one-hour visit, but save your questions). Yes, there were different strokes from different folks, times, and places.

It was fascinating to watch the initial examination. The first thing the sofers looked for (with quite a bit of excitement) was apparently a rare phenomenon - letters written inside of other letters. This kind of textual ornament was more than a decorative technique. It was symbolic code for special teachings used only by the *kabbalists* and understood only by their students. We could feel the sadness of our

sofers when no letters-within-letters appeared. They quietly explained that the rarity was due to the fact that none of its practitioners - a certain group of Eastern European rabbi/teachers, or their students - survived the Holocaust.

Important as it is for a *sofer* to make every stroke of each word perfectly (see box), and to have a firm foundation in the special halacha (laws) for writing sacred text, it is just as important, our bearded guide related, to have the correct *kavanah*, or serious intent, when writing each word of the sacred Jewish story, especially when writing the name of God. Even as he spoke to us, pointing at the letters we use for Adonai in the scroll he was correcting, we could feel his awe at the responsibility in his serious but tender voice.

The sofers loved our Torah, handled it respectfully, and taught us a lot. They opened

Below, Rabbi **Menachem Bialo** inspects our Torah and explains the possibilities for koshering and beautifying it. At right, a sofer repairs another Torah.



up even more when they found out that our Dr. Bernie Ginsberg's great-uncle was a *sofer* himself, making his ink out of lampblack, scraping the soot from a glass container in which a kosher candle burned and then mixing it with a special oil. How surprising and yet somehow reassuring it was to hear, in their proud, excited voices, that these

sofers still make their ink the same way. And they still carve, with tiny, sharp exactolike knives, the auills of turkey feathers to create the "nibs." or points, for their pens. They also use the exacto knife blades to scrape off letters that need to be replaced



or repaired.

Though our *sofers* are steeped in tradition, they taught us a modern lesson we needed to know: how to protect a Torah that is kept locked in a safe with no air circulation. "Simple," they said, and proceeded to open our Torah so quickly - exposing its full 80-foot length by lightly folding it over and back upon itself multiple times (see photo) that we were stunned. "Take it out and unroll it this way once a month so that air can circulate around it. Leave it out for several hours, and then put it back. Remember, this is organic material, a living thing." (Maybe we



can do this on the Shabbat mornings that Rabbi Agler teaches: then we can all appreciate the Torah's beauty up close, and share a special moment. It would be a very different use of the tables in our social hall.)

The experience of talking with and learning from these men was wonderful. Look at their tools. Look at the concentration on their faces. They will do a good job for us. The tikkun, or repair, will be costly, but KJCC has done it twice before, most recently fifteen years ago, and both times raised enough money to pay for the repairs and beyond. We are confident that we can do this again. What better way to celebrate our synagogue's double-chai anniversary? We have been in existence for nearly 36 years, a functioning, lavled, heartful *mishpocha* of a congregation where there had never been one before. That, in itself, is a mitzvah bevond measure. But there is another rare *mitzvah* that we will all be able to perform when the sofers have nearly completed their task.

Many of you will remember standing at the lectern with a *sofer* fifteen years ago "helping" to write a letter or word. In Jewish Halacha, each of us is commanded to write our own *Torah* during our lifetime. "Tough assignment," you say? Yes, but think about Rabbi Agler's words about how an "Amen" said at the correct time gives credit for having said the whole prayer. One letter, "written" by you with the help of our sofer, can count as the fulfilling of the whole mitzvah. Miraculous.

We will share more details soon. We are at B'reishit, the beginning of the Torah story, and also at the beginning of a big, important project. At KICC we love making rare mitzvot possible. Our Holocaust Torah and the souls who created it and once read from it every Shabbos morning a hundred years ago will surely be dancing for joy at our honoring of their Torah and their lives. . .

Our sofer told us that before he was allowed to write a single letter on a Torah (much less a word), he had to practice thousands of horizontal strokes. Then, when his mentor approved, he was allowed to practice vertical strokes and finally the curves necessary to connect the two and make letters. After five full years of



practice and study of halacha, history, fonts and calligraphy, he was allowed to correct and repair Torahs. Hearing him speak with awe and reverence for his work left us confident that we and our Torah were in the right hands.

Shabbat Shuvah

For the first time in years, one of ours led Shabbat Shuvah services (the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur). Bernie Ginsberg, as Kol Bo, acted as both our Rabbi and Cantor. Stan Margulies and Barney Coltman received Aliyah honors on behalf of the entire congregation.



lah prayers.

Havdalah candle (symbolizing the transition from sacred back to secular). Above right, Gene participates in the reading of the Havda-



Gloria, Susan and two Lindas are among those who were on the patio enjoying the lovely sunset and waiting for the appearance of the three stars that signal the end of the Sabbath.

Above, Mikhaela and Oceana excitedly show Linda Pollack's figurine collection to Susan Gordon. Below, Linda Perloff and

Below, Linda Perloff and Mitch Harvey

Above, Richard Wolfe adds some rhythm to the prayers.





Yom Kippur



No photos were taken during the intense and spiritual Yom Kippur Services, but we photographed the shofar blowing after sundown that signals the closing of the Gates of Heaven, the end of the service, and of the holy day. Bernie and Jonah delivered a powerful tekiyah gedolah.

Below, Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin lead the Havdalah service after the shofar was blown.

Below left, Zoe assists switching the books from High Holiday Machzorim back to our regular siddurim.



After the fast comes the feast...





On Sunday, September 27th the Religious School Students were joined by the adults as we decorated the succah.











Simchat Torah

The Torah story is completed, and begun again. We carry them, dancing and singing, around the sanctuary. We unroll the students' scroll to its full length, from the bimah into the hall, and Rabbi Agler gives his famous seven-minute summary.





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