

# Chai~Lights



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January 2016

20 Tevet - 21 Shevat 5776

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Yardena Kamely & George Swartz	2
3	4	5 Rabbi Zucker Class 7:00 p.m.	6	7	8 Bernie Ginsberg  <i>Susan Gordon</i>	9
10 Mtgs., Sisterhood 9, KJCC Board 11:00; <i>Laura Wetzler Con- cert 7:00 p.m.</i>	11	12	13	14	15 Sisterhood Service <i>Advertisers Dinner 6 p.m.  Susan Ellner</i>	16
17 Adult Ed 7:00 p.m. Shirley Stein - - Irving Berlin	18 Martin Luther King Day	19 Rabbi Zucker Class 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22 Meredith Cline  <i>Meredith Cline</i>	23 Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10:00
24 Tu B'Shvat at KJCC School 10:30 a.m.	25 Tu B'Shvat (New Year of the Trees)	26	27	28	29 Arthur Itkin  <i>Arthur Itkin Yardena Kamely</i>	30

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**CHAI-LIGHTS** is the  
monthly publication of the  
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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



**N**o one really knows when Jews first migrated into the fertile valleys of central Europe, but a fair guess is the first few centuries of the Common Era. There's strong evidence that Jews had settled in Prague, Bohemia's capital (then and today), by the 900s. By the early 1700s there were 30,000 Jews living in Bohemia *outside* of Prague, in 168 small market towns and 672 villages.

One of those small towns, in Bohemia's far southwest, was Susice, founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century to mine gold from the Otava River. Jews are known to have lived there since the early 1600s. The first synagogue was built in 1659. A grand new synagogue was begun in 1857, said by a local paper to be one of the most beautiful in all of Bohemia. It had "a large entrance hall, a fine gallery for the choir and an elegant altar."

The building took years to finish. Perhaps they then decided that a beautiful new synagogue deserved a regal new Torah. We know that a stately and highly legible Torah was commissioned around 1880. We know that this Torah served the Jews of Susice through a number of upheavals in the modern Czech/Bohemian world. We know that Nazis killed the Jews of Susice and then stole

this Torah. We know that this Torah was a wounded and homeless refugee at the end of World War II.

We know so much because this Torah is Czech Scroll No. 418, KJCC's beloved Holocaust Torah, currently being restored and re-koshered by a skilled scribe.

Though it's the words and ideas that are sacred, not the physical entity, this particular scroll is somehow...more. Its story bonds us to the lives of our forebears. It emerged out of the long, complex saga of European Jewry, and stands as a stiff-necked survivor of the worst Jewish catastrophe in 2,000 years. It embodies our people's ideas, yes, but also the emotional power of Jewish hands clasped firmly across the whole of our experience, good and bad. Rabbi Agler often talks of *kavanah* – intent. Next time you rise before our Torah for Kaddish, or reverently touch it, think of actual people from Susice it once served. Think of Benedikt Wedeles, or Olga Furthova, or Kamila Freundova.

The work on our Torah is almost finished. We'll be scheduling a full day of celebration and ceremony and re-connection upon its return. It will be one of the most important days in the entire history of KJCC. I hope all of you will be there with us. ◇

# Nosh

## KJCC Activities Club is Born

The KJCC now has an Activities Club! As its chairman, I will be providing monthly updates of upcoming activity opportunities

There are presently two planned events. Laura Wetzler, an internationally known Jewish folklorist and singer, will be performing at the KJCC on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M.. Tickets will be \$18. Contact Sam Vinicur for more information. (Please see the promo on page 20 of this issue.)

The second planned event is Itzhak Perlman: "In the Fiddler's House" at the Arsht Center in Miami on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 P.M. Twenty tickets have been reserved in the Orchestra Circle section at a price of \$86 each plus a \$4 handling fee. Log onto the Arsht Center website at [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org) and use Promo Code KJCC to order tickets.

Other opportunities under consideration include: "The Producers" at Waterfront Playhouse, a sunset cruise, visits to Botanical Gardens or Miami Zoo, Jewish Food Walking Tour and a Jewish Walking Tour of Miami Beach.

I encourage suggestions, so please feel free to contact me at [harveyaicp@yahoo.com](mailto:harveyaicp@yahoo.com) or on my cell at 303-521-5240. And stay tuned!

—Mitch Harvey

## KJCC Shabbat Dinner

We are once again holding a Shabbat dinner to thank our advertisers and to invite perspective members to come join our *mishpocha* for dinner. The dairy dinner will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. Please contact Medina by January 8<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish. You can reach Medina at [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com)

## Adult Hebrew Class

Yardena's Adult Intermediate/Beginner Hebrew, focus on reading and understanding Siddur, continues January 10, from 12-1.

## Oneg Sponsors for January 2016

January 1<sup>st</sup> - Sisterhood

January 8<sup>th</sup> - Susan Gordon to celebrate the birth of Rhett William.

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Susan Ellner in thanks for a safe return.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Meredith Cline in honor of her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

January 29<sup>th</sup> - Arthur Itkin in honor of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## New Members

We are pleased to welcome several new members to KJCC.

Augie and Kristy Moss live in Tavernier with adorable babies Lucy and Joseph. Grandfather and Grandmother Joe and Gail Moss, who live in Key Largo and Chicago, also joined. Carol Roaman, who also lives in Key Largo and NYC, filled out an application right at the Hanukkah dinner! We hope to see all of them often. Look for their pictures in our Photo Gallery.

## Rabbi Agler's January 23 Torah Service

In December we learned the three questions asked before we enter the "world to come": Were you honest in your business dealings? Did you put aside regular times for Torah study? Did you keep hope for redemption? By attending Rabbi Agler's 10 A.M. Saturday service, we can answer an enthusiastic "YES!" to the second question. You will also be energized and uplifted, with opportunity for meaningful informal discussion, led by our gifted Resident Scholar.

## Important Sisterhood Meeting

They all are, of course. Sisterhood is the life blood of the KJCC. But this month is even more important. We need to appoint a new Treasurer and Secretary and will be discussing these positions at the January 10<sup>th</sup> 9 A.M. meeting. Also being discussed: our annual fundraiser, the Jewish Food Extravaganza. All female members of KJCC are automatically members of Sisterhood. Mark your calendar and join in. -Erica



## January Birthdays

January 1st.....	Jerry Olsen
January 1st.....	Justin Wade Gilson
January 1st.....	Laura Goodman
January 2nd.....	Sherrie Willner
January 2nd.....	Stanley Rosenberg
January 3rd.....	Crue LaMarche
January 4th.....	Howard Gilson
January 4th.....	Randi W. Freundlich
January 6th.....	Janice Gorson
January 6th.....	Stanley Margulies
January 8th.....	Matthew Barrett
January 8th.....	Roger Levy
January 9th.....	Cathy Rakov
January 9th.....	Deborah Beinfest
January 9th.....	Sarah Kamely
January 10th.....	Nancy Yankow
January 11th.....	Michelle Zinner
January 12th.....	Alex Dutton
January 12th.....	Meredith A. Cline
January 13th.....	Amy Nobil
January 14th.....	Tovah Fishman
January 15th.....	Charlie Horowitz
January 15th.....	Heather Gilson
January 15th.....	Jamie Goodman
January 16th.....	Brieze Levy
January 16th.....	Donald Zinner
January 17th.....	Andrea Kluger
January 17th.....	Neal Rakov
January 17th.....	Suzi-Sarot Feder
January 18th.....	Barry Alter
January 19th.....	Benjamin Friedman
January 19th.....	Mark Kanarek
January 19th.....	Sandy Seder
January 20th.....	Sy Gelbard
January 22nd.....	Sheila Olsen
January 24th.....	Randy Klein-Gross
January 24th.....	Stuart Grossman
January 26th.....	Marshall Kaplan
January 27th.....	Beth Hudson
January 27th.....	Pat VanArtsdalen
January 28th.....	Yardena Kamely
January 29th.....	Beth Kaminstein
January 29th.....	Jeffrey Boruszak
January 30th.....	Kristen M. Schur

## New Year for the Trees — January 24th

Come. You are invited to our favorite outdoor Jewish holiday celebration — one of the four Torah-mandated Jewish New Years. Be at the KJCC David Kamely Schoolroom on Sunday morning at 10:30 A.M. for *Tu B' Shevat* (named for the 15th day — numerical value of the two letters making up *Tu* — of the Hebrew month, *Shevat*). Experience a special *seder*. Honor and sample varieties of fruits and grains important to Israel while we drink four glasses of "wine," from pure white to barely rose to dark pink to ruby red, each corresponding to a season of the year. Help tell stories and recite blessings over each of the fruits.

It is good to spend time each year wrapped in our agricultural past, remembering to be grateful for the earth we walk on, for food and shelter, air to breathe and beauty to behold, all gifts given to us by trees. The best part is when we and our children get to get dirty and plant the seedlings that will bring us (and the food bank next door at Burton Memorial) healthy fruit and vegetables. Then we all hold hands, dance and sing in a circle around the living beings we are nourishing, wishing for them all they need to prosper. We have been particularly good lately at effective water prayer, "*Mayim, mayim, mayim*." Special thanks to the ongoing ground-breaking hard work of Harry Friedman, on his way to Eagle Scout-hood, Steve Steinbock, and Mindy Agler, who will be ably assisted on this special day by KJCC Religious School students. Bags of potting soil are always welcome. *-Gloria*

## January Anniversaries

	<b>Years</b>
1st	Sanford & Nancy Yankow .....26
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof .....35
12th	George & Muriel Swartz .....36
17th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg .....23
<b>23rd</b>	<b>Marvin &amp; Ivy Blumenfeld .....67</b>
26th	David & Pamela Marmar .....31
27th	Michele & Ed Riley .....43

## Laura Wetzler Concert at KJCC

On Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., KJCC will host an evening of music with singer/songwriter/folklorist and Jewish musical anthropologist Laura Wetzler. This will be the latest in a long series of high quality, iconic performances at KJCC by internationally known artists. Many of you will remember the Joshua Nelson concert, Dave Feder's last year, and others. Laura will be joining us as she wends her way home to Massachusetts after an international tour.

The program will include some of Laura's own compositions and also some of her interpretations of beloved American standards. But the majority of the program will be culled from her years of research into varieties of Jewish

music from around the world and from every sub-culture of Jewish life – eastern and western and southern Europe, Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Spain and the Maghreb and South America. This is a musical treasure that is too often ignored.

Please go to Laura's website, [laurawetzler.com](http://laurawetzler.com), to hear a sample of her clear, lovely, lilting voice and the amazing range of her music. For further information about reservations and tickets, please see the promo in this issue on page 20.

This evening will be one of the highlights of the season. (Laura will also be joining us afterwards in the Richardson Social Hall for coffee and chats.)

You're going to love this.

## 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, orchid or tree plaque for posterity.

**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.

**VEGETABLE GARDENS:** We are in need of potting soil for a vegetable garden, which will hopefully yield fresh produce for the food bank.

**GIFT SHOP:** The Sisterhood gift shop stocks kiddush cups, mezuzot, cards, jewelry and much more.

**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, iddevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

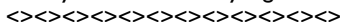
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked 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.

# *In Memoriam January 2016*

In Memory Of

**Talia Agler**

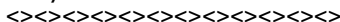
By Richard & Mindy Agler



In Memory Of

**Bernice Bernstein**

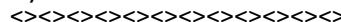
By Paul & Barbara Bernstein



In Memory Of

**Laurie Beth**

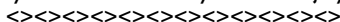
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

**Annette Bitton**

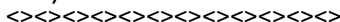
By Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly



In Memory Of

**David Pearlman**

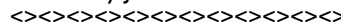
By William & Donna Bolton



In Memory Of

**Emma Kohlenbrener**

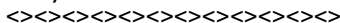
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

**Irving Kulick**

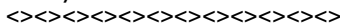
By Thomas & Renée Brodie



In Memory Of

**Betty Weinstein**

By Dick & Rita Bromwich



In Memory Of

**Rita Zalk Cline**

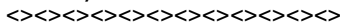
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

**Carolynne H. Cline**

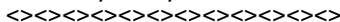
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

**David Cohn**

By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Yetta Hitzig**

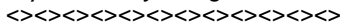
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**Lola Rosenberg**

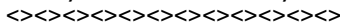
By Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea



In Memory Of

**Nathan Weisberg**

By Gerri & Frank Emkey



In Memory Of

**Marcus Weiss**

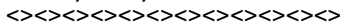
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Marvin Greenbaum**

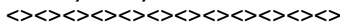
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

**Judy Lombardi**

By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

**Alvin S. Gross**

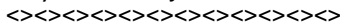
By David & Patti Gross



In Memory Of

**Iris Jackson**

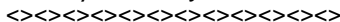
By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman



In Memory Of

**Louis Hartz**

By Steven & Jan Hartz



In Memory Of

**Daniel Harvey**

By Mitchell Harvey

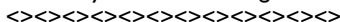


# *In Memoriam January 2016*

In Memory Of

**Ernest Isenberg**

By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

**Irving Rosen**

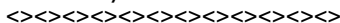
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

**Henry H. Rubin**

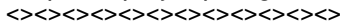
By Carol Laskin



In Memory Of

**John Evans**

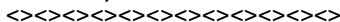
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

**Eta Brownstein**

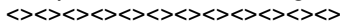
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

**Joan Kaminsky**

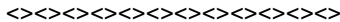
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Sally Sussman**

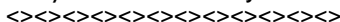
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Sylvia Emsig**

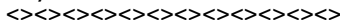
By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



In Memory Of

**Walter Hankin**

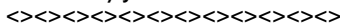
By Richard & Barbara Knowles



In Memory Of

**Samuel Neubauer**

By Jackie LePree



In Memory Of

**Ann Netzman**

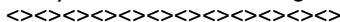
By Alan Netzman



In Memory Of

**Nat Gulkis**

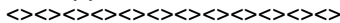
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Joseph Cohen**

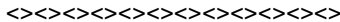
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

**Karen Hayhurst**

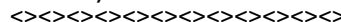
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Bernard Kaminstein**

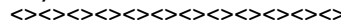
By Beth Kaminstein



In Memory Of

**Goldie Schweitzer**

By Richard & Barbara Knowles



In Memory Of

**Lila L. Line**

By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

**Betty Weinstein**

By Jerry & Sheila Olsen



In Memory Of

**Bea Gulkis**

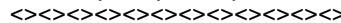
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Joseph Shapiro**

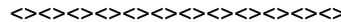
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In Memory Of

**Sydney Zinner**

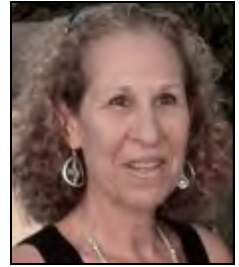
By Donald Zinner



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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



It's hard to believe that another calendar year has gone by, capped with the almost end-of-year celebration of our annual Chanukah party. Almost 90 people gathered as we lit our menorahs together, sang songs, ate latkes and *kugels*, and enjoyed the company of our KJCC *mishpocha*. Many guests and occasional visitors joined us, as together with the regulars, we all *fressed* and *kibitzed*. I love this time of the year and especially the celebration of Chanukah. Our holiday fell midway between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, so it was lovely to focus fully on Chanukah, and to have our community Shabbat dinner on the seventh night, when so many candles on the menorahs lit up the room so brightly.

It is always fun to decorate as well, and to have the children participate in their special way. I really missed having Susan Gordon add her singular touch to decorating the room, but she had her own Chanukah *simcha*, with the birth of her daughter Rose Marie's baby Rhett up north.

In her absence, one of our new members, Sydney!, stepped up and added her stylish flair to the room, and it looked fabulous! I really enjoy that particular time when we are together setting up the Ruth Richardson Social Hall and David Kamely classroom for the event, and preparing the food table and everything else we need for the evening. I would like to specifically thank Barb Bernstein, Joanie Stark, Medina Roy, Mitch Harvey, and Sydney! Faye-Davis for helping to make that wonderful atmosphere happen this Chanukah. I feel like this is part of our family activities, just as if we were in our own home.

The dinner was scrumptious as well, with lots of latkes, kugels, soufflés and salads, not to mention the mandel bread, tiramisu, and some healthy fruit salad. We even had three kinds of applesauce! Thanks to all who made the food and contributed to the wonderful

dinner. Special thanks go to Linda Pollack, who once again sponsored the dinner. The evening had a nice *hamish* feel of camaraderie and celebration.

At our December Sisterhood meeting, our treasurer Linda Kaplan, who has been balancing our finances and taking care of business for two years, let us know that she is ready to move on to other endeavors and would not be continuing in this position. She has been an integral part of our Sisterhood, and has done a fantastic job, which has been deeply appreciated. So now, we are in need of a new treasurer.

We also are in need of a new secretary for our monthly Sisterhood meetings. Marsha Harris told us that she would not be able to continue after April. She, too, has done a great job in keeping the notes, which are a vital part of our organization, since we often have many discussions that are important to document for further reference.

At our next Sisterhood meeting on Sunday January 10, we will be discussing these newly open positions and would love to see all the women of the KJCC join us and become more involved. We will also be planning our annual fundraiser '*The Jewish Food Extravaganza*', scheduled for Sunday, Feb 28th. We love this event. It has been very successful in the past, and we hope that this year it will be even more fun. Mark your calendars and join us.

Our weekly onegs continue to be lovely, with healthier food, thanks to Jane Friedman.

So as we begin the calendar year 2016, I know that this is going to be our best year yet, thanks to all the support and enthusiasm of our KJCC Sisterhood. Thank you and I wish you and your families a happy, healthy New Year. ◇

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## General Fund

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena Happy Hanukkah and Our Appreciation to KJCC

Gessley, Debra  
Pollack, Linda

## Education

Bofshever, Joel and Toby

## Meditation Garden

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila  
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila  
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

## In Honor of

Gloria Jean Rakov  
Lillian Cutler

## In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of  
Eliana Peckman

## In Memory of

Joel Cohen  
Saunders Cohen  
Rose T. Steinberg

## Yahrzeit Plaques

Sydney! Faye-Davis

## Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan  
Boruszak, Joan  
Grossman, Stuart  
Kluger, Nancy  
Kreitman, Marcia  
Krissel, Michael  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Steinbock, Stephen

Edward Deutsch Davis

Burton Boruszak  
Julius Kohlenbrener  
Sylvia Sarah Grossman  
Kurt Kluger  
Dr. Gary Kreitman  
Deborah Cannon  
Marianne Cimkowski  
Steve Cimkowski

## 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.

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## **YEDA VE'TORASHA** Yardena Kamely



### **Student Awareness Day – Learning Lessons from History**

**T**his past Chanukah, I joined a group of educators attending an educational program at the Broward County Convention Center. More than a thousand students from Broward schools met Holocaust survivors and participated in “Student Awareness Day”. They came to listen to the survivors’ stories and to interact with them, asking questions about their experiences in WWII, the Holocaust and its aftermath.

The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center was founded in 1980 as a multi-faceted organization. It opened the first South Florida Holocaust Museum. The Education Center, through its outreach programs, is teaching the universal lessons of the Holocaust; it’s about values, pluralism, responsibility and respect for human life and dignity. During Student Awareness Days, students from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach high schools meet with Holocaust survivors and engage in round table discussions. At each table are ten to twelve students, a survivor and a facilitator. Students listen to the survivor’s story and ask questions about prejudice, intolerance, hate and persecution.

Some students come to these programs with little or no knowledge of the Holocaust. The role of the survivor is to tell his/her story and serve as a resource person. This is usually the first opportunity for the students to ask a survivor questions face to face. The role of the facilitator is to keep the conversations and discussions going, to give the survivor as much time as possible to answer questions and share, and to help everyone enter into a difficult, emotional dialogue, loaded with memories of traumatic experiences lived by

the survivors when they were at the student’s age or younger. If no questions are asked, if the students hesitate to ask out of fear of hurting or offending the survivor, the facilitator has a sheet of “Questions for Round Table Discussions” he can refer to as jump-starters. These are general questions about the Holocaust, resistance, prejudice and personal and collective responsibility.

At this year’s program I was the facilitator for two round tables with eighteen students from different high schools. The survivor at our table was Sam Schleider. He told his story of survival as a four-year-old child in the city of Stanislav, Poland. When the war started, his family endured anti-Semitic hostility from their Polish neighbors. Sam didn’t mention details of the restrictions, aggressions and humiliations his family suffered. He said he didn’t want to “scare the students with horrific, unimaginable atrocities.” He described the fear and deprivations they lived through. “Life became more and more difficult with each day,” he told us, with tears in his eyes, his voice choking. This was one of the moments when the facilitator had to help the survivor, giving him time to regain his composure. I filled in with historic facts and told about the solutions the Nazis implemented for the “Jewish problem” in Eastern Europe. In Stanislav, the Germans selected the oldest, most neglected part of the city to become the ghetto. At least 20,000 Jews had to live in this very small and overcrowded area. Those who lived outside the ghetto had less than two weeks to move inside. Many were put up in cramped, small apartments, in every available space including storehouses and syna-



gogues.

Sam continued to tell his story. He and his mother moved to the ghetto. His father managed to continue with his small business, working outside the ghetto. He had a plan to smuggle Sam and his mother out. He chose another eighteen people to go with his family into hiding. Why them? He had found some Polish neighbors who were willing to hide Jews in their house for money. Together, those eighteen Jews had the money to pay

these conversations want to convey to young people. "There is intolerance and hate in our world today." Sam said, "You are suffering from bullying in your school... Don't let fear stop you from speaking up, from finding a way to resist injustice and prejudice. We, in the Holocaust, felt helpless, we couldn't fight back, and even when you had occasioned to fight, there wasn't much we could do. The enemies were too powerful. *You* can stand up and speak out. You live in a privileged coun-



**Sam Schleider and the students**

the "rent" for the hiding place - a dark and cold basement. Sam and his mother stayed in this basement for eighteen months. "There was nothing in the room, nothing. No sanitary conditions. We slept on the floor, had one meal a day on the floor. We couldn't see the outside. When you are all the time in the dark, you start to feel all kinds of fear... imagine you cannot make noise, you cannot scream, you cannot shout, you can only cry."

Sam interrupted his story here. By that time we could feel the anxiety Sam had to live with as a four-year-old child. It was time to open a conversation, to listen to the students' questions. His answers emphasized the message all survivors who participate in

try, America; you can fight hatred in your school. You can do something when you hear racist jokes, name-calling, and labeling."

Sam Schleider's message resonated with the students. Since it was the second day of Chanukah, I took the opportunity to include in our discussion examples of heroism from Jewish history. The story of Chanukah is about rebellion and courage. It tells us how the Jews stood up against oppression of religious freedom by the Greek Empire. I mentioned how the spirit of the rebellious Maccabees influences the Israeli soldiers fighting in the wars defending Israel. The Jews in WWII had fought, too. For them, just staying alive was resistance. ◇

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### Yiddish-Speaking Canine Soldiers

With the recent spike in terror attacks throughout Israel, an elite squad of security dogs is in high demand from Israeli citizens looking for extra security. Mike Guzofsky is the founder of the *Israel Civilian K9 Unit*, a private company that occasionally works with Israeli law enforcement or the military. There are some 60 dogs in the unit, mostly Belgian and Dutch Shepherds imported from Europe and costing up to \$10,000 each. Of those, five dogs – David, Moishe, Zalman, Seven and Uman – respond to Yiddish commands. Once the dogs arrive in Israel, they are trained by a group of volunteers and deployed all over the country. Some dogs are trained for search and rescue – their primary mission – while others are bred as “security dogs.” Why teach the dogs to respond to Yiddish commands? “There was a search in the Jerusalem forest for an autistic ultra-Orthodox kid that went missing,” he said. “...I think having Uman there responding to Yiddish commands helped him.” Guzofsky, a one-time yeshiva student, grew up in Far Rockaway (Queens), New York. He was a close associate of the late Jewish extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was assassinated in 1990. Guzofsky became involved with the Jewish Defense League (JDL), moved to Israel and became Kahane’s “chief of operations in Israel.” He has remained active in the far-right-wing, anti-Arab movement that continues Kahane’s militant philosophy. Guzofsky is banned from Britain, accused of advocating Jewish terrorism. He did say, however, that as a professional, if there’s an Arab missing, his K9 Unit would join in the search and rescue.

(*The Forward*, 11-28-15)

### For All to See

The Israeli flag that in 1947 flew on the SS *Exodus*, the most famous of hundreds of ships that attempted to bring European Jews

to British-mandate Palestine immediately after World War II, was scheduled to be auctioned in Jerusalem at the beginning of December. The flag was expected to sell for \$100,000 to \$120,000. The auction was called off at the last minute, however, after the flag was quietly bought by a public institution. Meron Eren, owner of the *Kedem Auction House*, said that the flag was withdrawn “to ensure its placement in a public institution.” The iconic ship had 4,500 Jewish survivors of Nazi death camps, none of whom had legal immigration certificates. In real life, *Exodus* was boarded by the British Navy shortly before it docked and forced to return to British-controlled Germany, where the passengers were held in camps in Hamburg. (The voyage was the inspiration for Leon Uris’s best-selling novel “*Exodus*,” written in 1958. Two years later the movie based on the book and starring Paul Newman was released.) As of this writing, the auction house has not released details of the sale or any information about the institution that purchased the flag. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 12-3-15)

### They Stood United

For the first time ever, an American soldier has been recognized by *Yad Vashem* as a “Righteous Among the Nations,” Israel’s highest honor for non-Jews who risked their lives to rescue Jews during World War II. Thirty years after his death, Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds of Knoxville, Tennessee, has received recognition for rescuing Jewish soldiers at a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany in January 1945. Edmonds had been captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and placed in the POW camp along with over a thousand other American soldiers. He spent 100 days in captivity. His actions in the camp,

placing his own life at risk, saved the lives of some 200 Jewish-American prisoners. The *Wehrmacht* had a strict anti-Jewish policy and segregated Jewish POWs from non-Jews. (Jewish soldiers had been warned that they would be in danger if captured. They were told to destroy dog tags or any other item that would identify them as Jews.) When the German camp commander, speaking in English, ordered the Jews to identify themselves, Edmonds, the highest ranking noncommissioned officer in the camp, turned to the rest of the POWs and said "We are not doing that, we are all falling out," at which time all the camp's inmates defiantly stood. "We are all Jews here," Edmonds said. He never wavered, even with a pistol to his head. The German officer eventually backed down. Edmonds is one of only five Americans to be recognized as a "Righteous Gentile" by *Yad Vashem*, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust. (The others are Varian Fry, Waitsill & Martha Sharp and Lois Gunden.) Edmonds is also now being considered for a Congressional Medal of Honor. ([www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org), 12-2-15)

### Relativity's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

November 25<sup>th</sup> marked the centennial of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, a "discovery that forever revolutionized the study of gravity, space and time." Although he devised the  $E=mc^2$  equation ten years earlier, it was first published in 1915. There are many interesting facts about Einstein and his relationship to Judaism and Zionism which, at the time, was still evolving:

1. He went through an observant phase when he was twelve, keeping kosher, even though his parents were secular Ashkenazi German Jews. (He didn't stay interested in Judaism long enough and consequently never had a Bar Mitzvah.)

2. He devoured science books, which he saw as contradicting religious teachings.

3. When Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president, died in 1952, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion offered the office to Einstein, who regrettably declined.

4. In 1955, he wrote a speech for Israel's seventh Independence Day and was sched-

uled to deliver the speech on ABC, NBC and CBS, but he experienced internal bleeding that landed him in the hospital. He refused emergency surgery and died the next day.

5. Einstein believed in a "pantheistic" god as described by Baruch Spinoza, the 17<sup>th</sup> century Sephardic Dutch thinker later excommunicated by the Amsterdam Jewish community for his "rationalist" philosophies. "I believe in Spinoza's God, who reveals himself in the harmony of all being, not in a God who concerns himself with the fate and actions of men," Einstein wrote to a rabbi in 1929.

([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 11-25-15)

### Jimmy Carter's Cancer

*Keytruda*, a drug that was researched and tested in Israel, may be responsible for former President Jimmy Carter's announcement in early December that he is cancer-free. In August, Carter had been diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma that had spread across his body including four cancerous lesions on his brain. *Keytruda* is one of a group of new immunotherapy drugs that allows cancer cells to be seen by the immune system which then targets and kills them "with amazing precision." Chemotherapy destroys cancerous cells but also destroys healthy ones. The side effects of *Keytruda* are less severe than chemotherapy. The drug was researched by Jacob Schachter, head of the *Ella Institute for Melanoma* at the Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel. Carter, 91, said he experienced no side effects while taking *Keytruda*. Doctors have found no new signs of cancer growth and the lesions are gone. ([www.nbcnews.com](http://www.nbcnews.com), 12-7-15 and [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 12-8-15)

### It's Angela, Not Bernie

In early December, TIME Magazine announced that Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, was the magazine's 2015 "Person of the Year." But according to a poll taken by the magazine, readers of TIME differed, selecting Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders as "Person of the Year." In the magazine's survey, Sanders, the Jewish senator from Vermont, received more than ten percent of the vote. The runners-up were Malala

Yousafzai – the young Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate, shot in the head by the Taliban in 2012 when she was 15 – followed by President Obama, Pope Francis and talk-show host Stephen Colbert. A presidential candidate has never been selected “Person of the Year” prior to winning the election. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 12-7-15)

### **Busted Bubbles**

A weekly game of *mah jongg* played by four Jewish bubbles – ages 87 to 95 – in Altamonte Springs, Florida, was shut down by local police after a “snitch” – a “troublemaker in building 11” of the condominium – turned them in for gambling. They were charged with violating a local ordinance that prohibits playing *mah jongg* for money. As a result, the condo’s management banned *mah jongg* from being played in the clubhouse “until further notice.” It turns out that the ladies can continue to play in the clubhouse because they do in fact abide by the Florida gambling laws, specifically Statute 849.085, which states that the winnings of any player must not exceed \$10. (The nefarious bubbles had a \$4 limit.) Watch out, KJCC mah jonggettes! ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 11-25-15)

### **They Do What Few Others Can**

*Roim Rachok* (the Hebrew words meaning “seeing far”) is an Israeli program that helps people with autism integrate into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and allows them to serve in key positions. In the past, autistic 18-year-olds would enter the IDF and be given menial, frustrating jobs. But now, these soldiers do what few other soldiers can do: they use their extraordinary ability to focus and analyze visual data and pay attention to detail. Soldiers with autism can excel at this work. They are often highly skilled at detecting patterns. The soldiers of *Roim Rachok* decipher aerial reconnaissance photos to provide information to soldiers ahead of combat missions. These trainees also learn about following orders, staying on schedule and working with a team. They are based in the IDF’s intelligence unit, which maps and analyzes visual data.

Some autistic soldiers are trained to be army electricians, who deal with devices like night vision goggles, or optics technicians, who work with binoculars. “A big part [of the work] is to notice changes and maintain a certain routine repetition,” said a former Defense Ministry official who co-founded *Roim Rachok* in 2012. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 12-8-15)

### **In Memoriam (sort of)**

· Marcus Klingberg, the best known – and probably the most important – spy the Soviet Union had in Israel, has died. He was 97. For some 20 years, Klingberg passed secrets to the Soviets about Israeli scientific advances and chemical and biological weapons development. In 1969, he joined the *Sackler Faculty of Medicine* of Tel Aviv University and in the 1970s was the deputy head of the top secret *Israel Institute for Biological Research* (IIBR). Klingberg was involved in numerous professional organizations and was considered an upstanding member of the Israeli professional community. Israeli security officials believe he had been actively spying from 1957 to 1976. Klingberg was caught in 1982 when the Mossad entrapped him using a double agent. Klingberg admitted that he was a spy and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was released for good behavior in 1998, after serving 15 years, and kept under house arrest. He was ultimately freed in 2003 and immediately left Israel for Paris. Klingberg said that he spied for ideological reasons. He also claimed that he had not been paid. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 11-30-15)

### **Did You Know...**

· Dan Uzan, the Jewish security guard who was killed by a terrorist outside Copenhagen’s main synagogue in February 2015, was elected 2015 Dane of the Year. Uzan, 37, had volunteered to serve as a security guard at the synagogue for a Bat Mitzvah party when he was attacked and killed. The prize is awarded annually following an election that is open to the public. Along with Uzan’s mother, father and sister, Denmark’s prime minister attended the award ceremony. ([www.worldjewishcongress.org](http://www.worldjewishcongress.org), 12-9-15) ◇

**ITZHAK  
PERLMAN**  
IN THE FIDDLER'S HOUSE



**Itzhak Perlman: 20th Anniversary of In the Fiddler's House**

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Marking the 20th anniversary of the release of his album In the Fiddler's House, this exciting evening will highlight the collection of traditional klezmer music. Joining Perlman are members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band and other special guests. Experience this exceptional music live on stage, and join us for an unforgettable evening!

**Date:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016  
**Time:** 8: 00 pm  
**Location:** Adrienne Arsht Center - Knight Concert Hall  
**Contact:** Mitch Harvey (303) 521-5240, harveyaicp@yahoo.com, for further information about tickets or carpooling.

Please follow these steps to order tickets. Log onto [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org). Go to the Itzak Perlman page by way of the Events Calendar for March 9th, enter Promo Code KJCC and click Apply, then click on Buy Tickets. On the Buy Tickets page, click on Choose Best Available Seats, click on Orchestra Circle, select the number of tickets, and then click on the Reserve button at the bottom of the page. This will assign seats to you in our reserved section. Tickets are \$86 + \$4 handling = \$90. Then buy and enjoy!



# A Letter from Morah Yardena

Last Sunday we had a special class. It was our Chanukah celebration, the lighting of the first candle. It was a nice surprise for the teacher when two mothers, Sylvie and Randy, decided to stay in class and help with setting up for the celebration. I decided to take this opportunity and turn it into a learning and educational experience. I asked the mothers to teach



the girls how to set the table and arrange the food for our “Chanukah Dinner”. Jane Friedman had joined us; she volunteered as tutor and was so helpful, as always. The Silverman boys worked on Chanukah decorations for our classroom and the social hall, showing good teamwork.

Sylvie, Randy — You made this learning experience meaningful by participating in working on the decorations and posters together with the students. I could see the difference it made for the students. They were really motivated and active. The discussion we had at the table about the meaning of Chanukah had the same effect; the



**Below, Oceana, Mikhaela, Cole and Morah Yardena show off the posters they created for the classroom bulletin board.**



students listened attentively when you, parents, emphasized the importance of tradition, remembrance, faith, Israel and courage in Judaism.

Thank you all for this special class and the fulfilling of the mitzvah of educating our children.

-Yardena



**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
SHABBAT DINNER**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

**COVERED DISH DINNER**

**~DAIRY~**

Once again, we are inviting our Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers to join us for dinner to thank them for their support. We are also extending a special invitation to our newest Members. And we are encouraging you, our Members, to encourage prospective members to join with us also.



Contact:

Medina - [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com) -

to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

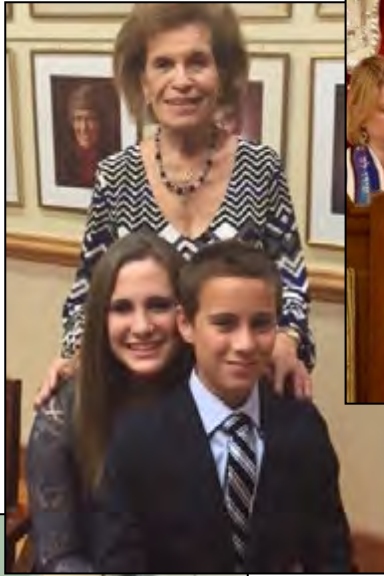
Please reserve by January 8th.

no charge



# Photo Gallery

In the center, Lee Schur *kvells* at the bar mitzvah of her grandson Jeremy, shown with his sister Brittany. At right, the three rabbis of the temple in San Antonio bless the bar mitzvah boy and his parents. Lee was greatly moved by the presence of three generations of rabbis: the young woman assistant, the older female rabbi and the rabbi emeritus.



At the November 20th oneg (sponsored by Gloria Avner), David Goldfinger (at left) samples Jane's homemade Challah. Not only did Gloria sponsor the post-service nosh, but she also provided a vegetarian (fruititarian?) turkey, shown below.



The pottery creations shown below are among the flower and orchid containers that Medina Roy has fashioned in honor and memory of friends. Look for them in the KJCC Meditation Garden after Steve Steinbock finds appropriate plants for them. Who knows, it may be one that you donate!



Below, Barbara Caley and husband Roy Moran, who is an avid metal worker, gift the KJCC one of his creations, a tricolor Channukiah.



Ken Atlas, a frequent service leader, shown at left with his wife Nicole, sent these photos of his family so that we can see how lovely his shy wife is, and (below), how Seraphina, his poetic daughter, has grown.





**Above, Rabbi Yaakov Zucker of Key West Chabad is pleased with the large group that showed up for his Tuesday class at KJCC.**


**Below, Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett poses with her nephew, Sergio Oliva, the new National Super Heavyweight Bodybuilding Champion, shown proudly clutching his trophy. (I wonder how much the trophy weighs.)**



**Above center, proud Grandma Susan Gordon holds Rhett William, born in Tennessee on the first day of Hanukkah. Half-brother Tucker is thrilled, too. Mom Rose-Marie and baby are both doing fine.**



Concert Presented by  
**The Keys Jewish Community Center**



ASCAP Award-winning singer-songwriter **LAURA WETZLER** tours in over 150 concerts and lectures each year, singing critically-acclaimed Contemporary Folk / Americana originals, World Jewish Roots Music in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) and the great classics of American songwriting.

**Sunday, January 10, 2016**

**Time: 7:00 pm**

**Location: KJCC, MM 93.5 Oceanside**

**For tickets and information contact**

**Sam at  
(305) 852-8741**

**president@keys.jewishcenter.com**

**General Admission \$18**

**Credit/Debit Cards will be accepted.**

**Special Sponsorships Available  
w/Preferred Seating**

**Apres Theater Refreshments**



**"impressive poetic gifts" Bob Sherman, NEW YORK TIMES/WFUV PUBLIC RADIO**

**"Airwaves Top 10" The Phoenix**

**"A rich resonant voice weaving traditional, ethnic and contemporary threads into intelligent, literate songs." Richard Fox, WCUW**

# Eye On The Arts — *Gloria Avner*

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## *January, 2016*

**O**ur snowbirds are back. The season's offerings of cultural events in our 'hood are piling up, thick and fast. We don't want to miss any of them, especially if KJCC members are a significant force behind the offerings. So here is a partial list, to which Mitch Harvey, board member and Chairman of the brand new Outside Activities Committee, will add even more possibilities for entertainment and enrichment. Save these dates. Plan a carpool.

**January 10<sup>th</sup> Laura Wetzler at KJCC** — On Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., KJCC will host an evening of music with singer/songwriter/folklorist and Jewish musical anthropologist Laura Wetzler. This will be the latest in a long series of high quality, iconic performances at KJCC by internationally known artists. Many of you will remember the Joshua Nelson concert, Dave Feder's, and others. Laura will be joining us as she wends her way home to Massachusetts after an international tour. For more information see the flyer on page 20.

**January 15, 16, and 17: BayGrass BlueGrass Fest** - Founders Park, Islamorada, brought to us by impresario David Feder and ICE (Islamorada Community Entertainment). ICE provides arts-related scholarships to local high school students. Tickets are available at the gate. For more information: [www.keysice.com](http://www.keysice.com)

**January 14<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> — The 19th Annual Miami Jewish Film Festival.** Films from Israel and around the world will be shown in nine venues around Miami. Included are Academy Award entries and Florida premieres. Go to

[www.miamijewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.miamijewishfilmfestival.org) for more information or call (888) 585-3456 for tickets.

**January 16<sup>th</sup>, Art Under the Oaks** -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the San Pedro Catholic Church at MM 89.5. Always a fun Arts and Crafts fair, one of the longest-running local art shows.

**January 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. -- The New Xavier Cugat Orchestra** will kick off the 2016 Florida Keys Concert Association Series with the high-energy sounds of legendary Latin performers Xavier Cugat and Desi Arnaz, with dancing duo Tango Romantico. Tickets are \$45 for this concert, but you can hear all six concerts by purchasing a season ticket for \$110 and never have to go off the rock. All concerts will be held at Island Community Church, MM 83.3. For concert details and to buy tickets online, visit the FLKCA website [www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com](http://www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com). Or talk to Joyce Peckman, one of the KJCC people who make this special series happen.

**January 21<sup>st</sup>, Morada Way Third Thursday Art Walk:** Outdoor festival featuring arts vendors and music. Runs from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. MM 81.8 Oceanside.

**January 26<sup>th</sup>, Chamber Music Featuring Trio Solisti** - The second FLKCA concert of the season will feature chamber music played by Trio Solisti and will also include a special performance by 10-year old acclaimed piano prodigy, Harmony Zhu. Longtime supporters of the arts, our own David and Toby Goldfinger, are sponsoring this performance. The Concert starts at 7:30 p.m., at the Island Community Church, MM 83.3. Individual tickets are \$30.00. ◇



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# KJCC Shabbat Services

Rabbi Agler's December 12th Saturday Torah teaching helped us see the Festival of Lights in an entirely new historical light. Below, Stan Margulies, Richard Kaufman and Mitch Harvey assist in the Torah service, while Steve Hartz chants from the Torah.



Above, during Friday evening services, Steve Hartz shows how Torah trope (cantillation notes) can focus the reader on meaning.



**NOTE:** Rabbi Agler's next Torah learning service will be on January 23rd. Don't miss it!







# KJCC Meditation Garden

**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](http://keysjewishcenter.com).



# *The 2015 KJCC Chanukah Dinner*

A Festival of Lights, Music and Food

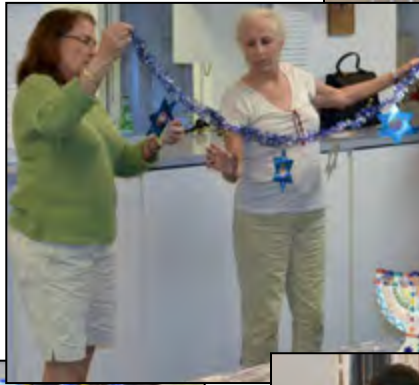


***The set-up alone was a community event , beginning with decorations hand-crafted by the Sunday School.***



**Kudos to the team, shown above, of Medina , Joan, Mitch, Barbara, Erica and Sydney!**

**Not shown are the latke fryers, casserole bakers, salad makers and dessert creators, who came later.**





We were rich with lights and celebrants. Before our feast, families gathered to light their *channukiahs*. The children's faces glowed as brightly as the candles. After Chanukah candles came Shabbat candles, Kiddush and blessing of the bread.



Jack Corrigan, at left, celebrates his tenth birthday. His family came to the Keys and helped sponsor the Oneg.



Below, Jonah Gross, on trumpet, leads nearly 100 of us in a rousing chorus of “Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah.” As the song says, “Let’s have a party.”



At right, Oceana Gross plays “The Dreidel Song” on her bassoon while two of our youngest members, Madison Bloom and Sean Kaufman, are entranced by sound and light.



Our three Ocean Reef amigas, Patricia Isenberg , Libby Shapiro and new member Carol Roaman, join the singing.



Above, Muriel Swartz (left) and Jan Hartz. At left (l-r), Bobbie and Nelson Chester are joined by their Hebrew teacher, Yardena Kamely.







At right, Marsha Harris enthusiastically sells raffle tickets. Just below, Dana Grace enjoys a moment with Jan Hartz. The smiling faces at the bottom belong to new member family Augie and Kristy Moss and children Lucy and Joseph. Below right, Erica loves her latkes.





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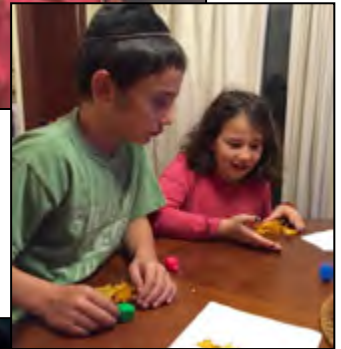


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# Chanukah Celebrations “off the rock”

Clockwise, Dan Peckman lights candles in Denver with bat mitzvah girl Eliana and 8-year-old Michal. Yosef and Michal play dreidel with dried starfruit instead of pennies. Amit, Shayella and Negev Shuker love the lights, and Grandma Bea Graham plants a bright kiss. Joel and Toby Bofshever admire some of their *channukiot* (and each other). Keith, Becca, Libby and twins Isaac and Adara Peckman enjoy the first Chanukah in their new home.



How delightful to see past president and KJCC matriarch Bea Graham actively enjoying her great grandchild in New Jersey.

# From Monaco to Dubai

*Gene is our guide as she and Mort cruise the Mediterranean*

by Gene Silverman

We're off – or almost. Marc Bloom picked us up right on schedule and the drive up to Miami Airport wasn't crowded at all, so we had plenty of time. It was the beginning of a trip that



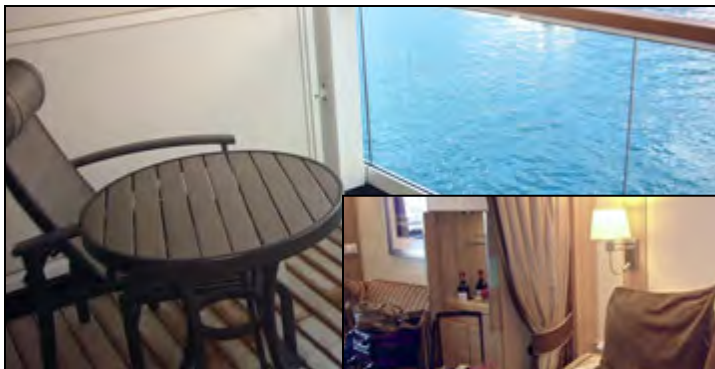
**Gene stands before the storefront of exclusive Monaco shopping emporia. What's a cruise without shopping?**

would stretch from Monaco (a tiny principality on the French Riviera) to Dubai, the main city of the United Arab Emirates, on the Arabian coast of the Persian Gulf. We were going to be gone for a total of 34 days on a Seabourne Cruise plus three extra days ashore in Dubai. We were going to visit the countries of Monaco, Italy, France (the island of Corsica in the Mediterranean), Malta, Greece, Turkey, and Israel, then transit the Suez Canal and visit Jordan, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. We also were going from very cool (to us) and rainy to hot and very dry.

After a hop to JFK in New York we were off

eastward to Monaco. We went to sleep in our airplane beds (really, we slept) after indulging in champagne and dinner. That was followed by a very, very early breakfast.

Our arrival at the Nice airport went smoothly (contrary to their reputation, the French were very courteous) and we were off to Monaco. After driving through too many tunnels to count – it's mountainous right up to the water there – we arrived at our hotel, the Fairmount, bright and *way* too early. But, upon checking in they were most gracious and gave us our room and even upgraded us. We weren't unpacking as we were to board the ship the next morning around 11:00. But this also gave us the chance to explore Monaco, where we had never been despite many previous trips to Europe.



First impressions were that Monaco was clean, loaded with tunnels, tiny and very business-orientated. We started to walk from the hotel to investigate and realized the reason for all the tunnels is because rather than level any part of the local mountains they chose to tunnel through them. Hence, walking around was not on level ground! You were either going up or down some very steep hills to wend your way. (But it did make for very picturesque views.) We did manage to find their very beautiful shopping area after following signs to a lift. If not for the lift it would have been a walk the equivalent of six stories up, but we did walk back down to the level where our hotel was.

We loved the glitz and glamor of this store – but not the prices! We continued our investigation until we could no longer walk around. Then back to the Hotel for a rest and nap and shower then out to dinner at a wonderful-looking Italian restaurant we discovered while walking back. (Little did we realize that it was located back up that hill we had just walked down.) Showered and rested, we took off for this restaurant, eagerly waiting what turned out to be a fabulous dinner! Of course we had a delicious Chianti to accompany our meal of veal and lamb chops served with a fabulous bread and salad.

Off to the ship around 11:00 the next morning; happy to say they let us board upon arrival but only after checking into their welcome area. We still didn't know if our cabin/

suite was available, so we first had to go to their arrival desk and find out if it was prepared and ready. YES – so we went to the cabin to check it out, then of course to have our first meal (lunch) aboard the Seabourne Sojourn. None of our luggage had been delivered to our cabin, so we were footloose and fancy-free for the mo-



**Some views of their cabin including the veranda, with an elegant leather spread to protect the bed.**

ment. Of course, after lunch we did have to return to start the process of unpacking and trying to remember where we had put our belongings. When we went to enter our cabin our steward introduced herself; we loved her name – which is perfect for anyone over the age of 65 – Memory!

Then we were off to investigate the ship that was to be our home for the next 34 days! Found the gym, restaurants, laundromats, bars and nightclubs, all very elegant and appealing. Upon reading the ship's daily





**The outdoor shipboard lounge, above, prior to departure. Gene at one of the restaurants with a glass of her beloved pinot noir.**



**The view of Santa Margherita from aboard ship.**

paper we were informed that the temperature was from 50°F to 59°F – no wonder we felt chilled. That first evening, at 6:30, there was a talk given by Aldon Ferguson about classical Florence, Pisa, Santa Margherita (near Genoa), Livorno and Calvi – many of the next

few stops on our itinerary. Then, to top that off, after dinner there was a dance party at The Club on Deck 5. Guess we were going to be very, very, very busy – if we could stay up! (What and when to eat was always a big deal. Each day they'd ask what you wanted for dinner the *next* day. To me, it was a waste of

time, as how was I supposed to know what I wanted to eat the next day?! Happily, the dinner menu, along with lunch and breakfast, was also included each morning, though it seemed they really did expect us all to make up our minds what and where to eat the day before. That wasn't my style. But I surmised that I was in the minority, so be it.)

We were

now underway, saying goodbye to Monaco with a blast of the ship's horn and a party with farewell cocktails up on the pool deck.

It's the next morning, 8:00. Our first impression of Santa Margherita, Italy is that it's a clean, very lovely seaside town loaded with



At left, Mort debarks the cruise ship's ship-to-shore ferry in Santa Margherita. Then, after they had walked about, they found this statue erected in 1854 honoring Vittorio Emanuele II, the first king of Italy since the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

cafes, ice-cream shops and bakeries, and clothing stores displaying very expensive but very beautiful items. We walked around and found, to our delight, an art gallery that was displaying some very unusual works. Alas, we could only peek at them through a plate glass, as the gallery was closed.

The town of Santa Margherita is set on the Gulf of Tigullio between Rapallo and Portofino, therefore it is very busy with artists and writers and overlooks the many gorgeous yachts that moor there. It also has a 16<sup>th</sup> century castle and of course the ubiquitous Basilica from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

We have to be back aboard ship by 4:00 to prepare for our first formal and the Captain's Welcome party then onto dinner in their specialty restaurant with the extremely fancy name of Restaurant 2.

The food was delicious, and good thing we went to the Captain's welcome party before dinner, as by the time we were finished with drinking and eating we certainly didn't have the energy to go listen to the singers and dancers that were starting at 10 p.m. that evening.

Tomorrow we would be arriving at Livorno, Italy, where we would try to discover the remnants of the Jewish community that had been there. ◊

*(To be continued next month...)*







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# Chai~Lights



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February 2016

22 Shevat - 20 Adar I 5776

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**Remembering the Keys Homeless - page 29**

**Laura Wetzler Concert Recap - page 34**

**Holocaust Torah Consecration - page 37**

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

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# February 2015

22 Shevat - 20 Adar I

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <b>Ground Hog Day</b>	3	4	5 Joyce Peckman & Susan Gordon  <i>Erica Lieberman-Garrett</i>	6
7 <b>Sisterhood</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Board</b> 10:30 a.m. <b>KJCC Annual Meeting 12:00</b>	8	9	10	11	12 Beth Hayden & Linda Pollack  <i>Anonymous</i>	13
14	15 <b>President's Day</b>	16	17	18	19 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur  <i>Beth Hayden</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25	26  Steve Hartz	27  <b>Rabbi Agler Service</b> 10 a.m.
28 <b>Jewish Food Extravaganza</b> 5:00 p.m.	29					

## 2015 - 2016 Officers and Board

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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



So here I am, surely the unlikeliest synagogue president one could possibly imagine, at the end of a year on the job. I humbly submit myself as exhibit A to those doggedly combing through textual arcana or feverishly running scriptural passages through gazillions of computer filters or blissfully emptying their minds through meditation, all in a passionate quest for the same thing: a precious glimpse through the heavenly knothole and into the unfathomably perfect light of the Eternal. My presence in this job is palpable proof of three things: that there is a God, that (with apologies to Rabbi Agler for modestly warping one of his favorite *formulae*) it clearly isn't me, and that whatever else might profoundly be true, this God obviously has a devilish and broadly Marxian (Groucho, not Karl) sense of humor.

I do thank you (most days) for the honor of the experience, which I liken to innocently hitching a ride with an Olympic bobsled team, who smile and welcome me and then proceed to go careening down a snaky and nearly vertical drop, bouncing off sheer walls of ice, at about two hundred miles per hour.

At least I'm not bored. Ours isn't a sleepy little tropical hanger-on of a syna-

gogue, with droning, rote prayers and some thrice-defrosted Danish at the oneg. Not remotely. There's an incredible spirit here. The number of substantial things we manage to do is breathtaking. During every activity we can all just *feel* the vital, upward vibe.

Take our recent annual dinner honoring our advertisers and new members. As always, it was wonderful, the perfect blend of feted guests and a happy mob of KJCC to surround and embrace them. Though she frets and fears every year, Medina made everything run perfectly again. As they somehow do for each monthly dinner, our members contributed a stunning variety of yummy (even nutritious) fare. I was able to announce the (to me) amazing fact that we've welcomed fifteen new memberships in the past year. Though part of my job is to be schmoozer-in-chief, I know that this success is not mine; it's everyone's. We've had people come just for a visit, to say Kaddish or attend one of Gloria's art classes, and be so taken with us they requested a membership application on the spot. Just after Laura Wetzler's unforgettable concert here on January 10<sup>th</sup>, I had at least half a dozen long-time members grab me to say it was the best night they'd ever spent at KJCC.

I'm telling you, there's a vibe.

# Nosh

## Coming Attractions: March Havdalah

Linda Pollack and Steve Steinbock will team up to host a special Havdalah service for Shabbat Across America and Canada. For the last seven years, we have celebrated with a dinner at the beginning of Shabbat. Since we will still be *kvelling* and recovering from our Jewish Food extravaganza on the previous Shabbat, we will switch gears and round off our Shabbat with the shortest and sweetest of our ceremonies, the lighting of the many wicked candle, tuneful blessings of spices and wine as we say goodbye to the spiritual and prepare to re-enter secular reality. We will meet at Linda Pollack's home at 107 Long Ben Drive, Key Largo (where there is a perfect viewing place for counting out the requisite three stars). Coordinate food contributions with Erica Lieberman Garrett. Arrive at 6:00 P.M. to view the sunset. We'll begin the service at 7:00. Thank you Linda and Steve for help and co-sponsorship.

## February 27th 10 a.m. Torah Service

KJCC's Resident Scholar Rabbi Richard Agler will lead a Shabbat service on Saturday February 27th, beginning at 10 a.m. Unlike Saturday morning services in many other *shuls*, this one will begin on time, and every minute will be worthwhile. I always come away spiritually refreshed and intellectually intrigued. Join us to take advantage of this monthly gift.

## Thursday Night Jam Band at Oo-Tray,

Every Thursday evening Dave Feder presents an ever-changing roster of up-and-coming musicians playing solo and ensemble. At Oo-Tray MM 80.9 in Islamorada. Atmosphere is casual, without cover charge. (Lucky us – but don't forget to put money in the jars; it goes to the musicians.) The food is interesting too. The fun runs from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.

## 2016 KJCC Scholarship Applications

If your child has been part of our KJCC Religious School, is graduating from high school this year, and has applied for acceptance to an institution of higher learning, we encourage you to go to our website: [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com). KJCC scholarship applications are now available. Click on the "School" button and scroll down to "eligibility requirements." If your child meets the requirements, download the application and return the completed form to us by April 1st. Decisions will be made by June and awards given out at the Coral Shores PAC before graduation. We wish our students well, love them, and take great pleasure in giving them an extra financial boost in their freshman year. Past recipients, of whom there are many, have made us very proud. For questions, call Gene Silverman at 954-562-0888.

## Bat Mitzvah Class for Adult Women

If your synagogue, or family, or general circumstances beyond your control, denied you the experience of the key coming-of-age Jewish experience known as Bat Mitzvah, it is not too late. (For many women of certain generations it was not encouraged or even offered.) If the possibility intrigues you or actively calls you now, and you are ready to study, prepare for a committed number of months, and create a *mitzvah* project as well, all under the guidance of Ritual Chair Gloria Avner along with selected guest speakers, call Gloria at (305) 619-0216 and an initial exploratory meeting will be held. No matter how much or how little you know, this rite of passage and the thoughtful study you do leading up to it will enhance your life. There is a good possibility the experience will feel even more meaningful now than it might have on (or before) your 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. If there are men among us who think pursuing an adult Bar Mitzvah (even a second one), would be a worthwhile endeavor, we can make that happen too. KJCC is your one-stop shop for important Jewish experiences, for all of our members.

## February Birthdays

1st .....	Evan Grossman
1st .....	Libby Shapiro
1st .....	Roy Pollack
3rd .....	Caeleigh Stuart
3rd .....	Dick Bromwich
3rd .....	Leslie Janowitz
5th.....	Rebecca Smith Strasser
6th.....	Evan Harvey
6th.....	Martin Field
7th.....	Erica Lieberman-Garrett
7th.....	Larry Jacobs
9th.....	Linda Pincus
9th.....	Ron Garrett
12th.....	Johnny Knowles
12th.....	Paul Roberts
13th.....	Jerrold Benowitz
14th.....	Debbie Madnick
15th.....	Judith Weber
18th.....	Beth Hayden
21st.....	David J. Marmar
21st.....	Stephen Harris
22nd.....	Harry Friedman
22nd.....	Tomar Gross
23rd.....	Sienna Rose Lebofsky
24th.....	Muriel Swartz
24th.....	Suzie Greenman
25th.....	Rita Conklin
26th.....	Jim Williams
26th.....	John D. Schur
27th.....	Betsy Grossman
28th.....	Arlene Line

### Oneg Sponsors for February 2016

- February 5th* - Erica Lieberman-Garrett in celebration of her birthday.
- February 12th* - Is being Anonymously sponsored in the Memory of Al Roller.
- February 19th* - Beth Hayden to celebrate her birthday.
- February 26th* - Sisterhood

## February Anniversaries

	Years
9th Uri & Liliam Kamely.....	24

### Itzhak Perlman

There are still some tickets available to the Itzhak Perlman concert "In the Fiddler's House" at the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$86 each plus a \$4 handling fee. Log onto the Arsht Center website at [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org), group sales, and use Promo Code KJCC to order tickets. Contact Mitch Harvey at [harveyaicp@yahoo.com](mailto:harveyaicp@yahoo.com) for further information.

### Yahrzeit Plaque

In Memory of

**Eileen Roaman**

*By Carol Roaman*

### Yahrzeit Plaque

In Memory of

**Martin Roaman**

*By Carol Roaman*

### Childhood Photos Needed

Do you have a cute childhood photo of yourself? In preparation for our March 23<sup>rd</sup> Purim Fest and Megillah reading, Medina Roy is collecting photos for a display. Please e-mail them to her at: [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com). (Yes, they'll need to be scanned and digitized first.) Then plan to join us at KJCC for a good time on the evening of Purim, Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.



### **Leaf on the Tree of Life**

In memory of  
**David and Annette Bitton**  
*Forever in our hearts.*

Michel and Sylvie Bitton and your  
beloved grandchildren.

### **Reconsecration of our Holocaust Torah**

Write March 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendar, and put two asterisks next to it. That is when we will celebrate the return of our Holocaust Torah, and take part in the completion of its restoration. Please see the article on page 39.

### **Adult Hebrew**

Yardena's Adult Hebrew classes are in full swing. Advanced conversation meets on Fridays from 11:30-1 p.m. The beginning/intermediate group meets on Sundays from 12-1:30. Drop in!

### **Meditation Garden Brick**

In Memory of

**Kim Koch**

*By Mary Brodhagen*

### **Social Hall Chair Plate**

*In Memory of David Bitton*

By

Michel Bitton and Sylvie Coeurjoly

## **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.

**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.

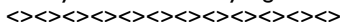
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked 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 Memoriam February 2016*

In Memory Of

**Sue Steinberg**

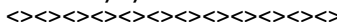
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In Memory Of

**Lou Roazan**

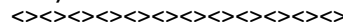
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Sunnie Bernstein**

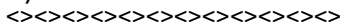
By Paul & Barbara Bernstein



In Memory Of

**Kitty Nyman**

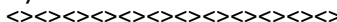
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

**Ted Nyman**

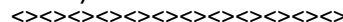
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In Memory Of

**Marvin Galanty**

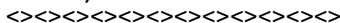
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In Memory Of

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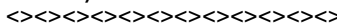
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

**Reuben L. Zalk**

By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

**Eve Greenstein**

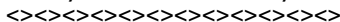
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

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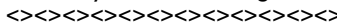
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In Memory Of

**Barry Feinberg**

By Arthur Feinberg



In Memory Of

**William Feinberg**

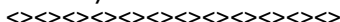
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In Memory Of

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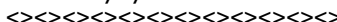
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In Memory Of

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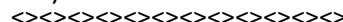
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In Memory Of

**Rose Gilson**

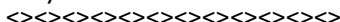
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In Memory Of

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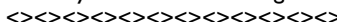
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In Memory Of

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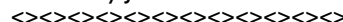
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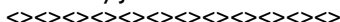
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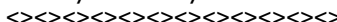
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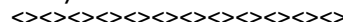
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Frances Weiser**

By Andrew & Randi Grant

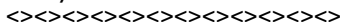


# *In Memoriam February 2016*

In Memory Of

**Leila Horne**

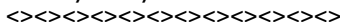
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In Memory Of

**Robert Greenbaum**

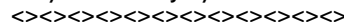
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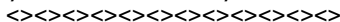
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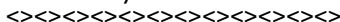
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In Memory Of

**Chalom Haviv**

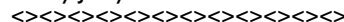
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**Archie Zacks**

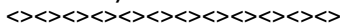
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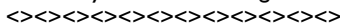
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In Memory Of

**Fannie Phillips**

By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

**Lillian Janowitz**

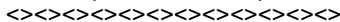
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In Memory Of

**Pinchas Kamely**

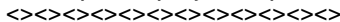
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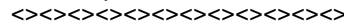
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**Joseph Krissel**

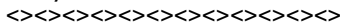
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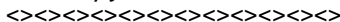
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In Memory Of

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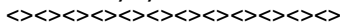
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**Irene Nobil**

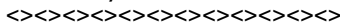
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In Memory Of

**William Pollack**

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In Memory Of

**Malka Frank**

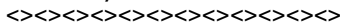
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Al Roller**

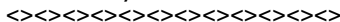
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

**John A. Schur**

By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**Miriam Blinder**

By Steven & Barbara Smith



## *In Memoriam February 2016*

In Memory Of

**Sarah Felder**

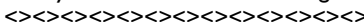
By Stuart & Geri Smith



In Memory Of

**Sara J. Cohen**

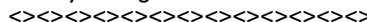
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Ann R. Kapulskey**

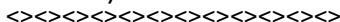
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Morris Estrin**

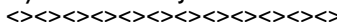
By Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

**David C. Willner**

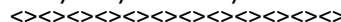
By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner



In Memory Of

**Morris Feinberg**

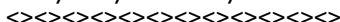
By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memory Of

**Samuel Wolfe**

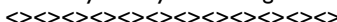
By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memory Of

**Jerry Oshinsky**

By Sherry Zwerdling



In Memory Of

**Leila Horne**

By Andrew & Randi Grant



### ***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 Jochebed*.)

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

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

If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's *Misheberach* list, please, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. Contact Joyce Peckman at [joycepeckman@gmail.com](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com) The main KJCC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).



# Jewish Food Extravaganza

Sunday, February 28, 2016

5 pm - 7:30 pm

Keys Jewish Community Center

- 36th Anniversary -

MM 93.5 Oceanside



**Raffle, Jewish Schtick & Kibitzing  
Tickets \$20**



Enjoy a scrumptious smorgasbord of authentic delights including Matzoh Ball Soup, Brisket, Vegetarian Tzimmes, Knishes, Challah, Kugel, Chopped Liver, Gefilte Fish, Tabouli Salad, Babka, Mandel bread, Rugalah and more...

Limited Tickets available:

KJCC Gift Shop MM 93.5 Oceanside

Garrett Chiropractic MM 90 Bayside

For further information:

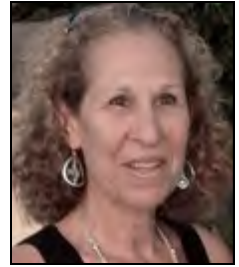
[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)

305-853-1003

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## Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



The winter season is in full swing with the return of many of our snowbirds, along with seasonal guests and visitors. The shul is abuzz with activities and events each week, and sometimes even daily. I look forward to seeing my KJCC *mishpocha* each Friday night for services, and it is fun to enjoy each other's company at our onegs, drinking coffee and noshing on refreshments. Many new ideas and inspirations have come from these moments, and have led to special events and activities. We have enjoyed some very special onegs recently; it is such a joy to celebrate the different *simchas*. To celebrate the recent birth of her new grandson Rhett William, Susan Gordon, our resident decorator, went the extra step in beautifying the table, and made the oneg experience really memorable.. I hope that you will all take the opportunity to celebrate your birthday, anniversary or other special *simcha*, and sponsor an oneg. Please contact Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665 for more details.

In January, the women of Sisterhood led their annual Shabbat Service. It is always a nice opportunity for the women of the KJCC to step up to the *bimah* and participate in a different way than usual and to unite their voices in song and prayer. Lee Schur had encouraged us to add a special section about Miriam's song, with meaning for women, so we thank Lee and Dana Levy for that lovely presentation. January was Dana's first Sisterhood meeting, and she jumped right in to participate.

February is a special month for me since it is my birthday. We will be having our monthly sisterhood meeting on that Sunday, February 7th at 9 a.m., and we will be putting the final touches on the planning of our annual Sisterhood fundraiser, the Jewish Food Extravaganza. This event will be on Sunday, February 28th, at 5 p.m. We will be having a delicious

smorgasbord of traditional Jewish food, both Ashkenazi and Sephardic, including matzah ball soup, brisket, *kugel*, babka, and more. There will be a bit of *shtick*, lots of *kibitzing*, and a lovely selection of gift baskets will be raffled. Please contact me if you would like to help this annual event by sponsoring or help underwrite the cost, or donating an item for raffle. We are grateful to the members of the KJCC who pull together and make this event very successful, delicious and fun each year! Tickets for the dinner, costing \$20, are limited. They are available through the gift shop (see Susan Gordon) or contact me at [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com). Tickets will become available to the public after February 14<sup>th</sup>; so don't forget to get yours early, as they do get sold out. The word is out that the KJCC has scrumptious dinners!!

The first Saturday night in March there will be a lovely *Havdalah* service after light potluck dinner at the home of Linda Pollack. Please contact me to let me know if you will be bringing any food.

At our January Sisterhood meeting, our treasurer Linda Kaplan handed over the baton, or should I say calculator, to our new treasurer Beth Hayden, who graciously volunteered and accepted the position. We thank Linda for doing such a great job in keeping our financial status in good order, and also thank Beth for stepping up to fill a very important position for Sisterhood. We are still hoping to find a new secretary by April, when Marsha Harris will be moving on to other ventures. In our *shul*, all women are automatically members of Sisterhood. Please join us at our monthly meetings to become more involved and find out how you can help. There are lots of ways ◊

# 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

Coltman, Barney

## In Memory of

Robert S. Coltman

## Tree of Life - Leaves

Bitton, Michel & Sylvie Coeurjoly

## General Fund

Avner, Gloria

Susan Gordon's new grand  
- baby, Rhett William

Bofshever, Joel & Toby

Eliana Peckman's  
bat mitzvah

Pollack, Linda Susan's Grandson Rhett William  
Sherman, Robert & Adriana

## In Memory of

Pollack, Linda

Barbara Bernstein's  
103-year-old mother

Pollack, Linda

Jacob Shabathai

## Meditation Garden

Brodhagen, Mary

## In Memory of

brick – Kim Koch

## Social Hall Chair Plates

Bitton, Michel & Sylvie Coeurjoly

## In Honor of

David Bitton

## Yahrzeit Plaques

Roaman, Carol

Roaman, Carol

## Yahrzeits

Avner, Gloria

Boruszak, Joan

Cohn, Nancy

Coltman, Barney

Harvey, Mitchell

Olsen, Gerald & Sheila

Schulberg, Alan & Elaine

Schulberg, Alan & Elaine

Taramona, Hermine

## In Memory of

Eileen Roaman

Martin Roaman

## In Memory of

Alex Avner, Perren Gerber

David Cohn

Eva Levine

Daniel Harvey

Betty Weinstein

Shirley Schulberg,

Albert Kaminsky

Nat Gulkis,

Bea Gulkis, Joan Kaminsky

Norma Robinson

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

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

*Tree of Life Leaves:* We have 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.

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# YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



## The Israelis' Love Of Trees

This past month we celebrated Tu B'Shvat, *Chag La'llanot* (birthday of the trees), one of Israel's favorite festivities. In Israel there is a strong sense of connection to nature, a special relation between the people and the land. Israelis love nature, agriculture and the land with its variety of

landscapes (*nofim*). In northern Israel, on the rocky hills of the *Galil* (Galilee) we find wooded areas of pine trees, and in fields, magnificent ancient olive trees. Near the Golan Heights, the almond trees that blossom on *Tu B'Shvat* are a

spectacular sight. Around Haifa, on Mount Carmel, typical Mediterranean pines (*oranim*) grow in one of Israel's few large forests, in part made up of natural growth and in part of planted areas.

Tree-planting has an almost mystical quality here: For decades, Jews all over the world have dropped coins into blue-and-white boxes of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), which has planted 240 million trees in the Carmel Forest and elsewhere across Israel since its founding in 1901.

The Carmel forest is one of the Israelis' favorite places for camping, hiking, and picnics. Fond childhood memories come to my mind. Living in Haifa, our family and friends,

all with a bunch of children, all of them "my best friends", used to spend Shabbat in the Carmel forest. We kids would play, climb rocks, and collect natural objects from the ground to use for decoration in our homes. (I still like to collect pieces of wood and special

little stones on my hikes.). The 2011 Carmel fire was a tragedy. The loss of precious woodland, in a country where only seven percent of the land is forested, was devastating. Although the fire covered an area of only about eight square

miles (21 square kilometers) — or some one percent of Israel's forest land — the fire was felt as a deep national loss.

Along the coast, we grow Israel's famous Jaffa oranges in the *pardesim* (orange groves). Farmers also plant pomegranate trees in this area; the red color of these orchards adds beauty to the landscape. Traveling inland up the road to Jerusalem through the mountains of Judea, you'll see forests of pine trees. The Israelis protect their trees with passion; we consider them a very valuable treasure. We don't have them in abundance and don't want to lose even one tree.

Since 2006, KKL-JNF (*Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael* - Jewish National Fund) foresters have



**Fruit from the Acacia tree fed the prophets.**



been combating an aphid (harmful insect) that has been destroying Israel's pine trees. The woolly pine aphid kills from ten to twenty-five percent of the trees it attacks. This aphid was identified first in Northern Israel, in *Baram Forest* in the Upper Galilee, and in several other forests, but it spread and recently reached forests in the Jerusalem region. Research done by KKL-JNF foresters found that a fly which preys on this aphid was used as a biological pesticide in Hawaii by the US Forest Service about thirty years ago to solve a similar problem. This past year "David Brand, KKL-JNF Chief Forester, and Prof. Zvi Mandel of the Volcani Institute, went to the islands of Hawaii. Assisted by the US Forestry Service and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), they succeeded in locating the predatory fly and gathered a number of flies in containers. The flies were brought to Israel, and, after thorough testing done by the Plant Protection Service of the Israel Ministry of Agriculture, they will be set free for their first "job" in Baram Forest in the Upper Galilee." (KKL report)

The southern half of Israel's territory is desert, the *Negev*. It is actually a fertile land; once water is supplied with an effective irrigation system, trees can grow. Some kibbutzim in the Negev planted palm trees and now export the famous Medjool dates. The largest planted forest in Israel is *Yatir Forest*, located on the southern slopes of Mount Hebron, on the edge of the *Negev* Desert.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) was established in 1953 and is Israel's leading environmental organization. For over sixty years SPNI has been dedicated to protecting and preserving Israel's natural resources, environment and unique landscape. SPNI's latest success story is the *Gazelle Valley*. Last year, thousands of families,

young and old, came to celebrate the official opening of the *Gazelle Valley*, Jerusalem's newest park. There the *Rakefet* stream that flows down from Jerusalem's neighborhoods has been collected and purified in four pools along the length of the valley, before filling a new half-acre pond. Within a few years the pond will become an oasis for migrating water birds.

The love of the Israelis for nature and the land is part of our Jewish heritage. In Biblical times, the language of nature came to the people naturally. They understood how to treat the land well, not only to give it rest in the Sabbath Year and the Jubilee (Leviticus 25), but to respect and plant trees, keep water sources clean, create parks near urban areas, and regulate sewage disposal. And they



**Date palms grow on Negev kibbutzim.**

also understood intuitively the connection between justice and the responsibility to care for the environment: Since the land was God's, not only should it be protected, but its rich produce should be shared with the poorest of God's children (Leviticus 19). In a world where warfare typically included actions by the enemies to damage the environment of the adversary - cutting down trees, fouling waters, and salting the earth - our ancestors behaved exceptionally, with a different ethic. They developed the principle of *bal tashchit*, do not destroy (Deuteronomy 20:19). Do not cut down trees even to prevent ambush or to build siege engines. Do not foul waters or burn crops even to cause an enemy's submission. If, even in extreme situations, one is to avoid causing needless harm to the environment, *al akhat kama v'khama*, then how much the more so, during the ordinary course of life? Even with the continuing wars in Israel today, we strive to behave according to the same Jewish ethics. We love the land, protect nature and educate to work for *tikkun olam*. ◇

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## **EYE ON THE ARTS**

Gloria Avner



*We are at full strength now, both in numbers of KJCC mishpocha and opportunities for unique cultural experiences here "on the rock." We get to support our local talent, our entrepreneurs who bring in world-class entertainment, and we have a good time, forge deeper friendships and do good in the process. When we go to an event brought to us by Dave Feder, for example, we are also raising money to fund scholarships for local children who want higher education in the arts. The Annual Gigantic Nautical Flea Market provides our kids with scholarships too (as well as bargains). Call a friend, or many, have dinner ahead of time and/or drinks afterward. Carpool. And speaking of opportunities, in case any of you have forgotten, this is a leap year. The Keys Community Concert Band has not forgotten and will be passing out flowers on February 27th in honor of Sadie Hawkins Day.*

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, William Hagen, Rising Star Violinist, FLKCA Concert Series.** In this third concert of the series, we'll hear a budding superstar (who has performed with Itzhak Perlman) accompanied by pianist Christopher Ohanian. Island Community Church, MM 83.3 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased on-line: [www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com](http://www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com) .

**February 9<sup>th</sup>, Karolina Syrovatkova, Pianist Extraordinaire, FLKCA Concert Series.** 7:30 p.m. at Island Community Church, MM 83.3. Doors open at 7:00. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the door or on-line: [www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com](http://www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com)

**February 18<sup>th</sup>, Morada Way Third Thursday Art Walk.** Outdoor festival featuring art vendors, food, adult beverages, and live music. Runs from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. MM 81.8 Oceanside.

**February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup><sup>nd</sup>**

**The Gigantic Nautical Flea Market.** At Founders Park in Islamorada, MM 87. Visit over 200 vendors, selling items way beyond the bounds of "Nautical," and also raising college scholarship money for Upper Keys youth. Many of our KJCC students have been recipients. A fun time, but be prepared for traffic. (305)-712-1818 or [giganticnauticalmarket@gmail.com](mailto:giganticnauticalmarket@gmail.com)

**February 21<sup>st</sup>. Key Largo Civic Club Hootenanny.** Local fun. 2-4 p.m. 209 Ocean Drive

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Miami String Quartet, FLKCA Concert Series.** An exceptional ensemble! 7:30 p.m. at Island Community Church, MM 83.3. Doors open at 7:00. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the door or on-line: [www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com](http://www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com) .

**February 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, Shrek the Musical** 7:30 p.m. At Coral Shores High School Performing Arts Center, MM 89.9 Oceanside. The theatrical productions at this school are near professional in quality, well worth the \$20 admission, \$10 for students.

**February 27<sup>th</sup>, Garden Walk of the Upper Keys.** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Start at Francis Tracy Garden Center, MM 94, Gulfside; then visit private tropical gardens at your own pace. Be inspired. Go with your gardening friends. Tickets: \$25. More information at [www.gardenclubupperkeys.org](http://www.gardenclubupperkeys.org).

**February 27<sup>th</sup>, Pops in the Park; Love is in the Air, Keys Community Concert Band.** 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Founders Park, MM 87, Bayside. Give your feet a rest and listen to music after the garden tours. Free admission, [www.keyscommunityconcertband.org](http://www.keyscommunityconcertband.org) ◇

# Keys Jewish Community Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com)

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To all KJCC members:

The KJCC Annual Meeting, mandated by our by-laws, is scheduled for Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at noon in the KJCC sanctuary.

The February Board meeting, in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, is scheduled for the same day at 10:30 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 presented 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 2016-2017 Officers and Board Members. This slate was approved at the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Board Meeting:

*President* – Sam Vinicur

*Executive Vice President* – Steve Steinbock

*Vice Presidents* – Gloria Avner, Susan Gordon, Steve Hartz

*Treasurer* – Linda Pollack

*Recording Secretary* – Art Itkin

*Financial Secretary* – Mitch Harvey

*Corresponding Secretary* – Joyce Peckman

*Directors:*

Ken Atlas

Marc Bloom

Dave Feder

Linda Kaplan

Michael Kaufman

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 2016 Nominating Committee:

Linda Kaplan (chair), Bernie Ginsberg, Linda Pollack, Gene Silverman

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### “A Decisive Victory”

It took the Israeli Mission to the United Nations more than a year of diplomatic efforts to persuade the U.N. that it was time to recognize Yom Kippur as an official U.N. holiday. The designation means that no official meetings will take place on these days and employees can choose to take the day off. In an earlier issue of *Chai-Lights*, we reported that the United Nations had recognized ten official holidays – including Good Friday and Christmas and the Muslim holidays of Id al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha – but did not include Yom Kippur. In 2014, the 69<sup>th</sup> General Assembly did manage to recognize Yom Kippur as the holiest day of the Jewish year, but still did not denote it an official holiday. Ambassador Danny Danon called the move “a decisive victory” that “finally provides an official place for the Jewish religion in the world’s parliament.” (My Jewish ear detects just a tinge of mockery in that diplomatic nicety, but maybe it’s just me.) Danon went on to say that the recognition would not have been possible without the assistance of Samantha Power, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., who prevented the U.N.’s anti-Israel majority from blocking the resolution. This past Yom Kippur, Ron Prosor, Danon’s Israeli predecessor, had held the first-ever *Tashlich* ceremony at the U.N. as part of the campaign to gain recognition. (*Tashlich*, the High Holiday ritual where sins and wrongdoings of the previous year are symbolically thrown into the water, thus letting go of the burdens of the past, allows us to start the new year with a clean slate. The question arises, of course, as to whose sins and wrongdoings were being addressed; and what other people has more millennia of experience in knowing how to tweak oppressors through acts that on the surface might appear to honor them?) ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 12-18-15)

### 2016 Genesis Prize Winner

Now in its third year, the annual \$1 million *Genesis Prize*, dubbed the “Jewish Nobel,” goes to Itzhak Perlman, the Israeli-born violin virtuoso. Perlman, 70, joins the two previous recipients, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and actor-director Michael Douglas. Perlman was born in Tel Aviv. At age three-and-a-half he asked for a violin, which his parents bought for him at a local thrift store. When he was four he contracted polio, permanently paralyzing his legs. Perlman was identified as a musical prodigy at an early age and went on to study at New York’s Juilliard School. He has won 16 Grammy Awards, played for heads of state and appeared in TV shows and commercials. He performed the haunting violin solo on the soundtrack of the film “Schindler’s List” (which won both a Grammy and an Oscar). In addition to his world-wide performance schedule, Perlman teaches young musicians through the *Perlman Music Program*, an initiative founded by his wife, Toby. The *Genesis Prize* was established in 2012 by a consortium of Russian-Jewish philanthropists and is presented annually “to someone who has achieved international renown in their professional field and serves as a role model through their commitment to Jewish values.” Perlman indicated he will most likely use the prize money in ways that involve music and helping those with disabilities. He will receive the prize at a ceremony in Jerusalem in June. This past November, Perlman was awarded the *Presidential Medal of Freedom* by President Obama. (Perlman will be performing at the *Adrienne Arsht Center* in Miami on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Check with Mitch Harvey, head of KJCC’s Activities Committee, for tickets in the reduced-price KJCC block.) ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 12-14-15)



## “Kosher” Marijuana – A Mitzvah

This past July, the New York State Health Department granted licenses to five companies to grow and sell marijuana in the state and in New York City. One of them, the Minneapolis-based company *Vireo Health*, produces “pharmaceutical-grade cannabis-derived medicine.” At the end of December, the company announced that all of its products had received kosher certification from the Orthodox Union. (These products apparently are the first of their kind to have the “OU” trademark attached to it). By law, *Vireo*’s marijuana products are intended for use by patients who suffer from a variety of serious illnesses, including cancer, Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy, and HIV/AIDS, among others. Rabbi Menachem Genack, the CEO of *OU Kosher*, said, “Judaism prioritizes health and encourages the use of medicine designed to improve one’s health or reduce pain. Using medical cannabis products recommended by a physician should not be regarded as a *chet*, a sinful act, but rather as a *mitzvah*, an imperative, a commandment.” *Vireo* will operate four dispensaries in New York – and they will be collecting taxes on it. ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 12-30-15)

## \$9.3 Million: A Record Sale

A rare 16<sup>th</sup> century Babylonian Talmud recently sold at auction for \$9.3 million, a record price for a piece of Judaica. The sale, of a copy of Daniel Bomberg’s Babylonian Talmud, took place at Sotheby’s in New York at the end of December. It was purchased by Stephan Loewentheil of the *19<sup>th</sup> Century Rare Book & Photograph Shop* located in Brooklyn. Prior to the sale, the volume – still in pristine condition – had only been owned by four people. The auction included twelve other items of Judaica from the British-based *Valmadonna Trust Library* and took in \$14.9 million, making it the most valuable auction of Judaic material ever held. Daniel Bomberg (not Jewish) printed the first complete edition of the Babylonian Talmud between 1519 and 1523 in Venice. It is recognized as one of the most significant books in the history of Hebrew printing. Only 14 complete 16<sup>th</sup> century Bom-

berg Talmud sets are believed to exist today. The *Valmadonna Library*’s set had been kept for centuries in London’s Westminster Abbey. The auction also featured the only known illustrated manuscript *Haggadah* from India. It sold for \$418,000. According to Sotheby’s, the previous record for a piece of Judaica took place at Christie’s auction house in Paris in 2014, when a Hebrew Bible printed in Bologna in 1482 sold for about \$3.85 million. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 12-24-15)

## A Landmark for Israeli Women

*Radio Kol Barama* is a publicly funded, ultra-Orthodox radio station in Israel. Until recently, the station never allowed women to speak or be heard on the air. *Kol Barama* would bleep out the voices of female Knesset members when proceedings were aired. A special fax line was used for women to send in their comments or questions, which would then be read on air by men. But fortunately, things change. This past September, the *Israel Religious Action Center* (IRAC), won a class action lawsuit against the radio station on behalf of all women affected by its discriminatory policies. The station appealed the decision, but in mid-December Israel’s Supreme Court rejected the appeal. Supreme Court Justice Yoram Danziger expressed “disgust at this phenomenon,” stating that the exclusion of women “fatally harms human dignity and the basic and inherent rights of women.” The Supreme Court’s decision is being hailed as a “precedent-setting ruling that will serve as a milestone in the fight for gender equality.” The ruling means that even private entities in Israel may not violate Israel’s antidiscrimination laws. ([www.reformjudaism.org/blog/2015/12/21](http://www.reformjudaism.org/blog/2015/12/21))

## The Highest Figure Since 2003

According to the *Jewish Agency for Israel* and *Ministry of Immigrant Absorption* report, immigration to the Jewish state reached a 12-year high in 2015. More than 30,000 immigrants came to Israel in 2015, the highest immigration figure since 2003. France and Ukraine provided the highest number of immigrants. France had 7,900 emigrating to

make *aliyah*, a record figure from that country. The repeated terror attacks in France are believed to account for that figure, breaking the record from just last year. (Over 1,000 Jews have come to Israel since the Paris terrorist attacks in November 2015.) The fighting between Ukraine and Russia has also boosted immigration. From Ukraine, 7,000 immigrants reached Israel in 2015, up 15 percent from 2014. Some 6,600 immigrants arrived from Russia, up 40 percent from 2014. Immigration from North America fell slightly, to 3,768 in 2015. Half of all the new immigrants to Israel were under the age of 30. ([www.globes.co.il](http://www.globes.co.il), 12-29-15)

### Could Be a Winner

"Son of Saul," a Hungarian Holocaust film, won the Best Foreign Film award at the Golden Globe Award ceremony in mid-January and is now a finalist for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Picture. The film is about a man, Saul Auslander, who is a member of the *Sonderkommando* at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. (The *Sonderkommando* units were Jewish male prisoners selected for their youth and relative good health. It was their job to cremate the bodies of fellow prisoners gassed by the Waffen SS. These men were forced into this position. Their only other option was death in the gas chambers or being shot on the spot by an SS guard.) As Saul goes about his bleak task, he thinks he sees his son among the bodies. As the men plan a rebellion, Saul vows that he will save the boy's body from the flames and find a rabbi to say *Kaddish* at a proper Jewish funeral. Saul is portrayed by Geza Rohrig, who was born in Budapest and founded an underground punk band under Communist rule. He later moved to New York, studying at a Hasidic yeshiva and then graduating from the Conservative movement's *Jewish Theological Seminary*. Another Holocaust-themed film, "Labyrinth of Lies," submitted by Germany, did not make the cut. (The Academy Award nominees were announced on January 14<sup>th</sup>.) The Oscars – televised to over 255 countries – will air on February 28<sup>th</sup>. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 1-11-16)

### In Memoriam

· Andreja Preger, a noted concert pianist who participated in Yugoslavia's anti-Nazi partisans, died in December. He was 104. Preger was born in Hungary but grew up in Zagreb (capital of Croatia), where he attended the local Jewish school. In addition to music, he also studied law. As a teenager, he was active in *Hashomer Hatzair*, the leftist Zionist youth group. After the establishment of independent Croatia in 1941, a Nazi puppet state, he hid out in Zagreb, where the Fascist authorities went after lawyers, law clerks and members of *Hashomer Hatzair*, depriving the community of its leaders. Preger's father and uncle were killed at the infamous Jasecovac camp. In 1943, Preger joined the anti-fascist partisans led by Josip Broz Tito in Bosnia. After the war, he settled in Belgrade. Preger taught piano and performed widely, founding the *Belgrade Trio*, which performed concerts all over Europe as well as in the United States and the Soviet Union. Throughout his life, Preger remained active in the Jewish community's cultural activities. He headed the cultural department of the *Federation of Jewish Communities*. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 12-21-15)

### Did You Know...

· In 2015, more than 1.72 million people, a record number of visitors, came to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum in Poland. Poland had the most visitors (425,000) followed by the United Kingdom (220,000), the United States (141,000), Germany (93,000) and Italy (76,000). ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 1-4-16)

· Two Israeli actors will appear in the upcoming sixth season of the hit HBO series, "Game of Thrones." Ania Bukstein and Yousef Sweid will have yet-to-be-determined roles in the show. Bukstein, 33, is a household name in Israel, well-known for roles in shows and movies. Sweid, 39, an Arab-Israeli, has been in the Showtime thriller "Homeland." New episodes will begin airing in April 2016. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 1-2-16) ◇



# KJCC Meditation Garden

**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](http://keysjewishcenter.com).



# Creating Mondrian Masterpieces

*Working with scissors, black paper strips, primary color paint and patient instruction by Gloria Avner, fourteen KJCC members and two visitors took Dutch artist Piet Mondrian's principles of order and negative space to new heights. The process was fun and the results were lovely.*



**At left, Gloria encourages Lee Schur in her decision making, while Medina Roy focuses intently on color placement. They loved their results.**



**Above, Randi Grant prepares her grid before painting.**



**At right, two generations (plus) work in artistic harmony.**







**At left, Yardena enjoys being a student rather than a teacher. At right, Gene Silverman displays her work with pride.**



**Don't worry Joyce....**

**...see?? It turned out great!**



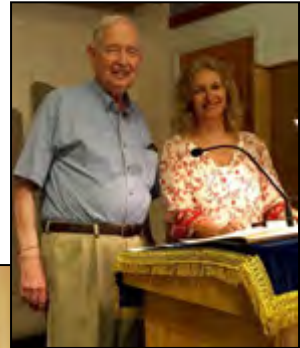
**Budding artists proudly display their work.**



# Photo Gallery

*Wrapping up the year*

Riding in from Texas, Stuart Sax (left and below) delivers an entertaining “country d’var” during the last service of the year, led by Medina Roy. The first service of 2016 was led by the team of George Swartz and Yardena Kamely (at right).



**Geri and Stuart Smith, former members, happily return to the Keys and KJCC.**



**Susan Gordon sponsored an oneg in honor of the birth of her grandson. The blue cupcakes, posters and photos (below) proclaim the glad tidings.**



**Above, Will and Maddie Pollack join Gene and the Levys in a joyous Kiddush.**





# Open House

**Steve Steinbock's annual Dec. 25th open house brought together a happy group of friends and members. We have our own long-standing Keys tradition — thanks to Carol and Steve's initiative, we don't do Chinese food on this day!**





**Out of Africa**  
 Rabbi Rich and Mindy Agler, along with Dr. Bernie Ginsberg, fresh from their trip to the Talia Agler Girls' Shelter in Nairobi, Kenya, shared moving and inspiring experiences from their trip with KJCC.



The sanctuary was filled with fascinated members of the greater community as well as KJCC people.



At left, Bernie models the Masai blanket given to him as a gift from the girls at TAGS in gratitude for his help. (He became a rock star.)

For more information about the valuable work done at Talia Agler Girls' Shelter, visit [Rabbiagler.net](http://Rabbiagler.net).







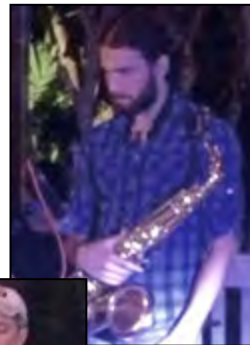
**Above, Lee Schur is beaming between grandchildren Michael and Becky. They are in Chicago celebrating the wedding of Michael and Felice, seen at right.**



**Below, Yadena with Holocaust survivor Sam Schleider at this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day in Miami.**



**A huge contingent of KJCC people went to OO-Tray's open mike night to support Nyan Feder on sax, and the father-and-son team of Roy and Will Pollack on guitars. Dave Feder played impresario while grandma Linda Pollack kvelled.**



**Below, Beth Hayden's Ollie — Canine Good citizen, Certified Therapy Dog and Rally Novice — will be the first certified therapy dog at Mariners' Hospital. We are so proud!**



# From Monaco to Dubai

Gene is our guide as she and Mort cruise the Mediterranean—Part Two

by Gene Silverman

Good morning, or rather *buongiorno*, as we will be arriving in Livorno, Italy this morning at 7 a.m. The temperature is supposed to be a low of 57 and only a high of 68 so I think we may be a bit chilly. The wind is only supposed to be six knots, but it's coming from the northwest, where cold comes from.

We are going to be seeking the Jewish community that may be left there. We opted not to take a tour to Florence, as we've already been there too many times to count, and it is at least 1.5 hours away from our port – each way! Pisa is closer, but again, we've been there many times, and didn't want to "trolley train" there nor browse at the souvenir stalls. So this time we decided to explore on our own.

Livorno is a port city on the western coast of Italy's province of Tuscany, roughly due

of products and prices, from the popular Livorno markets to shops and stores selling designer-label clothes, shoes, jewelry, leather goods and accessories.

In the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when Livorno was a miserable, malaria-infested village, its rulers, the Medici family, decided to turn it into an important port and attract foreigners to settle. In 1548, Cosimo I issued an invitation to foreigners, including displaced Marranos, to come to the new port. His project, however, met with little success.

A few years later, in 1587, the Grand Duke invited merchants of all nations to come settle in Livorno and Pisa. A further invitation was issued by Ferdinand I on June 10, 1593, offering asylum to all Levantines, Spanish, Portuguese, Germans and Italians. The majority of Ferdinand's invitation articles were directed to the Jews who had been living secretly as Christians in Spain and Portugal. The charter – referred to as "Livornina" – offered Jews and other nationalities many rights and privileges. They were to be guaranteed full religious liberty, amnesty for crimes previously committed, the opportunity for "Marranos" to return to Judaism unmolested, a large exemption from taxation, commercial freedom, full Tuscan citizenship and special courts with civil and criminal jurisdictions. Safe passage of goods and persons was guaranteed to all Jews who moved to Livorno. Jews would be able to own houses, inherit property, carry arms at any hour, open shops in all parts of the city, have Christian servants and nursemaids, study at the university, work as doctors and not have to wear the Jewish badge. Finally, unlike many other cities in Tuscany, Jews would not have to live in a ghetto.

These conditions proved attractive to Marranos and Levantines. The Jewish population swelled from 114 in 1601 to 3,000 by 1689. Jews came to be the most important nation



**This is one of the main shopping streets in Livorno.**

west of Florence, on the Ligurian Sea, a branch of the Mediterranean. There are only about 175,000 residents there, so we thought it would be an easy place to find what we were seeking.

Shopping in Livorno offers a whole range

living in Livorno. Spanish and Portuguese became the official language of Jewish merchants in Livorno and remained so until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Jewish Traders

Jews were involved in a variety of industries, besides money-lending. One of the specialized industries was the coral industry; Jews exported products to Russia and India and used coral to make ritual objects. The soap, paper, sugar-refining and wine distillation industries were also run by Jews. In 1632, the Jews imported the first coffee into Italy and opened coffee-houses in Livorno.

In 1765, more than one-third of Livorno's 150 commercial houses were owned by Jews. The Jews' fame and fortune were well

known throughout Europe and inspired an offer by Louis XIV, King of France, to resettle the whole community in Marseilles.

Livorno also became a center of Hebrew printing in Italy. Jedidiah Gabbai set up the first Hebrew press in 1659 and published a Midrash on the Torah. About 80 years later, Abraham ben Raphael Medola and his son opened another active Hebrew press. Between 1763 and 1870, sixteen other Hebrew printing presses were active in Livorno. The printing press of Solomon Belforte (established in 1838) was also significant.

From 1600 to 1899, almost 1,300 Hebrew books were printed in Livorno, second in Italy only to Venice.

The Synagogue that was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was one of the supposed finest and well known in Europe, but it was badly damaged during WWII and was replaced with a modern synagogue in the 1960s. ( We had a map of Livorno and my very rudimentary Italian so, we thought, how lost could we get?



(We also had to manage to be back on the ship before 6:30.) There had been four Jewish cemeteries. Now, we were informed, there were only two. One, on the Viale Ippolito Nievo,

**Here is a photo of the very modern synagogue of Livorno. We were unable to see the interior as you had to make reservations ahead of time. And, they never answered the telephone. After seeing the synagogue we were going to seek out the old Jewish cemetery.**

which dates back to 1840, contains the tombs of Elia Benamozegh, Israel Costa and the Montefiore and Belforte families. It also has the Attias family chapel.

Apparently our taxi driver had something against cemeteries, so he dropped us off and then disappeared. But we're experienced travelers. I had a map, and figured if we just kept aiming for a busy street, we would surely see another taxi.

Livorno served as a center for Jewish study and mysticism, led by Rabbi Joseph ben Emanuel Ergas (1685-1732) and other kabbalists. A special Talmudic court opened and elders of the community (Massari) presided over the cases. Because of the existence of the Talmud Torah school in Livorno, illiteracy among Jewish males was unknown from the 17<sup>th</sup> century on.

The legendary Moses Montefiore was born in Leghorn (Livorno in Italian), Tuscany in 1784, to an Italian Jewish family. His grandfather, Moses Vita (Haim) Montefiore had emi-

grated from Livorno to London in the 1740s, but retained close contact with the town, then famous for its straw bonnets. Montefiore was born while his parents, Joseph Elias Montefiore and his young wife Rachel, the daughter of Abraham Mocatta, a powerful bullion broker in London, were in the town on a business journey; he was their first child.

The family returned to Kensington in London, where Montefiore went to school and began his career as an apprentice to a firm of grocers and tea merchants. He then entered a counting house in the City of London, and ultimately became one of the twelve "Jew brokers" licensed by the city. His brother Abraham joined him in the business, and their firm gained a high reputation. In 1812, Moses Montefiore married Judith Cohen, whose sister, Henriette (or Hannah), married Nathan Mayer Rothschild, for whom Montefiore's firm acted as stockbrokers. Nathan Rothschild headed the family's banking business in England, and the two brothers-in-law became business partners.

Montefiore retired from business in 1824, and then used his time and fortune for communal and civic responsibilities. Physically imposing at 6'3", he was elected Sheriff of London in 1837 and served until 1838. He was also knighted that same year by Queen Victoria and received

a baronetcy in 1846 in recognition of his services to humanitarian causes on behalf of the Jewish people.

The next local family I researched was the Belfortes. I was aware that he had been a very prominent printer in Livorno, but was interested in doing some more probing. There is still a book shop in Livorno that is owned and operated by a Belforte, and from what I understand they are still involved in Jewish activities in Livorno!

The Belforte adventure began 211 years

ago in Livorno, with a student who printed a book of prayers, of *selichot*, in Hebrew at his own expense. In 1834 his son, Salomone, founded S. Belforte & Company, which for generations published elegant, beautifully produced prayer books, which spread throughout all the communities of the Mediterranean, Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and even to India!

Amedeo Clemente Modigliani was born into a Jewish family in Livorno. His maternal great-great-grandfather was one Solomon Garsin, who had immigrated to Livorno in the eighteenth century as a religious refugee.

There is a plaque near the Attias tomb in the third Jewish cemetery commemorating this noted early 20<sup>th</sup> century painter.

So, there we were at the Jewish cemetery, with no ride in sight, but we walked among the tombstones and graves and looked for any of the names that I had researched. There are too many headstones, all in Italian, to be able to decipher who was who. Besides, they were in terrible condition. And we were cold. So we decided to head back to town, but first to find a ride.

Luck was with us. We saw a single car coming down the road. Being us, we flagged it down; luckily, it stopped, and took us back all the way to the ship. I guess having white hair

sometimes works to one's advantage.

We were a little late for lunch, but the grill by the pool was open, so up we went. They had great sandwiches and salads, so we were happy. Tonight we were looking forward to hearing a piano concert by Rustem Hayroudi-noff and just relaxing.

Tomorrow: Calvi, Corsica, the large island off Italy and owned by France where Napoleon was born. We should be there by 8 in the morning and not depart until 4:30, so that will give us plenty of time to sightsee. ◇



**Moses Montefiore at 98.**





# KJCC Gift Shop



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



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

# KJCC Remembers the Homeless

by Gloria Avner

Imagine. A blond boy picks a small square piece of paper from a basket and hands it to you. In the center is a simple heart with the name, age and the date on which one homeless person died this year in the Florida Keys. We are, as in years past, taking part in the annual International Memorial for the Homeless. It is always held the same time of

year, winter solstice, the darkest day. In other years, we gathered at Settler's Park in Tavernier. This year we assemble in the soaring sanctuary of Father Tom Graf's St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church, with large black-and-white photos on the walls, powerful portraits of Key West's homeless, reminiscent of Dorothea Lange's or Walker Evans' photos of the depression.

Sam Vinicur and I, asked to be among the readers, take turns along with clergy from all faiths in the Upper Keys, announcing loud and clear, one by one, the name, age and date written on each slip of paper. One of three ministers on the other side of the altar gives each a heartfelt blessing and a volunteer from the community in attendance comes forward to light a candle. The slip of paper goes back in a basket, as if being gently laid to rest. Seventy-eight times we say a name. Seventy-eight candles are lit, four of them for infants, one of whom we have to call

"baby boy" because he had been given no name. Five were veterans who had nobly served our country.

This ritual moves me, the beautiful simplicity of it – spare, majestic, painful. When I am given a piece of paper with the name "Caroline" I can't help but think of my 95-year-old mother Bea, Medina's 100-year-old mother Bianka, and our matriarchs Pauline Roller and Bea Graham. Caroline was 90 years old when she died homeless on the oddly appropriate date of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. How do we let people in their 90s live homeless? How do we let veterans who fought for us, losing limbs and lightness of heart, live on the street?

KJCC is represented by well over the *minyán* required to pray in public (ten adult Jews); we have our

*Yizkor* books with us. After the naming, we rise as a group and recite the *Kaddish*, our prayer for the dead that never mentions death. Sam points out that the prayer is not written in Hebrew, but in Aramaic, the language of Je-

sus. There is a murmur, and I am struck by the strength and sincerity of the "Amen" when we finish reading the prayer in both languages.





**Below, KJCC's Art Itkin speaks to Richard Meister of San Pedro. At bottom are the clergy and leaders who participated in the memorial.**

Finally, we walk in procession to the church garden. Somehow I've become the guardian of the basket filled with paper names. It feels precious, both light and heavy at the same time. The names flutter into a black metal impromptu crematorium. Fire is started, the lid is sealed and homeless smoke rises to the sky, spirits rising to the heavens. The ceremony ends with Steve Steinbock reading the beautiful poem we read each Yizkor that reminds us "no one is ever lost as long as someone remembers."

I remember Carol Steinbock. She is the one who made sure that people from our *shul* took part in this memorial. She would have loved being a part of our new



"Tikkun Olam" (Repair the World) Committee and seeing the involvement of so many faiths, so many people, and the establishment of an Upper Keys branch of CEO Rev. Stephen Braddock's Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (FKOC), newly staffed by Americorps Vista volunteers Rev. Pam Feeser and Laurie Scop. Meetings will be held, Art Itkin will be our KJCC representative and strategies will be sought and found.

The names ring out, simply and clearly, a moment of acknowledgement, of dignity. We know that each person was more than a name. They all had stories. We hear a powerful one about a man

named Robert, who after years of violence and destructive behavior, traded in his anger for garden-tending at a Baptist church in Islamorada that took him in as part of its family. Any one of us could have been one of the names on those slips of paper. What a



**Rev. Kerby Avedovech, the afternoon's host Father Tom Graf of St. James Episcopal and Rev. Pam Feeser.**

gift it would be to read fewer names next winter solstice. We hope, we pray, we work. ✧





# We Honor our Advertisers and New Members: *An Evening of Appreciation*

by Gloria Avner

If you arrived early to the KJCC dinner honoring our advertisers and new members, you breathed in the full effect of Medina Roy's cool, calm turquoise-tropical-waters-and-white-lace color



scheme. (Kudos to Medee and her set-up team of Susan, Joyce, Erica, Yardena, Sam and Gene.) Everyone noticed and all were pleased. As seats filled with all our

favorite community people, some of whom we only see on this yearly occasion – and when we patronize their businesses – it

was clear this was to be a joyous occasion. There were smiles and hugs happening everywhere.



Our Shabbat celebration began as always with the ritual lighting of candles and singing of blessings. Our president, Sam Vinicur, welcoming our 85 guests, set the tone for the evening when he focused on the underlying meaning of the three blessings we say at every Shabbat meal for light, wine, and bread. Gratitude is the common theme. Our agrarian ancestors were grateful for the rain that made the crops grow. We may no longer be agrarian, but we, like them, are forever grateful for everything –

for light, for our



day of rest, for ceremonial food and drink, but also for the prayers themselves, the reminder to take note and not to take for granted our heritage, our history and the

community members who support us and with whom we share our lives.

The meal itself was splendid and





inite rumblings of recipe requests. Cheesecake, divine cookies, fruit and a never-before-seen M&M cake rounded out the evening and our bellies.



abundant, thoroughly enjoyed, literally to the last drop. Thanks to all who made our perennial favorites - the



This special dinner is planned and run each year by Medina Roy and this one was her best yet.

varied and creative salads, blintz soufflés, couscous, fish, veggie noodles, black bean soup, and corn pudding as well as the new arrivals: the soon-to-be favorite veggie pie, Moroccan tajine, broccoli-with-cheese casserole, and cauliflower-chickpea curry. There were def-



Who thought so many people would stay for services?





More than 60 people filled the sanctuary. The feedback was a fond and grateful embrace of the Sisterhood members who as a group led that night's service, coordinated by Sisterhood president Erica Lieberman-Garrett. Members and visitors alike had fun while they wor-

shipped. They enjoyed the animated singing of the full congregation and the stirring voices of our women readers. After a rousing version of *Adon Olam* and yet more



hugging, we made our way to the Ruth Richardson Social Hall to cap off our evening with an *oneg* (the literal translation of which accurately describes the evening "exquisite delight"). ◊



# Laura Wetzler Concert Raises The KJCC Roof

by Gloria Avner



The lucky members and friends of KJCC who showed up on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> for that evening's Laura Wetzler concert were taken on a glorious, unforgettable Jewish journey – from the *shtetls* of Eastern Europe to the plains of Tunisia, Sephardic refuges in Greece and the Balkans and Turkey and, to the surprise of many, villages in Uganda. The sounds of *Lecha Dodi* and the *Sh'ma* sung in Ugandan, with melody, rhythm and whole-body verve so new and exciting to our ears, rocked us. It brought us something in that last full-out, extended wail of *Sh'ma* that was both astonishing and familiar, a cry from a place and lifetime and Jewish soul just beyond reach of memory. Many did not know Laura's name or renown when we first received word of her

availability to perform for us, but after spending an evening grinning, clapping, toe-tapping, singing along and, yes, dancing with this brilliantly talented and captivating performer, we will never forget her.

She didn't just take us through a wide swath of geographical places; she took us to places of the heart. We time-travelled with her, remembering the Yiddish songs we'd heard as children. Yardena *kvelled* hearing Ladino songs she'd heard growing up in Haifa and has sung all her life. Bernie and others of us – including matriarch Pauline (with whom Laura spent a lot of tête-à-tête time at the after-concert party and then of course fully fell under Pauline's spell) and even some who came to KJCC for the first time – knew all the words to the Yiddish Ashkenazi songs. Dozens sang along with gusto and joy. We also revisited the 60s and accompanied Laura's "Carole King" self on "You've got a Friend," during the portion celebrating Jewish songwriters in America. There were meaningful medleys of familiar and unfamiliar songs, but the



irresistible magic lay in the weaving together of song and story, climaxing in the sad but inspiring song Laura had written about Ursula and Helga, the brave idealistic sisters who

smuggled underground resistance literature in their ski-poles as they "flew" down the mountains of 1930s Germany, not knowing that only one of them would survive. The



Island who listened to her mother's seminal Jewish music radio show, who has traveled



the world searching out and studying that music's roots and branches in a journey that must have been "*bashert*." She now

survivor, Ursula, had been her grandmother.

Despair, courage, joy, ritual, commen-

tary on the centuries-old difficulty of getting young peoples' *tushes* in seats (she left us laughing with a story about twelfth-century rabbis complaining about exactly the same thing), Laura covered it all in 60 minutes of beautiful, full-voiced musicianship - the girl from Long



lives in the Massachusetts Berkshires and spends about half the year cataloging and unearthing and performing Jewish music all over the



world. On this unforgettable night she made her way to us, and we are happily the richer for the evening's experience (as you can tell from the smiles in these



photos). Did I mention that it wasn't just the music, but that her voice was clear and ringing and soaring and rich and







beautiful and sent shivers of joy down everyone's spine? Did I mention that people were dancing in their seats during the stirring,

praise and even indulging the few who just couldn't resist a hug. When she finally joined everyone in the social hall for chats and a



nosh, the entire room did something I'm not sure I've seen before: they burst as one into spontaneous applause. Laura returned the love, staying and

up-tempo songs, and then spontaneously leapt to their feet to express their joy during the final number, a rousing and full-throated version of *Hava Nagila*?



chatting (and basking in the glow a little) for another hour. As to the dancing to *Hava Nagila*? "That took bravery," she said. But

After she left us, we realized we wanted to interview Laura for this article and asked Joyce Peckman to talk with her, since Joyce was to be her host for the night. Ultimately though, she interviewed us, and that says a lot about this woman. Joyce said, "I blush to say that she spent more time interviewing me than vice versa. She was fascinated by the KJCC, with its eclectic mix of people, and loved the welcoming, laid-back, non-judgmental attitude."



There was a long line after the concert for those who wanted to buy her CDs. She warmly and patiently signed them all, thanking everyone for their



she is the one who brought us to our feet. And consensus among all present was clearly "let's do this again next year." ◊



# On the Return of Our Holocaust Torah to KJCC

*An upcoming day of celebration and ceremony and inspiration*

*by Sam Vinicur, KJCC president*

**I**t was on June 10, 1982 that Guss Zeldich, one of KJCC's original founders, first sent a letter to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Committee at London's Westminster Synagogue asking how a synagogue, a new Florida Keys synagogue that had been chartered just a year before, might obtain one of their rescued European Holocaust scrolls. Religious services so far had been held in the home of Sara and Joel Cohen, and then at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. For two additional years after Guss Zeldich's letter, services would be held in Tavernier's Coral Isles Church, until the building that now serves as KJCC's Ruth Richardson Social Hall was purchased in May of 1984.

Mrs. Ruth Shaffer of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust wrote back to KJCC with instructions. In June of 1983, Milton and Lillian Lippman hand-delivered a letter from Lillian's brother Joel Cohen to Mrs. Shaffer in London. Arrangements were made. A check for \$500 was sent to the Scrolls Trust by then-KJCC-president Ron Horn. Ron received a letter back a week later; Czech scroll number 418 was en route to the United States and would arrive at Miami International Airport on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1983. It was picked up and brought to the Keys that same day.

So, for a little perspective, this sacred Holocaust Torah, and all it represents, has been a member of the KJCC *mishpocha* – yes, I do know that technically it's not ours but on "permanent loan" – longer than anyone still directly connected to KJCC except a very few founding members: Susan Horn, her parents Ron and Dorothy (both Ron, as noted above, and Susan are also past-presidents), our current matriarch and ageless wonder Pauline Roller, Estelle Incociati (who stays in touch but now lives in California), Jackie LePre

(Jackie Neubauer in 1981) and Andy Tobin. (As I pointed out in my column last month, our Torah, hard as it might be to believe, is even older than Pauline. They were, however, both born in Europe, the Torah in Bohemia, Pauline a few hundred miles away in Romania.)

As I'm sure you noticed from the dates above, our Holocaust Torah became a vital part of KJCC at least a year before our founders bought the little conch house that for years saw every function of KJCC, including services, take place under its sturdy roof. Our Torah preceded the beautiful wooden ark now on our sanctuary bema; in fact, the ark was commissioned in large part to provide an appropriately dignified home for this Torah. It was here to be blessed, and to bless us, almost eight years before KJCC expanded and built the soaring new sanctuary it and we now call home.

Torahs are probably the one aspect of Judaism that have never been modernized. They're a living link to our ancient past. How far back? No one knows exactly, but it's likely that the laws of Moses read from a scroll to the remaining residents of Judah by Ezra the Scribe (who might well have written the document himself) in about 530 B.C.E., after return from the Babylonian exile, bore some resemblance to the scrolls of today. Synagogue design has evolved dramatically. No one in ancient Israel or Judah wore *kipot*. ("Yarmulka" is a Yiddish word, probably not coming into usage for another 1,500 years.) Even the Judaism of the time, that of the Second Temple period, no longer exists. It has been two thousand years since Jewish priests sacrificed animals and performed other sacred rituals. Rabbinism emerged to substitute prayer for animal sacrifice, a very sensible innovation after the Temple had been destroyed, since there was

no longer a consecrated place where sacrifices could be performed. The rabbis made Judaism portable, made it a religion of the heart and not a particular place, and thereby saved it. Yes, it's probable that some revisions and edits continued to be made to the earliest versions of the Books of Moses, but we do know that the rabbis of Yavneh in the first century C.E. closed the sacred writings, excluding anything not written before the Maccabean revolt some two hundred years before. So our Holocaust Torah reads and looks the same as Torahs from about two thousand years ago. Pause and think about that. It's okay to be awed. It is awesome – in this case



**Our Torah lies completely unrolled for inspection on a table in the sofers' workshop. Just by looking, they knew immediately when it was written and even in what part of Bohemia.**

more accurately awe-*inspiring* – that a moral and ethical code promulgated perhaps 3,000 years ago, in a world where cultures actually sacrificed their children to bloodthirsty gods and where the most advanced society on earth believed that their gods came lustfully to earth to rape unsuspecting young girls, has proven, beyond any historical doubt, that ideas and noble yearnings are more powerful than swords. It is awesome that this code came to the first culture on earth to possess a true alphabet, so that their rich and complex ideas could actually be written down, and that what they wrote down is clearly discernable for us to study today. It is awesome that all this emanated from a tiny tribe of desert dwellers who established no great empire and who often struggled to survive under the boots of the long procession of those who did successfully march and conquer. It is awesome that the words of our Torah have had an impact like no other in the arduous process of humanizing and civilizing the earth.

Our Torah was also made exactly the same

way as every Torah from every era. Rules were laid down by the ancients, and never changed, so from that time Torahs have been made according to the same strict practices. Only animal skins are used, never paper, and the animals are specially selected and raised for just that purpose. Sections of the skins are sewn together with very specific techniques, and with special sinew taken from cows. The ink used today is the same as de-

veloped and mixed at the beginning of the Common Era. Only quill pens are used for writing, just as quill pens were used on the first Torahs. No writing or marks can be put down other than the sa-

cred words, yet every Hebrew letter must be perfect, and the rows and columns must be perfectly straight. In its own way, every Torah is a masterpiece of art. Still, our precious Holocaust Torah apparently exceeds many others in beauty. When the *sofers* charged with doing the repairs and restoration first saw it, they audibly oohed and called colleagues to come look. They recognized it immediately as one of special quality and elegance, made during a special period of Torah art in a special region noted for its Torahs of magnificence.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, our Holocaust Torah, Czech Scroll No. 418, will be back at KJCC. That day will probably be one of the most important and inspirational in the history of our synagogue. On that day our Torah will once again be made fully complete and, to give its presence and the prayers that ring out around it even more heft and holiness, once again fully kosher. A *sofer* will be with us at KJCC to effect the completion. He will

not do this in some cloistered, barren room or a basement workshop. He will do this in the full presence of the assembled membership of KJCC. We will all be called as witnesses. We will all be partners in the completion. We will all be able to fulfill the final mitzvah, number 613, which mandates that each of us complete a Torah in our lifetimes. We can fulfill this mitzvah, according to rules argued and refined by centuries of rabbis, through standing beside the *sofer* and gently touching his quill as he completes a letter, a word, or a sentence. I myself have never done this, not yet fulfilled this gentle and profound act of Jewishness. But I've been told that the moment is unforgettable, and – even to those who think they're secular and beyond the reach of religious moments – even life-changing. It's almost as though, for that moment, you are grasping the hands of every Jew who ever lived – the proud, the humble, the martyred, the devout, the unlettered, the acclaimed, the forgotten – in a circle of continuity and warmth, bathed in the light of the noble ideas that our people bequeathed to the entire world.

Every member of KJCC will be welcome to join us on this special day. Each who chooses to be part of the completion process will have a personal discussion with the *sofer*, who will further enrich the moment by sharing learned or mystical significance of the letter or letters you've just helped complete.

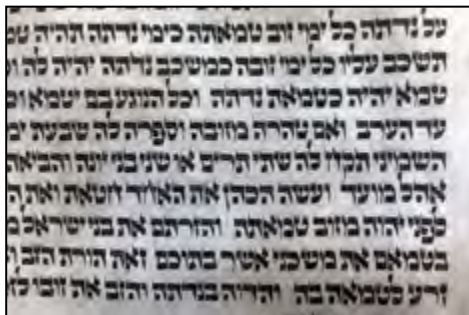
But the day will be so much more than your appointment with the *sofer*. It will be an entire day of celebration, of our Torah coming home renewed and restored and of our deep connection to it and, if those of us doing the planning do a proper job, to each other. The *sofers* call the collection of activities a Torah Project. We will have a number of educational opportunities going on all day. The planning is not complete, but there will be exhibits, and videos, and music, and litera-

ture, and discussions, and workshops. (And, yes, Sisterhood will see to it that there's food.) The *sofer's* company has designed and developed Torah Learning and community-building programs for synagogues and other organizations all over the country. They'll be working with us to develop the perfect combination of activities for KJCC.

It would also be dishonest to imply that the day, and all activities surrounding it, is only to be one of connection, and inspiration, and education, and Jewish joy, and the occasional tear of either remembrance or a fully open heart, though it certainly will be all of that. Though most of my time is devoted to the enrichment of all current experiences for members, part of my job here is to see to the sustenance and future of KJCC. We do need to make sure we have the resources now (and for KJCC's future stewards) to keep the grounds and buildings safe and invit-

ing, and to further develop programs and an atmosphere that make you want to be part of it. Part of community-building is fundraising. We'll be asking those who can to contribute as generously as their hearts move them to. No one will be excluded who can't contribute, but we'll also have a number of ways and categories, so that all can participate. Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to make a commitment. I'm delighted to tell you, with admitted awe, that the pledges and contributions have already begun to pour in.

For many of us, this could well be, without exaggeration, one of the most important emotional experiences of our lifetime. It certainly will be one of the most important days, and activities, in the history of KJCC. We'll be working very hard to make it so, to make it enriching and memorable for all of our members, those we know and love today and those we don't yet know who we trust will follow us in the years to come. ◇



**A sample of KJCC's Holocaust Torah. Note the beautiful, elegant and highly readable text.**





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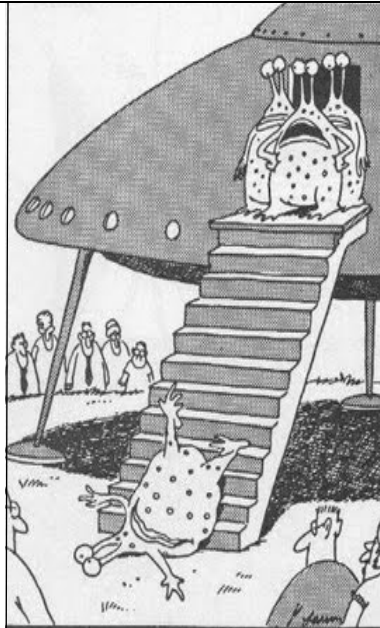
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March 2016

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6 <b>Sisterhood</b> 9:00 a.m. KJCC <b>Board Mtg.</b> 11:00 a.m.	7 Beth Kaminstein Pottery 6-8 p.m. her studio	8 Beth Kaminstein Pottery 12-2 p.m. her studio	9 <b>Itzhak Perlman Concert in Miami</b>	10	11 Joyce Peckman And Susan Ellner Sisterhood	12
13 <b>Holocaust Torah Celebration</b>  All day	14	15  <b>Beware, Caesar</b>	16	17	18 Erica Leiberman- Garrett & Mitch Harvey  <i>Elinor &amp; Herb Grossman</i>	19 <b>Rabbi Agler</b> Torah Learning 10:00 a.m.
20  Film night 7:00 p.m. At KJCC	21	22	23 <b>Purim Megillah Reading</b>  7:00 p.m.	24	25 Medina Roy Jayne Friedman Gloria Avner <i>Lee Schur</i> <i>Jane Friedman</i> <i>Kathy &amp; Joe</i> <i>Shabathai</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31		



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**CHAI-LIGHTS** is the  
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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



So, just what is this thing called Torah, so intrinsically and emotionally associated with the people and religion we call the Children of Israel?

It seems, in form and material, a remnant of an ancient age, the kind of thing one might visit in an air-conditioned museum of cultural artifacts. And so it is. It's written in a language that, except for it, might never have awakened from its coma of some 2,200 years to become once again a vibrant, living voice by which children call their mothers and shopkeepers sell their wares and through which writers expose hidden truths of the human heart. It is not mass-produced, and never has been. The coterie of those permitted to create new copies is small, the rules under which they labor so strict that a new scroll and its roughly 300,000 letters is indistinguishable from one made over 800 years ago, when Maimonides served as physician to Saladin, the great Egyptian sultan and bane of the Crusaders.

We've heard all our lives about being the "chosen people." Yet the sages say that it was only in accepting the Torah that the twelve tribes were truly "chosen." We became a people, and inspired others, when the Torah's high purposes became ours.

Our stories imply that we

were first in the pursuit of social ideals, but history says otherwise. Hammurabi, the great king of ancient Babylonia, decreed his code of laws well before the birth of the man (from Ur, near Babylon) who became Abraham. That code described rules of fairness, and business honesty, and legal concepts such as "an eye for an eye." Perhaps Babylonia was a trial run for G-d. We'll never know. We do know that great empires and great cultures have disappeared, yet our Torah and its ideas live.

Translated, "Torah" doesn't mean "law." It means "instruction," or "guidance." The rules are secondary to the principles. Its passages are difficult, both to understand and to follow; truly brilliant and devoted people spend lifetimes seeking to plumb the meaning of those passages and unearth their deeper truths. There are reasons (tormenting us not among them) why we repeat the same teachings year after year.

So the thing we call Torah isn't really a thing at all, but a miraculous offering of ideas and ethics in the form of a thing. When we hold it we're embracing those ideas. When we open it we're opening ourselves. I hope you'll join us as we celebrate together the return of our precious, restored Holocaust Torah on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

# Nosh

## 2016 KJCC Scholarship Applications

If your child has been part of our KJCC Religious School, is graduating from high school this year, and has applied for acceptance to an institution of higher learning, we encourage you to go to our website: [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com). KJCC scholarship applications are now available. Click on the "School" button and scroll down to "eligibility requirements." If your child meets the requirements, download the application and return the completed form to us by April 1st. Decisions will be made by June and awards given out at the Coral Shores PAC before graduation. We wish our students well, love them, and take great pleasure in giving them an extra financial boost in their freshman year. Past recipients have made us very proud. For questions, call Gene Silverman, 954-562-0888.

## The Next Generation Grows

Stephanie Line Bittner, a member of KJCC's very first religious class, student of Michal Kameley and Bat Mitzvah celebrant here on July 29, 1994 (during a Shabbat service led by George Swartz), has recently given birth to her second son, whose name is Zayne. Our warm congratulations go out to Stephanie, her husband Jim and to her parents John and Arlene Line, long-time members and loyal supporters of KJCC.

### Oneg Sponsors for March 2016

March 4<sup>th</sup> - Steve Steinbock to celebrate his birthday.

March 11<sup>th</sup> - Medina Roy to honor Carl Roy's birthday.

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Elinor and Herb Grossman to honor their family.

March 25<sup>th</sup> - Lee Schur and Jane Friedman to celebrate their birthdays. Joe and Kathy Shabathai in memory of Yakov Shabathai.

## Mariners Hospital Community Health Fair

On March 19th Mariners Hospital will be holding their Annual Community Health Fair featuring free health screenings for blood pressure, vision, glucose, hearing, osteoporosis, cholesterol, oral cancer and breast cancer. Appointments are not necessary for any screening. Fasting is not required for the cholesterol test. In addition, Mariners will partner with the National Kidney Foundation of Florida for a Kidney Early Evaluation Program.

Healthcare information will be available at booths staffed by hospital personnel and organizations such as the Florida Department of Health in Monroe County, AHEC, VNA & Hospice of the Florida Keys, Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition, and SHINE. OneBlood will hold a blood drive. In addition there will be live entertainment and opportunities for lunch. Health fair registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of the Tassell Medical Arts Building on the Mariners campus, MM 91.5. For more information, please call 305-434-3000. Take care of yourself while having fun.

## March 19th Service and Torah Learning

Resident Scholar Rabbi Richard Agler is scheduled to lead a Shabbat service on March 19th, beginning at 10 a.m. Unlike Saturday morning services in many other *shuls*, this one will begin on time, and every minute will be worthwhile. There will be a short service along with always fascinating Torah learning.

## March 29th 7 p.m. Purim Megillah Reading

Share in the Purim celebration Wednesday evening as we read the entire story in English. Since partying on this night is a mitzvah, calories are forgiven; so enjoy ice cream sundaes along with fruit and beverage!

### Yartzeit Plaque

In loving memory of

**Martin Roaman**

6/1/1933 - 6/10/2008

## March Birthdays

1st.....	Sasha Dutton
3rd.....	Louis Ulman
3rd.....	Stephen Steinbock
6th.....	Bea Graham
7th.....	Hannah Feig
7th.....	Toby Goldfinger
9th.....	Pearl Jacobs
10th.....	Kate Horowitz
10th.....	Thomas Davis Smith
11th.....	Bryan Schur
11th.....	Sandy Yankow
12th.....	Barbara Herson
12th.....	Heath Greenbaum
12th.....	Oceana Gross
13th.....	Carl Roy
13th.....	Ira Stein
14th.....	Jenna Lane
14th.....	Randi Grant
14th.....	Seth Horowitz
15th.....	Allan Boruszak
15th.....	Johanna Willner
16th.....	Marsha Harris
16th.....	Steven Nobil
17th.....	Andrew Grant
17th.....	Daniel Friedman
19th.....	Michelle Palacino
20th.....	Janet Palacino
20th.....	Susan Sachs
21st.....	Barbara A. Calev
21st.....	James Nobil, Jr.
21st.....	Joseph Palacino
23rd.....	Ken Atlas
25th.....	Joe Gould
25th.....	Stephanie Coeurjoly
25th.....	Sylvia Berman
26th.....	Anna Verity Greenbaum
27th.....	Michelle E. Denker
30th.....	Roger Dieckhaus
30th.....	David VanArtsdalen
30th.....	Lee Schur
31st.....	Jane Friedman
31st.....	Sari Eliz. Goldstein

## March Anniversaries

		Years
1st	<b>Jerry &amp; Sheila Olsen.....</b>	<b>57</b>
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson.....	20
7th	<b>Joseph &amp; Susan Sachs.....</b>	<b>51</b>
16th	Frank & Gerri Emkey.....	8
22nd	David & Patti Gross.....	19
24th	Joel & Toby Bofshever.....	48

### Childhood Photos Needed

Do you have a cute childhood photo of yourself? In preparation for our March 23 Purim Fest and Megillah reading, Medina Roy is collecting photos for a display. Please email them to her at: [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com). (Yes, they'll need to be scanned and digitized first.) Then plan to join us at KJCC for a good time at 7 p.m. on Purim evening, Wednesday, March 23rd.

### Yartzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory

**Leila J. Horne**

January 15, 1931 - February 10, 1991

### Itzhak Perlman Concert

There may be still some tickets available to the Itzhak Perlman concert "In the Fiddler's House" at the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$86 each plus a \$4 handling fee. Log onto the Arsht Center website at [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org), group sales, and use Promo Code KJCC to order tickets. Contact Mitch Harvey for further information at [harveyaicp@yahoo.com](mailto:harveyaicp@yahoo.com).

### Yartzeit Plaque

In loving memory of

**Eileen Roaman**

3/11/1959 - 8/26/2013

## Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome three new member families to KJCC. Joining us are Jerry and Barbara Herson of Ocean Reef and Bethesda, MD, Suzanne Sigel and William Pomenti of Islamorada, along with their daughter Sydney (who is studying in Miami), and Terry Willner-Tainow and Jon Tainow of Tavernier. We are pleased that they chose to become part of our *mishpacha* and hope to see all of them often.

## The Scubi Jews Return

If you are around KJCC at the end of March, you may see lots of unusual activity. Ten students from Rabbi Ed Rosenthal's Hillel/Scubi Jews plan to bunk in the schoolroom from March 24-April 1st. The plan is for them to do service hours in our shul: helping Medina in the library, Steve in

the garden, and giving the social hall a fresh coat of paint. How fortunate we are to have a younger generation so generous with their time and energy.

## Shabbat Across America– March 5th

We will begin March with a special Havdalah evening in honor of Shabbat Across America, to be held at Linda Pollack's home, co-sponsored by Steve Steinbock, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 5th. Please let Erica know if you will be joining us and what dish you can bring as we bid farewell to Shabbat, You can contact Erica Leiberman-Garrett at [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com).

## Pre-Women's Seder Pottery

Sign up with Beth Kaminstein for Monday, March 7 at 6-8 p.m. or Tuesday, March 8 from 12-2 p.m. RSVP to [bethkaminstein@gmail.com](mailto:bethkaminstein@gmail.com).

# Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from 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.

**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 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.

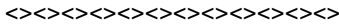


*In Memoriam March 2016*

In Memory Of

**Harvey Roazen**

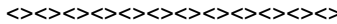
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Robert Berman**

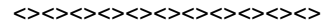
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Dorothy Stanlake**

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

**Robert Kohlenbrener**

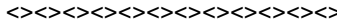
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

**Louis Abraham Weinstein**

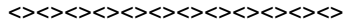
By Dick & Rita Bromwich



In Memory Of

**Hilda Dorf**

By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

**Maurice Field**

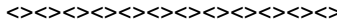
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

**Harry Kaplan**

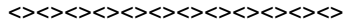
By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

**Maxine Kaplan**

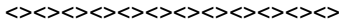
By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

**Selma Elson**

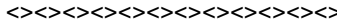
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Lillian Melnick**

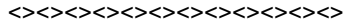
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Stanley Bush**

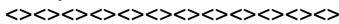
By Andrew & Randi Grant



In Memory Of

**Lillian Grant**

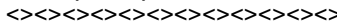
By Andrew & Randi Grant



In Memory Of

**Arlene R. Brenner**

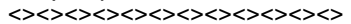
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

**Lee M. Harris**

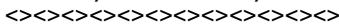
By Stephen & Marsha Harris



In Memory Of

**David Harvey**

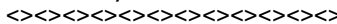
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In Memory Of

**Anna Horn**

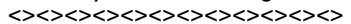
By Susan Horn



In Memory Of

**Harry Phillips**

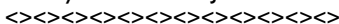
By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

**Eleanor Sonn**

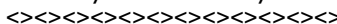
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

**Rachamim Levy**

By Yardena Kameley



In Memory Of

**Monroe ( Monty) Kaplan**

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

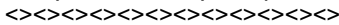


# *In Memoriam March 2016*

In Memory Of

**Luba Tuchman**

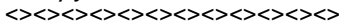
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In Memory Of

**Irving Line**

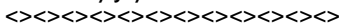
By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

**Dorothy Ross**

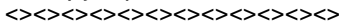
By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

**Leslie Allen Sachs**

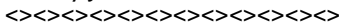
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

**Isadore Seder**

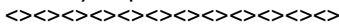
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

**Theresa Steinbock**

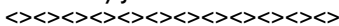
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Alice Weber**

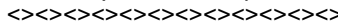
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

**Marian Rose Klimpl**

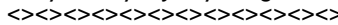
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

**Oscar Margulies**

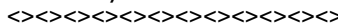
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

**Denise Moss**

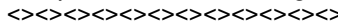
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Nate Schulberg**

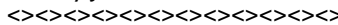
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In Memory Of

**Ida Seder**

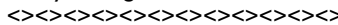
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In Memory Of

**Abe M. Reider**

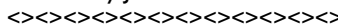
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Deborah Eichler**

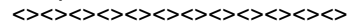
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

**Samual Lieberman**

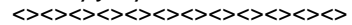
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In Memory Of

**Louis Weinstein**

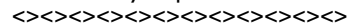
By Jerry & Sheila Olsen



In Memory Of

**Cissie Rose Lang**

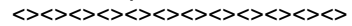
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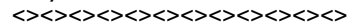
By Lee Schur



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**George B. Sachs**

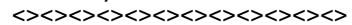
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Anne Temkin**

By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

**Rachamim Levy**

By Yardena Kamely



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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



February is always a fun month at the KJCC. We began with a very productive Sisterhood meeting where we continued to plan our upcoming events and dinners, and transitioned into our new slate of officers. Beth Hayden will be handling our financial affairs as our new treasurer. Marsha Harris unfortunately had to resign after doing a wonderful job as secretary. We will need to have someone new stepping up to the task soon. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming more involved and helping out in any way.

After our February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and the KJCC board meeting, we had the KJCC annual meeting and installation of new officers. I would like to personally thank Elinor Grossman and Nettie Seder who helped get the installation brunch ready. It was a big day with a lot of delicious food prepared by Sisterhood, and a celebration of my birthday as well. Susan Gordon made it extra special with her decorating talents, and the women who made all the food for our three meetings made my day easier. Thank you for all your help, especially Jane Friedman, who continues to shop and prepare healthy, scrumptious food for our gatherings.

We have just finished our annual fundraiser, The Jewish Food Extravaganza. This evening has become a well-attended event, much anticipated by our members as well as others from our community. Many people step up to make this a successful happening. I would like to thank the following people for preparing and donating the food for the event: Linda Perloff for her delicious cucumber salad and rugalah, Natalie and Barry Dorf for the fun hot dog stand, Steve Hartz for the knishes and kishka, Joyce Peckman for the kasha varnishkes, Jane Friedman for the green beans, Beth Hayden for the Sephardic touch with her Moroccan Tangine, and I made the chicken matza ball soup. Roberta McNew prepared the chopped liver, and Susan Gordon, and Gloria Avner prepared the brisket. All yummy!!

I would also like to thank the event underwriters: Linda Pollack, David Goldfinger, Susan Ellner, Lee Schur, The Kaufmans and Terri Trainor, as well as Gene Silverman, who decorated and prepared the gift baskets for raffle. Our raffle baskets were donated by Steve Steinbock, Art Itkin, Sisterhood, Medina Roy, Erica Lieberman-Garrett/Garrett Chiropractic, as well as gifts from supporters: Chef Michael's, Cafe Moka, Num Thai, and Bitton Bistro. Special thanks also goes to Patti Gross for preparing the program, Susan Gordon for the fun *schtick* entertainment, Sydney! Faye Davis and Lee Schur for helping with the raffle, and Donna Bolton for her help with the set up. It takes a village, and we all came together to make this a very successful event.

We will begin March with a special Havdalah evening in honor of Shabbat Across America, to be held at Linda Pollack's home, co-sponsored by Steve Steinbock, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you will be joining us so we can coordinate the food for Linda's house.

As we head into March we look forward to our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Seder on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>, which begins with our pottery sessions with Beth Kaminstein. Each year we add to our collection that we bring to our Women's Seder place settings. Two dates are available for pottery: Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 p.m., and Tuesday, March 8 from 12 - 2 p.m. Please contact Beth at [bethkaminstein@gmail.com](mailto:bethkaminstein@gmail.com) to let her know when you can make it. I would like to thank Beth for her generosity in hosting this lovely activity each year, allowing us some special bonding time. Mark your calendar for the Women's Seder on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and invite your friends who have not joined us before. It is always a wonderful evening. ◇

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## General Fund

Anonymous

Blumenfeld, Marvin & Ivy 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ivy and Marvin Blumenfeld

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Susan Gordon's new grandbaby, Rhett William

Plutzer, Arthur Pauline Roller, Linda Pollack  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren Sincere thanks to Medina and Gloria

## General Fund

Foley, Robert Ruthie Richardson, Paul Charlap, Julian Unger

Foley, Robert Kenny Temkin, Bob Singer, Rosie Biskar, Ron Levy

Peckman, Joyce mother of Barbara Bernstein

## In Honor of

Tzedakah

67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ivy and Marvin Blumenfeld

Susan Gordon's new grandbaby, Rhett William

Pauline Roller, Linda Pollack  
Sincere thanks to Medina and Gloria

## In Memory of

Ruthie Richardson, Paul Charlap, Julian Unger

Kenny Temkin, Bob Singer, Rosie Biskar, Ron Levy

mother of Barbara Bernstein

## Meditation Garden

Fink, Randy & Stephanie

Sax, Stuart & Lauren Loving memory of Carol Steinbock and thanks to Steve

## Sunshine Fund

Sax, Stuart & Lauren Wishing Barbara Knowles a speedy recovery

## Yahrzeits

Emkey, Gerri Robert Kinney and Nathan Weisberg

Forst, Al Lee Forst

Isenberg, Patricia Fannie Phillips

Krissel, Michael Deborah Cannon, Jos. Krissel  
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine Bea Gulkis,

Tallent, Lillian Nat Gulkis, Joan Kaminsky  
Zwerdling, Sherry Morris Estrin

Jerry Oshinsky

## 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.



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## **EYE ON THE ARTS**

### Gloria Avner



*We are at full strength in every dimension; our numbers of KJCC mishpocha, visiting guests, and opportunities for unique cultural experiences here "on the rock" are at their peak. There are concerts, art shows, food events, plays, and talks. Many of these events showcase a performing member of the KJCC or are produced by our members.*

**March 1<sup>st</sup>: OC Times, 2008 International Quartet Champions, a cappella singers -- The last concert of the FLKCA season:** Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. Island Community Church. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Tickets, \$30, are available at the door on concert night or online at [www.floridakeysconcerts.com](http://www.floridakeysconcerts.com).

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> -March 6<sup>th</sup>: (with matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>), Keys Players -- "Shrek the Musical"** : Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> through Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, Coral Shores High School, MM 89.9. Tickets are \$20. The Sunday matinee will start at 2:00 p.m. [thekeyplayers.org](http://thekeyplayers.org)

**March 4<sup>th</sup>: Dave Feder Jazz Trio at Smugglers Cove:** From 7-11 p.m. at Smuggler's Cove Resort & Marina, 85500 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, Bayside. Call 305-664-5564 for details.

**March 7<sup>th</sup> thru March 20<sup>th</sup>: The Art Guild of the Purple Isles 50th Annual Art Show:** Held at the Florida Keys History & Discovery Center, Islander Resort, MM 82.1. This is a unique opportunity to visit the Center free of charge, while viewing outstanding work by local artists (several KJCC members included). The new larger venue allows expanded offerings in oil, watercolor, acrylic, sculpture & other media. Call 305-451-2726 for information.

**March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> : Woofstock 2016:** Held at Founders Park, MM 87, Islamorada. Two days of Peace, Paws & Music! **MarrVelous Pet Rescue** invites you to come out for live music, great vendors, fun activities for your dogs and a good time for all! [www.keylargochamber.org/events/Woofstock-2016](http://www.keylargochamber.org/events/Woofstock-2016).

**Pops in the Park -- Florida Heritage:** Free concert March 19<sup>th</sup> by the Florida Keys Community Band. Held in the park at the Murray Nelson Government & Cultural Center MM 102 Bayside, Key Largo from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**March 20<sup>th</sup>: Folk Music Coffee House** at the Civic Club, MM 100, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Great musicians and possibly a talented surprise guest artist from KJCC.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>: 2nd Annual Taste Around the World** at Murray Nelson Government & Cultural Center, MM 102 Key Largo, 6:30p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Six of the best restaurants in the Upper Keys compete for 2016 People Choice Award. Each provides a food tasting; ticket holders vote for the best themed station and food. An auction will take place that includes some fabulous trips! The evening will end with a performance by students from award winning On Your Toes Dance Studio.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>: ICE's Fabulous BAYJAM 22:** Founders Park, Islamorada, noon to 8 p.m. Organizer Dave Feder will present a lineup of almost a dozen national and local musicians in a wide variety of genres. This is an important fundraiser for local students' arts scholarships. Bring a donation of canned food for free entrance. ♦

**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

**ITZHAK  
PERLMAN**  
IN THE FIDDLER'S HOUSE



**Itzhak Perlman: 20th Anniversary of In the Fiddler's House**

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Marking the 20th anniversary of the release of his album In the Fiddler's House, this exciting evening will highlight the collection of traditional klezmer music. Joining Perlman are members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band and other special guests. Experience this exceptional music live on stage, and join us for an unforgettable evening!

**Date:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016  
**Time:** 8: 00 pm  
**Location:** Adrienne Arsht Center - Knight Concert Hall  
**Contact:** Mitch Harvey (303) 521-5240, harveyaicp@yahoo.com,  
for further information about tickets or carpooling.

Please follow these steps to order tickets. Log onto [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org). Go to the Itzak Perlman page by way of the Events Calendar for March 9th, enter Promo Code KJCC and click Apply, then click on Buy Tickets. On the Buy Tickets page, click on Choose Best Available Seats, click on Orchestra Circle, select the number of tickets, and then click on the Reserve button at the bottom of the page. This will assign seats to you in our reserved section. Tickets are \$86 + \$4 handling = \$90. Then buy and enjoy!

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### “That’s What G-d Wanted

A Holocaust survivor living in Haifa is currently believed to be the oldest man in the world. Yisrael Kristal, 112, now owns the title following the recent death of Yasutaro Koide of Japan, who was also 112. The *Gerontology Research Group*, an international organization that tracks individuals over age 100 worldwide, notified Kristal’s grandson that the Polish-born Auschwitz survivor was up for the honor. However, in order for it to be official, Kristal must present documentation from the first twenty years of his life. (At the time of this writing, Kristal’s earliest official document is from when he was 25). Kristal was born in the town of Zarnov in the Lodz province (now Poland) in 1903. His father was a Torah scholar. Kristal married, had two children and started a successful chocolate and candy business. He was permitted to continue operating the business after the Nazis forced the city’s Jews into a ghetto, where his two children perished. He and his wife were deported to Auschwitz in 1944 following the liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto. His wife died there but he survived doing forced labor. After the war, Kristal returned to Lodz and re-established his sweets factory. He remarried in 1947, moved to Haifa with his second wife and son in 1950 and worked again as a confectioner. He has been an observant Jew his whole life. “He believes he was saved because that’s what G-d wanted,” his daughter Shula Kuperstoch said. “...he believes everything has a reason in the world.” ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 1-21-16)

### “There is Room for Everyone...”

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Israel’s *Knesset* took the first step in an historic, ground-breaking agreement to honor religious plurality by approving the creation of an enhanced egalitari-

an prayer space for non-Orthodox Jews at the Western Wall (the *Kotel*) in Jerusalem. While the Orthodox sections (one for men, one for women) will continue to be under the supervision of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, the new pluralistic site will be maintained by a non-Orthodox governance committee chaired by Natan Sharansky, head of the Jewish Agency for Israel, along with representatives from the Reform and Conservative movements both in Israel and North America, plus *Women of the Wall* – an activist group that has been working for women’s prayer rights at the *Kotel* since the 1980s – and others. “It is a statement that at the holiest site in Judaism there is room for everyone no matter what your beliefs or what your practices are,” said Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

([www.reformjudaism.org/blog](http://www.reformjudaism.org/blog) 1-31-16)

### Attention Travelers!

*NUA Robotics*, an Israeli start-up company, recently unveiled a prototype for its robotic suitcase. The luggage uses Bluetooth technology to sync with a smartphone app, locate its owner and follow along, leaving the owner hands-free. The suitcase also features an anti-theft alarm, a USB port for charging devices and can send real-time data, including its weight and location, to the app. *NUA* unveiled the product at the *2016 Consumer Electronics Show* in Las Vegas in early January. Of the thousands of companies at the annual show, *NUA* ranked an impressive 323, placing it within the top 92 percent of all the companies in attendance. The suitcase is still in its preliminary developmental stage. The Jerusalem-based company hopes to have the product available within a year.

([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 1-9-16)

### **“With Me Here Are 6,000 Accusers”**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, in honor of *International Holocaust Remembrance Day*, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin released a letter written in 1962 by Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the Nazis’ “Final Solution” to the Jewish problem. Eichmann’s hand-written letter was addressed to then-President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, asking him for a pardon. The letter was dated two days before his scheduled execution. Eichmann said he was a “mere instrument “of leaders responsible for the killing of six million Jews in World War II. “The judges made a critical mistake when assessing my personality, because they cannot place themselves in the time and situation I was in during the war years,” Eichmann wrote. “A line must be drawn between the leaders who are responsible and people like me, who were forced to be tools by the leadership. I was not in charge of things and therefore I do not feel that I am guilty. And I ask you, honorable president, to use your right of pardon and order that this death sentence not be carried out.” Ben-Zvi of course rejected the request. Also released for public display is the hand-written text of then-Attorney General Gideon Hausner’s opening statement at the trial. “When I stand before you, judges of Israel, to lead the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, I do not stand alone. With me here are six million accusers. But they cannot rise to their feet and point their finger at the man in the dock with the cry ‘J’accuse!’ on their lips. For they are now only ashes – ashes piled high on the hills of Auschwitz and the fields of Treblinka and strewn in the forests of Poland. Their graves are scattered throughout Europe. Their blood cries out, but their voice is stilled. Therefore will I be their spokesman. In their name will I unfold this terrible indictment.” Eichmann’s letter will be placed on display at *Yad Vashem*, Israel’s Holocaust memorial, along with clemency letters from his wife and five brothers. Eichmann was found guilty of crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes against the Jewish people. He is the only person to have been executed by Israel since its founding in 1948. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 1-27-16)

### **Top Prize at Sundance**

“Sand Storm,” a film by Israeli director Elite Zexer, won the *World Cinema Dramatic Grand Jury Prize* at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah at the end of January. Zexer’s feature-film debut is the story of a Bedouin woman forced to welcome her husband’s second wife and how she copes with her own rebellious, educated daughter. The movie had its European premiere at the Berlin Film Festival in mid-February. The film “Weiner,” about disgraced New York politician Anthony Weiner, received the *US Documentary Grand Jury Prize*. The Sundance Film Festival was founded in 1985 by actor/director Robert Redford to showcase independent cinema. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 1-31-16)

### **In Memoriam**

-Abe Vigoda, the actor best known as the never-smiling, hunched-over Detective Fish on the TV sitcom “Barney Miller,” passed away at the end of January. He was 94. Although he had a lengthy stage career – among others, Vigoda acted in the 1968 Broadway production of the Holocaust drama “The Man in the Glass Booth” and he was in the cast of “Inquest,” a 1970 documentary play on Broadway about the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Vigoda became famous in “Barney Miller” when he was already in his fifties. The son of Jewish immigrants from Russia, Vigoda earned praise for his role as Salvatore Tessio, the Italian gangster who betrayed Michael Corleone (played by Al Pacino) in “The Godfather.” (*The Forward*, 1-26-16)

-Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, influential thinker in Reform Judaism, prolific writer, philosopher, scholar and longtime faculty member at Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion’s New York campus, died in January at age 91. He is known largely for his work on Jewish theology and ethics and was one of the leading figures in the movement of post-modern Jewish philosophy and theology. Born in Columbus, Ohio, Borowitz served as a U.S. Navy chaplain in the Korean War and as national director of education at what is now the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). Rabbi



Rick Jacobs, current president of the URJ, described Borowitz as a “larger-than-life figure in postwar Judaism,” saying Borowitz’s “impact on generations of rabbis was immense” – including KJCC’s very own Rabbi Richard Agler – and that he was the “embodiment of a rabbinic sage.” Borowitz won the *National Jewish Book Award* in the category of Jewish thought in 1974 for “The Mask Jews Wear.” He was the founder and editor of *Sh'ma, a Journal of Jewish Responsibility* in 1970. He was its publisher and editor for twenty-three years. *Sh'ma* provided a forum where voices from all segments of the Jewish community could be heard on a wide range of controversial topics.

([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) 1-30-16)

-Marvin Minsky, pioneer of artificial intelligence whose work helped inspire the creation of the personal computer and the internet, died at the end of January. He was 88. A revered computer science educator at MIT, Minsky, as far back as the 1950s, demonstrated the possibilities of imparting common sense reasoning to computers. According to one of his colleagues, Minsky “was one of the very few people...whose visions and perspectives liberated the computer from being a glorified adding machine to...realize its destiny as one of the most powerful amplifiers for human endeavors...” Fascinated by the mysteries of human intelligence and thinking, he saw no difference between the thinking processes of humans and those of machines. In 1959, Minsky co-founded the M.I.T. *Artificial Intelligence Project* – later the *A.I. Laboratory* – with his colleague John McCarthy, who is credited with coining the term “artificial intelligence.” The lab would have a major impact on the modern computing industry. The idea that digital information should be shared freely came from the lab and it was a part of the original ARPAnet, the forerunner to the internet. Minsky also excelled in many areas outside of science. While earning a degree in mathematics at Harvard, he studied music and was an accomplished pianist. Minsky earned many honors, most notably the Turing Award, computer science’s highest prize, which he received in 1969. Born in New York

City, Minsky’s father was an eye surgeon and chief of ophthalmology at Mount Sinai Hospital. His mother was a social activist and Zionist. After a stint in the Navy during World War II, he earned a Ph.D in math from Princeton. Minsky’s courses at M.I.T. attracted several generations of graduate students, many of whom went on to become computer science superstars themselves. Film director Stanley Kubrick sought Minsky’s expertise while preparing to make the 1968 science fiction film “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 1-25-16)

### Did You Know...

- Apple’s voice-activated personal assistant SIRI has learned Hebrew. “She” is now available in over 30 languages; Hebrew was added in February. The Hebrew version of SIRI (an acronym for “Speech Interpretation and Recognition Interface”) comes with the new iOS 9.3 operating system. There are still things that Hebrew SIRI cannot do, but it’s hoped the final version will fix that.

([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 1-13-16)

-Israel’s Dead Sea recedes by roughly three feet each year due to water being diverted from the Jordan River due to industry and farming. This past December, Israel and Jordan proceeded with plans to build a 112-mile pipeline to pump in briny water from the Red Sea. (*TIME Magazine*, 2-8-16)

-A ten-day, first-class voucher for a trip to Israel is among the gifts that were offered in this year’s Oscar gift bags, which were distributed to 26 Oscar nominees in the top film acting and directing categories as well as to the presenters. The voucher – worth \$55,000 and the most expensive gift in the bag – is courtesy of Israel’s Tourism Ministry. Each voucher covers the price of an all-expenses-paid luxury ten-day trip for two. According to Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, the purpose of the gift was to allow Hollywood celebrities to “experience the country first-hand and not through the media.” (The gift bags, which include several other extravagant goodies, have a total value of \$200,000.)

([www.thedailybeast.com](http://www.thedailybeast.com), 2-5-16) ♦

Keys Jewish Community Center  
**13th Annual  
Women's Seder**

Sunday

April 10, 2016

5:00 PM @ KJCC

Homemade Seder Dinner  
w/Wine

Come celebrate the 13th  
Women's Seder

Donation: \$18 chai  
+ \$13.00 for 13 years =  
\$31.00

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

Limited seating - Please RSVP by  
April 6th

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett  
[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com),  
(305) 393-1182



# Sights, Sounds, Smells: *Israel 2015*

by Shirley Miller Stein, MSW

**W**hen my husband Ira and I took our first trip to Israel in 1970, we were part of a 25-member synagogue group led by a Conservative Rabbi. We stayed in hotels, toured, took photos galore and enjoyed the camaraderie of other Americans. We have since returned many times, but this year our trip was different. With one grandson, 20-year-old Gabi, serving as driver of the mighty Merkava III tank with the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) stationed in Hebron, and another, 18-year-old Akiva, studying in Raanana, and worried about two sick friends, our reasons for heading to Israel were primarily emotional.

Many folks tried to discourage us. We were warned to stay in hotels, take taxis, avoid crowds, cafes and shopping malls and stay alert. Instead we spent our two weeks in a rented apartment in Tel Aviv, took buses everywhere, shopped at the bustling *Shuk HaCarmel* (the outdoor market) and ate like locals. Result? We enjoyed this trip as our most festive, fattening and fun trip ever!

Of course we loved seeing our grandsons. Unfortunately while they were visiting, Gabi's friend Muti was knifed in the neck, miraculously escaping instant death. The boys visited him at Tel Hashomer Hospital. Always the "life of the party", Muti, despite serious injury, had been able to survive, kill his assailant and still tell dirty jokes from a hospital bed....Israelis!

To usher in Chanukah, *Chabad*, the Hasidic sect that reaches out to Jews almost everywhere, sent three trucks bearing huge menorahs down our street. The eight-day sea of lights had begun! One of our sick friends was



**Shirley and Ira found everything they needed at Tel Aviv's Shuk HaCarmel.**

well enough to host a lively party in their Jerusalem home, replete with many grandchildren, lusty singing, games, tons of sizzling potato latkes, and mounds of *Sofganiot* (Israeli jelly donuts). We enjoyed ourselves and took the bus "home."

When we arrived at the boisterous six level bus terminal in Tel Aviv, Ira suddenly realized that his red mesh camera bag was missing. We scrambled to retrace our steps. We scurried up and down stairs and escalators, finally giving up hope. What were the chances of someone who noticed the bag not grabbing the loot? Most upsetting was the possible loss of prized photos. Disheartened and exhausted, we dragged ourselves to the bench near where we had originally gotten off. There a middle age man with a British accent, who was in the midst of writing a note complete with his cell number, greeted us. He had planned to take the bag home and await a call from the distraught loser. Ira couldn't stop smiling when he saw his trusty

bag intact! The man rejected a hefty reward, wished us a hearty “*Chanukah Someach!*” and we were all on our way home. *Nes gadol* (miracle!) As we hopped on the last #4 bus to our apartment at 11:30 P.M., we were greeted by the sole symbol of Christmas; a gap-toothed Moroccan driver bedecked in a jingly Santa hat!

Despite the horrendous political uncertainties, Israelis remain a fiercely optimistic people. In 1970 Tel Aviv's “Sholom Tower” was the tallest building; now many others tower over it. Gigantic structural cranes abound. Large-scale renovation is evident everywhere. We saw men working on roofs long after daylight, floodlights in tow.

When we walked to *Shuk HaCarmel* for our daily food fix, vendors screamed out bargains as customers *shlepped* huge shopping bags and carts packed with goodies galore. Succulent red, yellow and purple tomatoes shared stalls with shiny eggplants, crunchy cucumbers,

juicy oranges, pomegranates, Turkish *Halvah*, jellies rolled in pistachios (flies are free!), warm crusty breads, Lake Kinneret fish, sandals, cheap lingerie, Judaica, etc. If you dreamed of eating, wearing or owning it, just look-- it's all there! Don't be shy; make an offer!

A favorite place to shop for *Shabbat* is a popular take-out restaurant which converts to a super “take-a-way”: Here's a mind boggling array of chickens, *kugels*, stuffed veggies and “sides” from Germany, Ethiopia, France, Yemen, Morocco, Italy, Spain et al. Whether you hail from Israel, the U.S., Russia, Nigeria, Greece, Turkey, South America or anyplace



**Chabad trucks bring Hanukkah music to the already crowded streets of Tel Aviv.**

else, these kosher delicacies will nuzzle your nose, bedazzle your eyes and tempt you to

buy twice as much as you need. We enjoyed tangy leftovers for a week following our first purchase. We *fressed* on an international panoply of flavors and textures.

Each morning at 5:30 a.m., Ira walked to an Orthodox synagogue on Ben Yehuda St. By



**Ira went fishing (but not catching) in Jaffa with son-in-law Perry and grandsons Akiva and Gabe.**

6:00, the required *minyan* was ready to start the day; the rest arrived soon afterwards. For latecomers there was another *minyan* at 7:00. It is comforting for Jews from all over the world to *daven* together, despite language and cultural differences, with prayers of praise, peace and thanksgiving to G-d, for sustaining and preserving our ancestral home. ◇



# Photo Gallery



Meredith Cline celebrated her birthday on January 22nd by ably leading the service and delivering an exuberant *dvar* (Torah speech). Richard Wolfe's spirited drumming kept us upbeat and on beat. The yummy, gorgeous birthday cake Meredith provided was decorated with an edible photo of one of our sanctuary's stained glass panels, the one for the tribe of Zebulun.



Above and right, Rabbi Agler is shown leading a Torah service on January 23rd. Holding the Torah is Keith Peckman, assisted by 7-year-old daughter Libby. Having flown in on one of the last flights out of New Jersey before the blizzard, they had a lot to be thankful for. Scott Pearl is also assisting.

## Mosaic of the Keys

If you visited the 24-foot-long mural that was on display last month at the Murray Nelson Center, and currently (until March 7) at Ocean Sotheby Gallery in Islamorada, you will find these six-inch painted squares contributed by our own KJCC artists Geri Smith, Gloria Avner and



more than just a fund-raiser for children's art programs. This is run through the Council of the Arts, giving grants to local artists working with the community. I look forward to creating some-

thing beautiful and Keys-inspired each year. The mosaic travels from Key Largo to Key West with various stops along the way. It is then



Natalie Dorf. Four hundred professional and amateur artists created these tiny canvases, and included a personal statement giving insight into the work .

Natalie said, "Art in the Keys is inspired by so many things....The Mosaic project is an annual call to artists to help raise funds for



taken apart and individual paintings are sent to our pre-paid patrons, who are supporting those same projects."

It was fun searching the wall for their work. Perhaps next year more of us can join the mosaic, or create our own at KJCC. ♦



February saw services rich with multiple contributing leaders and oneg celebrations. At far right, Susan and Gloria added joyous music to the service led by Joyce. The oneg celebrated Erica's birthday. Below, Beth Hayden and Linda Pollack led the Feb. 12th service, with Meredith Cline providing a poetic and theatrical *d'var*.



At right and below, photos of KJCC volunteers on FLKCA concert night with Pauline and pianist.



Say Hello to this year's KJCC officers and board members (below), duly installed by Muriel Swartz (left) during the annual meeting on February 7th. Not shown is the delicious lunch Sisterhood provided afterwards.

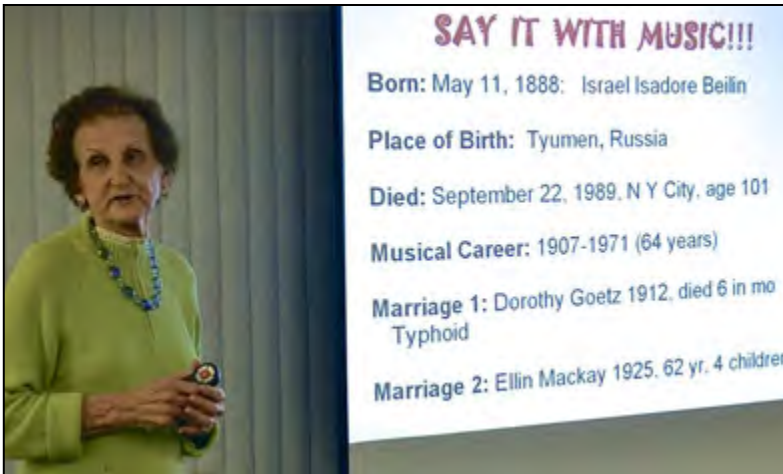


## Adult Education



At left and below, Yardena Kamely teaches intermediate/advanced *Ulpan* (Hebrew language learning) on Fridays from 11:30-1 p.m. We learn new words and pull (from the recesses of our brains) vocabulary learned decades ago. There are no textbooks — just snacks, dictionaries and interesting conversation around a topic of the day. James Brush pays rapt attention, at left. Beginners learn on Sundays from 12-1:30 p.m.

**KJCC offers many opportunities to exercise your mind and keep those brain cells working. Language study is but one of them.**



Shirley Stein treated us to a fascinating lecture and PowerPoint presentation about the life and music of Irving Berlin. We love him for “God Bless America” and a host of romantic and bawdy songs. Thank you, husband Ira, for preparing the musical array of selections from Berlin’s 100th birthday tribute on YouTube.



# Double the Joy, Double Adar

## Happy Jewish Leap Year And Chag Purim

by Gloria Avner

Something special is making 2016 a doubly unique year. Not only is there a once-in-a-four-year cycle extra day in February, but both the secular world and the Jewish people are celebrating “leaps” in the same year. The big difference is that our Jewish calendar needs more than one day. We add a leap *month*, an especially joyful one according to Jewish tradition, since Adar is the month in which we might have been destroyed in Persia but escaped and became jubilant instead.

Thank you, Queen Esther, for foiling Haman’s wicked plot to annihilate us. The script called for the wipeout to occur on 14 Adar, the day Haman chose by casting “lots,” or *Purim*. Make sure to attend our Scroll of Esther reading at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. In round-robin style we’ll take turns telling the story, listening to the *ganssa megillah* (the whole scroll), just as we are commanded to do. We are also commanded to share with friends and neighbors, have a feast, and celebrate our survival, so *mitzvah*-making will be followed with joyful treats of ice cream and trimmings with which to make your own sundaes, fruit salad for the healthy, and, yes, adult beverages. We are commanded to drink enough so that we cannot tell the difference between “Cursed be Haman” and “Blessed be Mordechai,” but we will be responsible.

Primarily known as “people of the book,” we are equally a people of the land and of time. Our tribe has been observing and celebrating the natural world and all its cycles for millen-

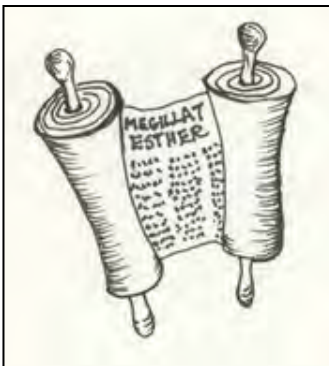
nia. In addition to the secular New Year, Judaism uniquely observes four special New Years within each year (in Nissan, Elul, Tishrei and Sh’vat). Jews also observe more leap years than almost any other culture. In fact, we make seven “leaps” in every nineteen-year cycle – on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>

years, and are one of the few cultures (including Chinese, Hindu, and Persian) to add “leap months” to make up astronomical differences. Our calendar, in addition to its role in setting *yahrzeits*, *rosh chodesh* (new moon) dates, and *parashah* (Torah portion) readings, uses both solar and lunar time-marking systems to insure that we celebrate our core rituals in proper season.

In a Chassidic article on The Sixty Days of Purim, Yanki Tauber talks about how each month of the Jewish year has its own quality. Jewish time is comprised not of days but of months, each possessing a distinct spiritual essence. The “special” days of the year are those on which the particular month’s quality is more pronounced and actualized. Nissan, for example, is the “Month of Liberation,” while Passover (observed on Nissan 15 to 22) is a week-long period within Nissan during which the month’s freedom-quality is more accessible. Similarly, Sivan is the month of Wisdom, Shevat is the month of Growth and Fruitfulness, Elul is the month of Compassion, and so on. Each day of the month possesses the month’s unique spiritual properties, but on some days the quality



rises to the surface and is intensified. This is why many festivals and special dates in the Jewish calendar occur on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month – the night of the full moon, the point at which the



month's essence is in its most revealed and luminous state. Adar is the month of Transformation. Adar transforms sorrow into joy, oblivion into exuberant being, a "scattered people" into a unified nation.

Our tribe has always paid attention to both solar and lunar cycles. It's all about time. We watch the stars, as anyone who has attended one of our short, sweet *Havdalah* services knows. (You have to love a religion that does not put a specific number on the hours necessary to call a day a day. It is enough for us that the day begins and ends at sundown – or once three medium-sized stars are visible in the sky.) We honor our weekdays by naming them solely after their relation to the days of Creation and cessation/rest. We continue to be tied to our agrarian-based earth honoring origins while remaining in tune with the secular world – a necessity in a world where governments have always required the timely

payment of all kinds of taxes.

Hillel and his fellow scholars were so smart. (Credit is given them in the Mishnah). Over all these hundreds of years, their codified system has never needed



more than a few seconds of adjustment. Here's how it works, in simplified form:

Most years, we have 12 months, six with 29 days and six with 30. Accordingly, a non-leap year consists of 354 days. That is eleven days short of the Gregorian calendar around

which the secular world and our date books revolve. What do we do so that we don't get hopelessly behind? We can't celebrate *Pesach* in November or *Rosh Hashanah* in June. We know that our rituals are tied to earth's seasons and cycles. Right now, after the month of *Sh'vat* and our recent celebration of "The New Year of the Trees" (a record number of adults joined our students' favorite ritual of planting trees in our KJCC orchard on *Tu B'Shvat*), we are approximately 30 days behind. At the end of *Sh'vat*, we add an extra month of either twenty-nine or thirty days, depending on which is necessary in order to avoid any fast day occurring the day before or after Shabbat – intelligently avoiding the problem of not being able to cook a meal before or after fasting. We call this extra month *Adar 1*. It is followed by our regular month of Adar, which in this case we refer to as *Adar 2*. All is then in place for us to be in harmony with the energy of the seasons as they relate to our ritual cycles and holy days (until it is time for the next "leap"). Purim is thus celebrated during the second Adar.

According to Jewish tradition, Adar is a lucky and happy month.

In this year of two Adars, we get 60 days of happiness rather than 29 or 30. A leap year is referred to in Hebrew as *Shanah Me'uberet*, a pregnant year. May this leap month and year be pregnant with all kinds of possibilities for us, our families, and the



world community. May it give birth to good fortune, good health, creativity, and a lively shared social and spiritual life among our KJCC *mishpochah*. Give it a head start. Put on your Purim mask and costume. Listen to the tale, spin that *grogger* and stamp your feet. Make a doubly joyful noise as we celebrate one more instance of survival against the odds. ♦

*All illustrations are original artwork by Gloria Avner, and we thank her for them.*

# Have you Ever Written One of These?



**Y**ou're looking at a panel of the newly restored KJCC Holocaust Torah. In the center is the Song of the Sea — Miriam's Song. Just to its right is the section the scribes prepared for us to finish, leaving characters outlined but not filled in. This is so that we, individually and collectively, can fulfill the final *mitzvah* — number 613 as discerned by the ancient sages — that we should each complete a Torah in our lifetime. The rabbis have also decreed that filling in one letter fulfills the *mitzvah*.

This is an experience

that everyone — deeply religious or completely secular — finds profoundly moving. One simply cannot perform this *mitzvah* without sensing a powerful bond with their parents, or grandparents, or forebears from a thousand years ago, or feel a special moment of transcendence. It just happens. The tears are always real.

We still have some time slots available for members, but they're filling quickly. If you'd like to help complete our Torah, please contact Gloria Avner at 305-619-0216 or e-mail at [geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:geetavner@gmail.com). It all happens on Sunday, March 13th, 2016.





# KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder



Saturday, April 23, 2016

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact

Erica Lieberman-Garrett

hippiejap@hotmail.com, (305) 853-1003.

Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116,  
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Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will  
be opening this to the public after April 1st.

Vegetarian options are available - please request when  
making your reservation.

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**Non-Members: \$75**



# Reunion of the Holocaust Torahs

by Gloria Avner

**I**t was a most unusual Valentine's Day 2016. More than a *minyan* of KJCC stalwarts went without chocolate and roses in favor of uniting with our old sweetheart from the small Bohemian village of Susice, Holocaust Torah Scroll No. 418. Her repair and rehab in the skilled hands of our trained *sofers* (scribes) was complete and we were ready to bring her home. It was a reunion on more levels than one.

Welcomed at the door of Hollywood's Temple Beth El by President and prime mover Lynn Strauss, we had the privilege of seeing and interacting with a gathering of Czechoslovakian Holocaust Torahs reunited – an event Lynn conceived of and made happen by years of hard work – for the first time in over seventy years. The last time all these Torahs were together was without dignity in a damp, dark warehouse in Prague, 1938.

For the first time, we of KJCC were able to see our newly rejuvenated and koshered Torah restored to its original beauty, without any evidence of crumbling letters or weakened stitching of the parchment sections made from cowhide. We were shown the section of the Torah our members would have the privilege of “writing” in to make the scroll complete. In the photo you can see the unusual placement of words on the page Rabbi Bialo is showing Susan Ellner and me. That is the clue. You are looking at the distinctively written Song of Miriam (*Mi Kamocha*), from Parashah *Yitro*, and it is beautiful.

This was a Jewish gathering, so of

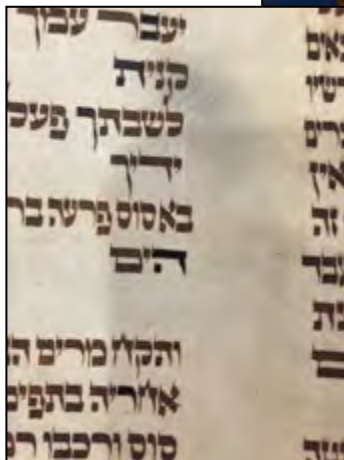
**The passage at right in our Torah is from the distinctively written Song of Miriam (*Mi Kamocha*), from Parashah *Yitro*, and it is beautiful.**

course there was food, but that attraction paled in comparison with the impact of seeing 22 old scrolls, all different in size, style of wood handles (*eytz chayim*—*living trees*), and colorful decorative coverings, lined up on long rows of tables. But this array was much more than just 22 old scrolls. We met 22 *surviving Torahs* on those tables. (And by the time the day was done we had met and made friends with two wonderfully lively human survivors of the Holocaust, one from Auschwitz and one from Buchnwald, whom we have invited to come visit us.)

Each Torah was slowly walked down the sanctuary's central aisle, to then be placed alongside its other surviving siblings on a long table. Steve Steinbock

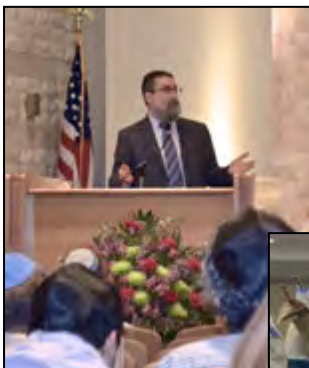


**Rabbi Menachem Bialo, Gloria, Susan Ellner**



was given the honor of walking KJCC's scroll down the aisle, as significant a task as escorting a bride, to the words and music of Naomi Shemer's powerful song “Eli, Eli.” There were tears but also joy. We were celebrating survival, continuity, and hope for the future. We heard

Jeffrey Ohrenstein, Chairman of the Memorial Scrolls' Trust, flown in from London, tell us the story of the curators who had gathered the scrolls from Bohemia and Moravia, packed them up and shipped them to Great Britain for safe-keeping and restoration after the war. There was no way to return them to their original *shuls*, whose congregations had ceased to be.



the scrolls would be lovingly gathered for a celebration reunion in Hollywood, Florida? The magic of the day was



**Steve Steinbeck escorting KJCC's scroll #418 down the aisle.**

Who could have imagined that nearly every one of the 1,500



**Lynn Strauss, president of Hollywood's Temple Beth El, spent two years organizing the day.**

Torahs saved would now once again be living beacons of Judaism, honored and used in congregations around the world, all saying Kaddish for the original owners, or that 22 of



capped by Rabbi Gedaliah Druin's words as he prepared us for the last act of the day - Lynn Strauss would be writing the final

letter in Temple Beth El's own scroll. "It's alive!" he said. "It needs to breathe, every letter needs to be perfect, in exactly the right spot in order for it to function. What would happen if parts of your body were in the wrong place?" And then, on the *bimah*, while Holocaust survivors looked on and grandchildren gaped in awe, the man who'd been a *sofer* for 40 years, and whose son and grandson-in-law have been supervising the reconditioning of our KJCC Torah, picked up his



**Above, Rabbi Bialo lovingly arranges a tallit over one of the Torahs rescued from Bohemia and Moravia, together again after many years.**



**Lynn and Rabbi Gedalia write the final letter in Temple Beth El's restored Torah, above.**

**Lynn Strauss of Temple Beth El with their Torah and Rabbi Gedalia Druin, the founder of Sofer-on-Site, the sofrers (Torah scribes) we also used for the repair of our Torah.**

quill, dipped it in the ancient formula of ink, invited Lynn to hold the feather, and together they filled in the final letter, fulfilling that

Torah's last *mitzvah*. You definitely will want to be there, in our own KJCC sanctuary on March 13<sup>th</sup> (contact Gloria or Sam to make your reservation), when we, too, will have this important emotional and spiritual opportunity. We want to do Susice, the memory of its martyred inhabitants and our own congregation proud, those of our past, present and future. We, too, will sing:

*Eli, Eli, I pray that these things never end:*

*The sand and the sea,  
The rush of the waters,  
The crack of the heavens,  
The prayers of the heart. ◇*



**At left, three generations of sofrim: Rabbi Gedalia Druin, center, with**

**son Moshe Druin at right and grandson-in-law Menachem Bialo at left. Below, 93-year-old Holocaust survivor Willy Behrman asked to hold and embrace KJCC's Torah for just a moment.**







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# From Monaco to Dubai

Gene is our guide as she and Mort cruise the Mediterranean — Part Three

by Gene Silverman

Corsica is not what I had imagined. It is not wild-looking, or at least the port isn't. I realize this large island is part of France, but for some strange reason didn't think it would be so FRENCH! The northern coastal town of Calvi, where our ship docked, is a lovely port town, with all the typical shops one would see in any port town. The day was sunny and lovely, so we decided to just walk around. It is definitely a two-level town, leaving us no choice but to walk along the shore and then traipse uphill before returning to the ship. There were many restaurants along the water; the shops were up above.

Despite our many trips to Europe, this was our first glimpse of Corsica. We would only be here until late afternoon, so we made sure to disembark in mid-morning.

We were on the lookout for anything that would remind Mort of the swashbuckling book he had read as a young



First look at Corsica from aboard ship in the Ligurian Sea.

man – The Corsican brothers. But all we found were restaurants, shops and artists! We hadn't realized that so many artists lived and worked there.

As you can see in the photos it is a bit chilly – when we arrived it was about 45 degrees, with the day's high only supposed to reach 65. To make things feel colder, the winds were 13 knots from the northeast, directly off the water. But, we were prepared – or so we thought. What



Mort (above) and Gene (below) amid the shops and cafés of Calvi, Corsica.



we needed were gloves!

But we did enjoy walking around, and of course treated ourselves to black “T” shirts from Corsica. (And didn’t buy anything else, as the prices were very, very FRENCH!) We didn’t stop to eat, as we had just had breakfast on board and were heading back by lunchtime. Besides, tonight the ship was having what they called the Neighborhood Block Party – which meant that at 6:15 everyone on each floor was to exit their suites to meet their neighbors and wait for the Champagne and *hors d’oeuvres* and to meet the Captain and staff. We had also been invited to have dinner with Geoff Steven at 7:30. He is a fabulous photographer who was onboard as a working guest of Seabourn. If we could stay up, at 9:45 comedian Martin Beaumont would be doing a show in the Grand Salon.

Wednesday we would steam into the Tyrrhenian Sea, an arm of the Mediterranean east of Sardinia and west of the coast of Italy, on the way to Mgarr, Malta.

Oh-oh. A ship’s notice alerted us to rough weather along our planned route, so our itinerary was changed a little. Tomorrow we would be arriving in Siracusa, on the southeast coast of Sicily, instead of some 100 miles to the south in the island nation of Malta.

The sea did get a bit rocky during dinner that evening, but we were fine. I don’t think many of the others onboard did as well as we did, because fewer people were openly enjoying dinner; we were also aware that many had put on patches behind their ears for seasickness.

We arrived in Siracusa around 8:00 in the morning. It is a very old city, colonized by

Corinthian settlers in 734 C.E. It has the narrow streets one would expect. We were on the lookout for the medieval Saint John the Baptist Church, because we had read that there had been an area called Giudecca – Jewish Quarter – dating from 59 C.E. on the same site. A recent discovery had unearthed a Jewish ritual bath there – a mikvah!

So we took off on our own, walking in this ancient city and looking for a street called Via Algona. It was a bit of an adventure, as there were no street signs, but occasionally you would see the street’s name on the cornerstone of a building. But – not all the time. We found the church. But if one perseveres, and looks below to a very narrow entrance that has been blocked off...YES – a mikvah! *Underneath that church.* Our tribe was clearly here, and following the tenets of its faith, about 400 years before Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

There were lots of other things to do, too. We could tour ancient Siracusa, which once had been a powerful Greek colony, or visit either a Sicilian winery with a farmhouse dating back to the Middle Ages or Mount Etna, which is Europe’s largest active volcano.

After traipsing around most of the morning we were tired enough to head back to the ship, and maybe take a nap before the evening’s activities.

Tomorrow we were to land at Gozo, the northernmost of the islands comprising Malta. But after doing research about the island of Gozo we opted not to go ashore. There is one giant Gothic church and a fortress, but since we would only be in this port until



**The mikvah unearthed beneath St. John the Baptist Church in Siracusa, Greece. Jews are said to have lived in Siracusa since the first century C.E.**



**Cannons protecting Grand Harbor of Valletta, the capital of Malta, which is divided into three cities: Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua. The cannons are still fired twice a day, at noon and 4:00 p.m.**

2 p.m. we just stayed put and enjoyed the ship, especially since the weather might be rainy and windy – with 23-knot winds and the temperature only getting as high as 69 degrees. Besides, this evening, at 9:30 there was to be a show put on by all the shipboard singers and dancers, which we were looking forward to. I had booked an arts and crafts tour in which I would learn certain Maltese crafts, but it was cancelled. Seems I was the only person onboard who was interested!

We passed the afternoon listening to Aldon Ferguson give a lecture – or as Seabourn called it, a conversation – about covert operations in Malta during the Cold War.

Then overnight to Valletta. So we'd end up walking around in Malta after all. I also had a particular shopping goal: they are famous for their dolphin door-knockers, which I wanted to explore. Since this is the capital of the island nation we thought it would be very interesting.

Our next stop was in Crete, which is half Greek and half Turkish but is officially part of Greece. The island is extremely hilly, and much is built upon the cities and homes of ancient civilizations. There are lots of cafés and shops. The weather was again cold and windy, but the people were warm.

The next day we would visit Symi, Greece, a small island in the Dodecanese chain just off the southeast coast of Turkey. Symi is reputed to be the birthplace of the Three Graces and takes its name from Poseidon's wife. Pleasant, but not too exciting. That evening we would be having a formal dinner with new friends from England, Linda and Seymour, who we met at our first

**(Right) A typical street scene in Valletta, Malta**

Shabbat service and have been hanging out with ever since. Then back into the Aegean and into the Cyclades islands, to famous Mykonos. We've been there before, but it's so beautiful we're going ashore with Linda and Seymour to see how much trouble we can get into.

I don't need to buy a lot of jewelry any more, but I did find a pair of earrings in Mykonos that fascinated me: a handmade pair of silver earrings made with yarn, string and teeny sequins.

Mykonos has very narrow, winding streets, with whitewashed houses with blue doors. Yes, it is typically splashed with brilliant sun. It was so windy that day that walking was almost impossible except in the narrow alleyways where the wind couldn't reach. The streets were also very, very uneven with pavers of stone, so you had to be ultra careful where you landed with your shoes.

Tomorrow is Halloween and it should be very interesting to see who dresses up, as we will be arriving in Piraeus, Greece. Then, our trip really starts its last interesting phase, as we visit Haifa, where our Israeli friends are picking us up for the day, then Ashdod. Our ship then steams through the Suez Canal and on to Jordan, Oman and Qatar before landing in the Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai. That'll be next month, as we end our journey. ♦







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# *Tu B'Shuat Celebration*

It's not just for children any more. Each year a larger number of adults attend our annual "seder" honoring the birthday of the trees.

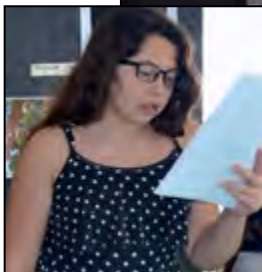
How could you not love a holiday that honors each of the seasons, involves drinking four cups of grape juice, sampling different kinds of fruits and nuts that grow in Israel, and tells stories illustrating our tribe's intelligent traditions around reverence for trees.

It all culminates in a celebration outdoors. We and our children dig, plant, bless, water, and last but not least, we join hands, sing and dance in a large circle around the two new saplings in our KJCC orchard. The adults, parents, teachers, congregants and guests, far outnumbered the children this year, even though we had twelve children in all. And how lucky are we to have two sets of our own twin saplings. ◊

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—Gloria





**This year we celebrated the 15th of Sh'vat a day early, on Sunday, January 24th.**



**Below, the twin sets of grandchildren of Savta Joyce and Savta Yardena, who flew in from New Jersey and Chile to make friends with our own KJCC kids.**



**Sean Kaufman makes an excellent host for his new friend from New Jersey, no?**







**It was a lovely day to dig and dance. If you don't see yourself in these photos, you can resolve to celebrate Tu B'Shevat with us next year.**





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# Chai~Lights



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April 2016

22 Adar II - 22 Nisan 5776

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**Our Torah Celebration Day Revisited - page 23**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Steve Hartz Steve Steinbock  <i>Nettie &amp; Jules Seder</i>	2 Bernie Ginsberg Lecture 7:00 p.m.  Havdalah
3 Sisterhood 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting 11:00 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Joyce Peckman & Art Itkin  <i>Gene &amp; Mort Silverman</i>	9
10 Women's Seder 5:00 p.m. at KJCC	11	12	13	14	15 Erica Lieberman -Garrett and Mitch Harvey  <i>Barbara Knowles</i>	16 Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10 a.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22 Erev Pesach Steve Steinbock & Michael Kaufman  6:30 p.m. Pesach	23 KJCC Family Seder 6:30 PM
24	25	26	27	28	29 Yizkor Service Bernie Ginsberg  <i>Gene &amp; Mort Silverman</i>	30 Last dy of Passover

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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



I have never, I don't think, been mistaken for Voltaire's Professor Pangloss, who despite watching his student Candide suffer an increasing onslaught of Job-like travails, steadfastly insisted on describing ours as "the best of all possible worlds." (Candide did eventually learn the ways of the world, despite the inane prattlings of his teacher, and eventually proclaimed one of literature's most perfect straddlings of blind optimism and cool practicality: "we must cultivate our own garden.")

Still, I feel lucky (despite our own well-documented travails) to be one of the children of Israel, and specifically of the tribes of either Judah or Benjamin, the only two to survive the swords of invading Assyria in 722 B.C.E. (Had the Levites not been spread parasitically throughout all eleven other tribes, they likely would have disappeared, too. They were necessary then.)

I feel lucky that the Pharisees diverged in philosophy and temperament from the priestly and rigid Sadducees, because this prepared them to morph into the rabbis. I feel lucky that Hillel's flexible and broader thinking largely won out over Shammai's textual literalism. I feel lucky that the rabbis sought and found deeper and universal meaning in the passages of

the Torah, so that Judaism became a code of ideas, not rules, and could therefore be portable and fully thrive even after both Judea and the Temple were erased from history.

Gloria and I had, we found (perhaps others did, too) the exact same feeling wash over us when, at his March Saturday morning service, Rabbi Agler lifted our open Holocaust Torah high over his head and held it there proudly. It had been less than a week since our big day of celebration and re-dedication. We had nurtured this wounded (again) Torah, and had it restored (again), and then, all together as one KJCC, helped complete it (again) with our own hands. We had once more (again) fulfilled our covenant with the destroyed Jewish community of Susice. Our Torah – their Torah – lives. They live through it and us. Jewish life continues unbroken. And by breathing new life into this Torah we somehow breathe renewed life into our collective self. Everyone who was there that Sunday felt it. You could see it in their faces, and in tears tenderly rolling down cheeks. You can (soon) read it in words they wrote immediately after their intimate moments beside it. This was what Gloria and I felt, that day condensed into a sudden flash of meaning.

I feel very lucky to have been part of it. ♦



# Nosh

## David Gitin Memorial Award

California's Monterey Peninsula College has created a new award in memory of our own David Gitin. Every spring from this year forward, a deserving creative writing student will be presented with the "David Gitin Memorial Award." This award has been underwritten entirely by instructors at the college where, for many years, David taught Humanities and Creative Writing. He obviously had as much of a positive impact on others as he did here on our KJCC mishpocha. His memory is truly "for a blessing."

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- April 8th* - Gene and Mort Silverman to mark Gene's birthday.
- April 15th* - Barbara Knowles to celebrate Eve and Richard's birthdays.
- April 22nd* - First Night of Passover
- April 29th* - Gene and Mort Silverman in honor of their anniversary.

## April Birthdays

1st.....	Bennet Beinfest
3rd.....	Harvey Kay
3rd.....	Justin L. Lebofsky
4th.....	Larry Weber
4th.....	Lauren Lane
4th.....	Thomas Brodie
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9th.....	Gene Silverman
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10th.....	Addison Greene-Barnett
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13th.....	Eve Knowles
13th.....	Samantha Lebofsky
13th.....	Shawn Borisoff
14th.....	Herman Katzenell
15th.....	Toby Bofshever
16th.....	Dave VanArtsdalen
17th.....	Katie Greenman
17th.....	Susan Ellner
18th.....	Carol Roaman
18th.....	Jennifer Garrett
18th.....	Lauren Sax
19th.....	Augie Moss
20th.....	Jonathan Nobil
22nd.....	Robin S. Denker
22nd.....	Susan Temkin
24th.....	Lynn Nobil
24th.....	Susan Gordon
24th.....	Tiffany McNew
25th.....	Shirley Stein
26th.....	Maryann Boruszak
27th.....	Elinor Grossman
28th.....	Joni Sages Dandrea
29th.....	David Goldfinger
29th.....	Linda Pollack
30th.....	Jason Sherman

### Bon Voyage, Bernie

In April the intrepid Bernie Ginsberg will be leaving to accompany this year's Miami troop on the March of the Living in Eastern Europe as an attending physician. Safe marching, Bernie. We look forward to hearing your stories on your return.

### Lecture by Dr. Bernie Ginsberg

“Unusual Jewish Communities Around the World” is the topic of a lecture that will be given by the ever-ebullient Bernie Ginsberg on Saturday night, April 2nd at 7 p.m. It should be far more interesting and worthwhile than anything showing at the local theatre. Refreshments will be provided before his talk, and we’ll have a Havdalah service afterward.

### This Year’s KJCC Family Seder

For the first time, we will have a professional Cantor — Barry Skolnick, brother of our own Susan Gordon — join our seder leaders. Your check for \$50 per person to KJCC Sisterhood is your reservation for our April 23rd Second Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Children under 13 years old are our guests. RSVP to Erica Lieberman-Garrett ([hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)).

### April Anniversaries

	Years
3rd Jules & Nettie Seder.....	50
10th Stuart & Geri Smith.....	51
18th Rick & Roberta McNew.....	35
25th Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder.....	20
30th Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz.....	9
30th Morton & Gene Silverman.....	61

### Torah Learning Service

Rabbi Richard Agler will lead a Torah Learning Service on Saturday, April 16th at 10 a.m. This is *Shabbat Hagadol*, the Sabbath before Passover, so he will certainly have many interesting topics to choose from. We will be reading from our beautifully restored Holocaust Torah .

## 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.

**ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR:** To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 305-451-0665.

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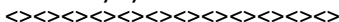
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# *In Memoriam April 2016*

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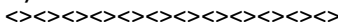
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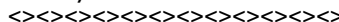
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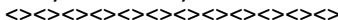
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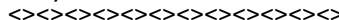
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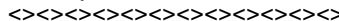
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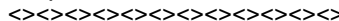
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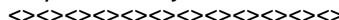
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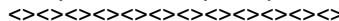
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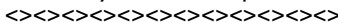
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In Memory Of

**Fred Klimpl**

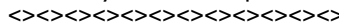
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

**Marilyn Janet Barr**

By Michael Klimpl

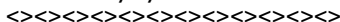


# *In Memoriam April 2016*

In Memory Of

**George Nobil**

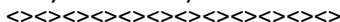
By Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

**Zelda Pearl**

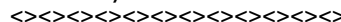
By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl



In Memory Of

**Erwin Moss**

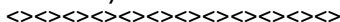
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Dr. Joel Pollack**

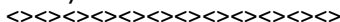
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Rabbi Milton Greenwald**

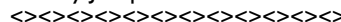
By Paul & Susan Roberts



In Memory Of

**Louise Folks Baker**

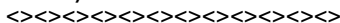
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

**Sam Sax**

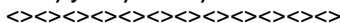
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

**Dolores Feldman**

By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket



In Memory Of

**Richard Schulberg**

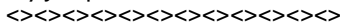
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Sally Shabathai**

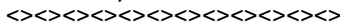
By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai



In Memory Of

**Ginger Lewis**

By Robert Silk



In Memory Of

**Louis S. Smith**

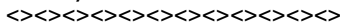
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

**Morris Smith**

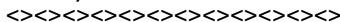
By Stuart & Geri Smith



In Memory Of

**Claire Smith**

By Stuart & Geri Smith



In Memory Of

**Cantor Alex Chapin**

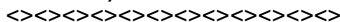
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

**Ida Tallent**

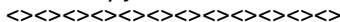
By Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

**Dr. Milton A. Wohl**

By Joan P. Wohl



In Memory Of

**Charles Kram**

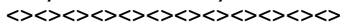
By Sanford & Nancy Yankow



In Memory Of

**Hilda Mazur**

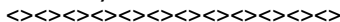
By Sanford & Nancy Yankow



In Memory Of

**Irwin Cutler**

By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

**David Wernicoff**

By Donald Zinner





Keys Jewish Community Center

# 13th Annual Women's Seder

Sunday

April 10, 2016

5:00 PM @ KJCC

Homemade Seder Dinner  
w/Wine

Come celebrate the 13th  
Women's Seder

Donation: \$18 chai  
+ \$13.00 for 13 years =  
\$31.00

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

Limited seating - Please RSVP by  
April 6th

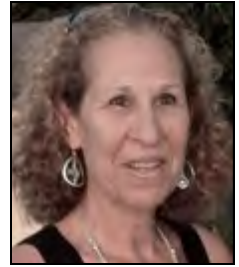
Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett  
[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com),  
(305) 393-1182



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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



I would like to thank everyone who made the Jewish Food Extravaganza such a great success. It takes a lot of time and effort to feed and entertain ninety people. Elinor and Herb Grossman, Donna Bolton, Susan Gordon and Gene Silverman spent many hours setting up the tables.

The event was successful due to the underwriting and sponsorship of Stan Margulies, David and Toby Goldfinger, George and Muriel Swartz, Michael and Lorena Kaufman, David and Patti Gross, Steve Steinbock, Joel and Toby Bofshever, Linda Pollack, Susan Ellner, Lee Schur, and Terry Willner Tainow. Steve Hartz schlepped the knishes and kishka from lands afar, and Marc and Ellen Bloom provided their colorful fruit salad. Linda Perloff brought her cucumber salad and the best rugalahs in the universe, and Beth Hayden added her Sephardic flair with her spicy Moroccan vegetarian and chicken Tagine. Terry Willner Tainow, one of our newest members, jumped right in to help with the set up and make a gigantic garden salad just for Gloria! Joyce Peckman was unable to actually attend the evening, but she is so dedicated to Sisterhood and the shul that her scrumptious kasha varnishkes arrived somehow to the buffet table. Special thanks also goes to Roberta McNew for her incredible chopped liver, Jane Friedman for her green bean delight and all the shopping and schlepping, and to Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon for preparing their special brisket and trimmings for ninety hungry people. There was so much food left over that everyone took a to-go box to enjoy for the next day. We sent home care packages, including matzah ball soup (better known as Jewish penicillin) to those who were sick and unable to make it. (I made the matzah ball soup over two weekends.) Thank you Natalie and Barry Dorf for the hot dog stand and the condiments. They were a much-loved innovation.

We are grateful to Gene Silverman for the festive decorations and for assembling the beautiful raffle baskets, filled by generous donations from our larger community as well as our members. Steve Steinbock provided the beautiful orchid basket that was won by Lorena Kaufman. Art Itkin donated a delicious nut ensemble for the nosh basket that Lee Schur took home to enjoy during the Oscars. Linda Perloff will enjoy her massage and wellness items from Garrett Chiropractic and I will enjoy the lovely Jewish book donated by Medina Roy and the various items from Sisterhood in the Judaica basket. The grand prize restaurant basket had over \$500 in gift certificates from Chef Michael's, Green Turtle/Kaiyo, Bitton Bistro, Cafe Moka, and Num Thai. The lucky winner was a friend and fellow yogi Mary Brill, who was thrilled.

Patti Gross put the program together. Susan Gordon prepared the mini film clips that were kitschy and fun, while Lee Schur and Sydney! Faye Davis sold the raffle tickets and Elinor Grossman helped with the event flow.

Sisterhood is already gearing up for the upcoming Passover season. Our 13th annual Women's Seder will be held on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>. We began preparing for this event by making matzah plates at Beth Kaminstein's pottery studio. I always enjoy this bonding experience that takes our activities outside of the Shul. I especially love when Beth brings our pottery, like "show and tell," to the Seder for us to take to our seats and decorate our tables. We also look forward to the Family Seder at the Is-lamorada Fishing Club on Saturday, April 23rd. It is going to be extra special this year. We will have a guest leader, Cantor Barry Skolnick, brother of Susan Gordon. Look for the full-page ads for these seders later in this issue. ◇

# 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

Willner, Arthur Lee and Johanna  
Love from Elliana & Aaron Willner  
Willner, Arthur Lee and Johanna  
50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary,  
Love from David & Angela Willner

## In Honor of

Grandpa's 90<sup>th</sup>,  
Mom & Dad's  
50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary,  
Love from David & Angela Willner

## Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan  
Coltman, Barney  
Dorf, Barry & Natalie  
Feinberg, Arthur  
Isenberg, Patricia  
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica  
Marmar, David & Pamela  
Olsen, Gerald & Sheila  
Rose, Frank  
Temkin, Robert

Robert Kohlenbrener  
Eve Greenstein  
Hilda Dorf  
William Feinberg  
Harry Phillips  
Sam Lieberman  
Samuel Marmar  
Louis Weinstein  
Cissie Rose Lang  
Anne Temkin

## General Fund

Feinberg, Arthur

## Tree of Life – Rock

Jacobs, Lawrence & Pearl  
Jacobs and Family, Donna, Carrie,  
Robin, and Arlene

## In Honor of

Larry and Pearl  
Jacobs and Family, Donna, Carrie,  
Robin, and Arlene

## 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.

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# YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



## Passover Haggadahs — Ever Evolving

Pesach is my favorite Jewish holiday. I like the family gathering and the special food we prepare together. I like to take the beautiful Pesach dishes out of their boxes, and the collection of *Haggadot* down from the bookshelves. The Seder is a teaching event, and its textbook is the *Haggadah*. This word, which means “telling,” comes from the verse in Exodus: “*Ve’higadeta le’vincha*” – “and you shall tell your son.”

The Haggadah is a compilation of stories, Biblical passages, interpretations, hymns and instructions for conducting the Seder that were written and added to by many people over a long period of time. Parts of the text are over 2,000 years old. The Rabbis say that the Torah is the foundational text for Jewish law, but the Haggadah is our book of living memory. We are not merely telling a story here; we are reliving the past of our ancestors and trying to empathize, connecting their lives with ours. And if we get interested and pay attention, we might see ourselves in the stories; we are each one of the “Four Sons.”

The basic text of the Haggadah was written by Rabban Shimeon ben Gamaliel in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century C.E. The major compilation is believed to have been written by the *Geonim of Babylonia* (great rabbis) in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century. Poems and hymns were added from the 11<sup>th</sup> century on. For a long time, the Haggadah was part of the Siddur. The earliest completed Passover Haggadah text appeared in

the prayer book of Saadia Ben Joseph (also known as Saadia Gaon) of the Sura academy in Babylonia in the 10<sup>th</sup> century C.E. Until the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Haggadot were written and illustrated by hand. The earliest written forms of

the Passover Haggadah text are from 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>-century Israel and are preserved only as fragments. These fragments are mostly found in the Cairo Genizah. (*Genizah* means a hiding place in Hebrew, and refers to a depository for valuable items. The Cairo Genizah was a depository from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries in Cairo, Egypt, and its contents have helped historians and scholars to understand Oriental Jewish life in medieval times.)

The first printed Haggadot originated in Guadalajara, Spain about 1482 and Italy in 1505. The earliest illuminated Sephardic Passover Haggadah

is the opulent Golden Haggadah from Barcelona, Spain, circa 1320.

The best known Hebrew Haggadah manuscript is the Sarajevo Haggadah, originally produced circa 1350 as a wedding gift to a young couple in Barcelona, Spain; it is now in the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo. It reached the Sarajevo museum in 1894 when a child in the Sephardic community in Sarajevo brought it to school to be sold after his father died.

They say that Jews have a special relationship to books, and the Haggadah, which has





been published in over 3500 versions, has been translated more widely and reprinted more often than any other book. Since the introduction of the printing press in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the creativity of Haggadah writers has continued. The need for new Haggadot does not mean that the existing ones are not good. It's about finding new ways to engage everyone at the seder table in the story of *Yetzi'at Mitzrayim*, the story of our long journey from slavery to freedom. Haggadot with commentaries that relate to our conflicts today, to how our world looks and feels, keep

us interested. In modern times; topics have included the Holocaust, the struggle of the Russian Jews and Israel's independence. One of the more practical and interesting modern Haggadot is the one issued by the Israeli army. Incorporating texts from Ashkenazic, Sephardic and Yemenite tradi-

tions, it encourages Israeli soldiers to enjoy the seder together and learn about each other's customs.

The Haggadah has been translated into many languages so that everyone can understand and participate in the Seder. There is a Chinese Haggadah from the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century written on rice paper with a brush pen. It contains instructions in Farsi transliterated into Hebrew letters, suggesting that Chinese Jews got their religious instruction from Persia.

My family has celebrated Pesach in Israel, England, Italy, Chile and the U.S. My grandparents and parents celebrated the seder fol-



**A page from the Sarajevo Haggadah**

lowing the Persian tradition. We, their children, continue celebrating Pesach with the traditional "Persian seder," adding some Ashkenazic customs to it. It is a *mitzvah* to invite many guests, not only family members, but also those people who don't have a home where they can go or don't know how to celebrate Pesach. At my parents' seder, if there were fewer than 20 people, my father was not happy. Wherever we celebrated Pesach, we took our *Haggadot* with us. Each of us had a Haggadah we preferred. My mother used a Haggadah that was written only in Hebrew, with large print for easy reading. My sister and her family read from a Haggadah with English translation. The kids would choose Haggadot with many and colorful illustrations. My children read from the Haggadah with Spanish translation and Hebrew in large print. This year we will gather in Miami -- the whole *mishpoche*, three generations, coming



**Mantua, Italy, circa 1560**

from Chile, Washington, New York and California. What new Haggadot will our "kids" bring with them? *Chag Pesach Same'ach* ◇



**14th Century Germany**

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### Making a Comeback After 2,000 Years

Jenna and Gil Lewinsky, an Israeli couple living on a small farm in British Columbia, are raising an extremely rare breed of speckled, four-horned sheep which they plan to take to Israel. The breed is known as *Jacob sheep*, named for our biblical patriarch, who selected these “speckled and spotted” sheep as wages from his father-in-law Laban in the Book of Genesis. These sheep apparently followed the Israelites to Egypt and then spread across the ancient world. After that, Moorish traders brought them to Spain, where British merchants imported them for meat and wool. The sheep - there are currently only about 5,000 worldwide - have not been seen in Israel for about 2,000 years. According to the *Jacob Sheep Society*, a British breeding organization, the sheep were brought to Canada about 120 years ago. Some were sold to zoos, which preserved the flocks. When the Lewinskys learned that the sheep were long extinct in Israel, they decided to learn how to raise them in order to resurrect the breed and return them to the Holy Land. Getting the animals back to Israel was difficult as Israel’s agriculture ministry at first opposed the plan. But after a push by the ambassador from the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa, the Israeli government agreed. The Lewinskys are preparing to resettle their flock on a farm in northern Israel for educational and scientific purposes. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 3-3-16)

### A National Disgrace?

Willis Carto, 89, a former U.S. soldier who died in October, was buried in February at Arlington National Cemetery. Carto was wounded in World War II in the Philippines and earned a Purple Heart, which qualified him for a military funeral in the cemetery. Why is this story of interest? After the war, Carto became an outspoken Nazi sympathize

er and Holocaust denier. He founded the *Liberty Lobby*, a white supremacist group and the *Institute for Historical Review*, a group that promotes Holocaust denial. (At the height of the *Liberty Lobby*’s popularity in the 1980s, there were 400,000 subscribers to its newsletter.) While veterans convicted of federal or state crimes are ineligible for burial at Arlington, there is no policy prohibiting burial for someone with controversial political views. Rabbi Marvin Heir, founder of the *Simon Wiesenthal Center*, a Holocaust research and awareness organization, said: “For a person who supported a man responsible for the greatest mass murder in the history of mankind to be buried on the sacred ground [alongside] service members who fought to do everything to defeat this man, it profanes the cemetery.” Carto wanted to be buried in Arlington because of the irony given his pro-Nazi views. Marilyn Mayo, spokeswoman for the *Anti-Defamation League* said, “It’s unfortunate that someone with Carto’s views gets to be buried in our national cemetery, but if he meets the criteria there is not much that can be done. The government can’t be tasked with whether or not to bury someone based on their ideology.” ([www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com), 2-17-16)

### “The Perfect Edition of G-d’s Words”

In early February, the *United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO), officially recognized the *Aleppo Codex* and placed it in its *International Memory of the World Register*, a registry of 300 items and collections of unique cultural importance from all over the world. The Codex, believed to be the world’s oldest surviving copy of the Hebrew Bible, is now on permanent display at the Israel Museum in Jeru-

salem. The registry already contains two other items from Israel: the Israel Museum's *Rothschild Miscellany*, a collection of illustrated 15<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts; and the *Pages of Testimony* at the *Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum*, which documents the names and stories of Holocaust victims. The Codex was written in the northern Israeli town of Tiberius around 930 CE and then moved to Jerusalem, where it was stolen when the Crusaders sacked the city in 1099. It was later ransomed by the Jews of Cairo and brought to that city, where it served Maimonides when he wrote the *Mishnah Torah* – his famed compilation of Jewish religious law – in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Codex ended up in Aleppo, Syria, where it was kept for hundreds of years in a dark cave under the city's synagogue. It was smuggled out of Syria and into Israel in 1958. Since that time, some 190 pages of priceless text – around 40 percent of the total – have gone missing. These include four out of the first five books of the Pentateuch (often referred to as the Five Books of Moses) as well as five books from the last section – *Eichah* (Lamentations), *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes), *Esther*, *Daniel* and *Ezra*. "The Aleppo Codex: In Pursuit of One of the World's Most Coveted, Sacred and Mysterious Books," by Matti Friedman – the 2014 winner of the *Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature* – chronicles the full history of the Codex. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 2-9-16)

### It's the Worst in 900 Years

According to recent studies by researchers at NASA, the drought which began in 1998 in the Levant – the eastern Mediterranean area made up of Cyprus, Israel (including the Palestinian territories), Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey – is most likely the worst in 900 years. Some experts believe that this historic drought was one of several contributing factors that worsened the situation in Syria and helped lead to the outbreak of that country's devastating civil war in 2011. This in turn has led to an eventual exodus of millions of people, overwhelming several European countries. The drought has caused widespread crop failure, leading to a mass migration of

farming families to the urban areas and further contributing to political unrest. The authors of the studies claim that the severity of the drought is partly the result of climate change caused by human activity. The NASA's researchers examined rings of trees – both living and dead – across a span of nine centuries in order to study the incidence of drought in the region. Israel has also experienced the same severe drought, but its effects were significantly less due to the country's six desalination plants that produce close to 600 million cubic meters of water, nearly 70 percent of Israel's domestic water consumption. By 2020, the desalination plants should reach a capacity of 750 million cubic meters. The study's lead author Ben Cook, a climate scientist at NASA's *Goddard Institute for Space Studies* and the *Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory* at Columbia University, said that the research supports other studies indicating human causes of extreme climate events. ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), 3-3-16)

### In Memoriam

★ Avigdor "Yanush" Ben-Gal, a hero of Israel's 1973 Yom Kippur War and one of the commanders who helped shape the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), died recently. He was 79. A child Holocaust survivor, Ben-Gal was born in Lodz, Poland. After the Germans invaded, his family fled to Siberia and en route his parents died. He and his sister made their way to Iran and then in 1943 to Israel, part of the "Tehran Children," where a distant cousin raised them. (The "Tehran Children" refers to a group of Polish Jewish children, mainly orphans, who escaped the Nazi occupation of Poland. These children found temporary refuge in orphanages and shelters in the Soviet Union, and were later evacuated with several hundred adults to Tehran, Iran, before finally reaching Palestine in 1943.) Ben-Gal joined the IDF and fought in the Suez War in 1956. He found his purpose in the IDF, rising in the ranks to head the 7th Armored Brigade during one of the most difficult battles in the Yom Kippur War, one that helped block the Syrian army on the Golan Heights. He later led the IDF's Northern Command from 1977

to 1981. Ben-Gal was chairman of the board of directors of *Israel Aerospace Industries* from 1996 to 2002 and served on the board of the *International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism*. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 2-13-16)

★ Douglas Slocombe, acclaimed British cinematographer who filmed the Nazi invasion of Poland, has died at the age of 103. Slocombe was born in London and raised in Paris. When he was 29, he read a headline about the pending invasion and went to Poland where he met up with documentary filmmaker Herbert Kline. The two men traveled around Poland by train at night, once crawling under the train to avoid strafing by Nazi airplanes. Kline used Slocombe's footage in his 1940 documentary "Lights Out in Europe," about the run-up to World War II. Slocombe shot some 80 films; when he was nearly 70, Steven Spielberg chose him to be head of cinematography for his three "Indiana Jones" films. Slocombe was nominated for three *Academy Awards* and was given a lifetime achievement award in 1955 from the *British Society of Cinematographers*. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 2-23-16)

★ Samuel Willenberg, the last survivor of the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland, died in Israel in February. He was 93. Willenberg was sent to Treblinka when he was 19. He was one of the leading members of the underground revolt by the camp's prisoners in 1943, opening fire at Nazi SS forces, setting parts of the camp on fire and storming the fences. Some 200 prisoners took part in the revolt and most were killed. Willenberg – one of just 67 men known to have survived the revolt – managed to escape, later joining the Polish partisans and participating in the *Warsaw Uprising* in 1944. His parents (his mother converted to Judaism from Orthodox Christianity before he was born) survived the war by pretending to be non-Jewish Poles but his two sisters were murdered at the camp. Willenberg moved to Israel in 1950. He dedicated the rest of his life to preserving the memory of more than 875,000 people murdered at Treblinka in a one-year killing spree at the height of World War II. Later in his life, he began sculpting bronze figures describing

what he saw at Treblinka. According to Gideon Greif, chief historian of the *Shem Olam Institute*, Willenberg "was committed to making sure that the voices of the victims were not forgotten." More than 70 years after the war, some 180,000 elderly Holocaust survivors live in Israel, with a similar number worldwide. More than 1,000 die each month. Experts predict that within seven years, none of them will be able to share anything of significance. (For the full story of Samuel Willenberg, look for the documentary film "Treblinka's Last Witness," in the KJCC library. It was presented at the KJCC in April 2015 to commemorate *Holocaust Remembrance Day*. ([www.worldjewishcongress.org](http://www.worldjewishcongress.org), 2-21-16)

### Did You Know...

★ Israel's *Science and Technology Ministry* has signed an agreement with the *California Institute for Regenerative Medicine* (CIRM) for research in the field of biotechnology, focusing on stem cell research. Adam Milstein, chairman of the *Israeli-American Council*, said the organization is "excited by the opportunity to promote one of the most pressing issues facing humanity." ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 2-10-16)

★ Billionaire businessman and philanthropist David Rubenstein has donated \$18.5 million to repair and restore Washington, D.C.'s Lincoln Memorial. In the past few years, Rubenstein, co-CEO of *The Carlyle Group*, has donated over \$35 million dollars to repair national parks and historical institutions, among them the Washington Monument, George Washington's home in Mount Vernon, the Robert E. Lee Memorial and the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (more familiarly known as the Iwo Jima Memorial). According to *Forbes* magazine, Rubenstein, 66, of Bethesda, Maryland is worth \$2.3 billion. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 2-16-16)

★ The editors of *Vulture*, the culture section of *New York* magazine, recently compiled a list entitled "The 100 Jokes That Shaped Modern Comedy." The list is dominated by Jews, in spite of the fact that members of the tribe make up just two percent of the population. Jews were responsible for about 50 of the top 100 jokes. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 2-3-16) ◇



# Photo Gallery

Our movie series begins. “The Gatekeepers,” the riveting, award-winning documentary featuring the past six leaders of Shin Bet, Israel’s internal security service, was shown on Feb. 21st. After the film, Rabbi Agler led a thoughtful discussion, shown at right.



Below and right, Rabbi Agler’s Saturday morning Torah learning service on February 27th. We used our not-quite-finished Torah, glad to have it returned from restoration.





**Sunday School students, parents and grandparents practice saying Kiddush after baking hamentaschen under the guidance of Nettie and Jules Seder. At left, Steve Steinbock sponsored an oneg in honor of his birthday.**



**At right, the walking wounded make it to Friday night services. Not shown are the canes and walkers used by Humberto and Medina. Joyce's nose is pretty obvious. At bottom right, Patti Gross welcomes Rabbi Ed and Mindy Rosenthal to the gala benefitting the Coral Reef Foundation.**



**Above, fressers take a break from the Jewish Food Extravaganza on Feb. 28th to watch comic film clips about Jewish eating before returning to the social hall for ... dessert.**



# Shabbat Across America

KJCC celebrated “Shabbat Across America and Canada” with a Havdalah service at the home of Linda Pollack. At right, Susan Ellner and Lee Schur point to the KJCC name listed on the poster along with hundreds of other participants from across the continent.



At right, Muriel Swartz and hostess Linda Pollack enjoy a joke and a nosh. In the center, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, who drove in from Tampa with his wife Mindy, started off our evening with an enthusiastic lesson. Just below, our two Mindys married to rabbis finally had a chance to meet.



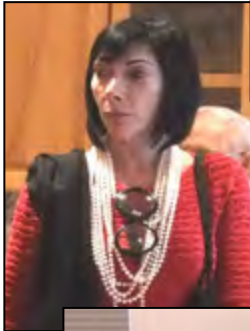
A smiling Mindy Agler shows her knitting — a blue baby blanket — to Mort Silverman. Below, Herb, Elinor and Erica were the evening’s Canadian contingent.



At left, Linda Perloff and Mitch Harvey enjoy a bit of Shabbat relaxation before the Havdalah service.







**We bade farewell to Sabbath with food, drink, song, flame, wine, sweet-smelling spice, and a birthday cake for Steve Steinbock.**





# Playing With Clay for Passover



Every year for the last thirteen, our Keys Jewish Community Center women have been meeting and making ceremonial pieces for the special Women's Seder that precedes Passover.

Friendships deepen as our hands get muddy, and gentle Beth Kaminstein encourages our creative efforts. This year the project is matzah holders. They will be fired and glazed, then

rest alongside our candleholders, wine goblets, soup bowls, and Seder plates on April 10th as we celebrate and honor one special woman among us. Bring your friends and best food. Co-ordinate and RSVP with Erica Lieberman-Garrett.

We are committed to repairing the world. As usual, all profits will go to agreed-upon charitable causes that work for the good of women and children. Be with us as we sing our favorite song, "Dayenu," catch up with old friends, embrace our creative selves, and enjoy the most delicious meal as we advocate for justice, peace and freedom throughout our world.

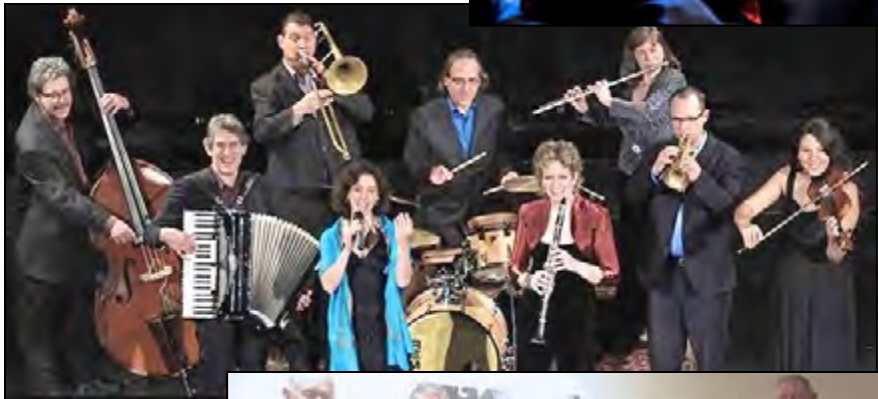
- Gloria

# Itzhak Perlman Concert

We made the pilgrimage to the Arsht Center's Knight Hall to hear and see famed violinist and cultural icon Itzhak Perlman, but found much more. Perlman is celebrating the year of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by giving himself a good time. He was clearly relaxed, sporting a red tunic rather than a tuxedo, joking with the lighting crew, his fellow musicians and the audience.



I had seen him perform before, both live and on PBS, but this was special. On stage with him was Andy Statman, the acclaimed mandolinist and clarinetist, whose CD "Between Heaven and Earth" was chosen as one of the top ten of the year by the New York Times. Together they did a "dueling strings" - mandolin versus violin - that blew us away.



Joining these two greats on stage were vocalist, accordionist and violinist Michael Alpert (yes - he is all three), who provided the running commentary, and the Klezmer Conservatory Band. Singer Judy Bressler, one of the band's founders, could have been a star in her own right. The clarinetists made their small instruments perform powerful, evocative magic. At the end of the night, Itzhak Perlman asked that the house lights be turned on so that the audience could dance at their seats, and so we did! - Joyce







# KJCC Meditation Garden

**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](http://keysjewishcenter.com).



# Kosher for Passover?

by Joyce Peckman

Passover was always the time for spring-cleaning in my kitchen. Cupboards, refrigerator and freezers were cleared out and washed down. Open boxes and jars along with year-old frozen no-longer-edibles were tossed; anything sealed that was not kosher for Passover was donated to the local food bank, or boxed or bagged and brought to the shed or basement. So what remained? Fresh fruit, salad, leafy and root vegetables are always good.

The basic rule is that any product that is fermented or can cause fermentation may not be eaten, including five grains: wheat, rye, barley, oats, and spelt. Any food or drink that is made from one of these grains or that contains one of these grains, even in very small quantity, is considered *chametz*.

When quinoa was imported from South America, Star-K's Rabbi Heinemann researched and discovered that this sesame-seed looking kernel is a member of the beet family, and is not a grain. Gluten-free, loaded with calcium, iron and protein, and cooked like rice, quinoa has become a staple in many homes during Passover.

Then there is the issue of *kitniyot*. The word means "small things." Ashkenazi Jews follow the custom of not eating *kitniyot*: rice, corn, legumes like beans and lentils, peanuts, and vegetables in the pea family. This tradition has several possible origins. There was a fear that these small items, stored in sacks and barrels adjacent to grains, would get mixed together. Also, these foods swell when cooked, which resembles the leavening process, thus violating the rule that Jews should

avoid even the appearance of impropriety. That eliminates most vegetable oil, leaving only cottonseed, grape seed and olive oil for salads and cooking. You don't realize how many foods contain corn syrup until you walk down the supermarket aisles looking for the little "OU- P" on the container. Coca Cola puts out special soda for Passover, using sugar instead of corn syrup. Stock up on it if you remember how good soda used to taste!

Sephardic tradition allows these foods to be eaten, so rice is often found in their chicken soup instead of matzah balls. Since it is tough to be a vegetarian without eating *kitniyot*, many people temporarily become Sephardic that week. In Israel, the Conservative movement has allowed *kitniyot* to be eaten

even by Ashkenazim on Passover.

"Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your house." (Exodus 12:19) That means vacuuming the crackers from under the sofa cushions and emptying the cookies from desk drawers. (What about finishing the whiskey?) But there is always something missed, and in a modern age of freezers that preserve food, the rabbis decided that it is sufficient to put the sealed *chametz* in a separate, closed-up place, and sell it to a non-Jew before the holiday. Often a rabbi acts as the agent. The sale is real, in that theoretically the buyer can come and ask for the food, and pay for it after Passover. Right after the holiday ends, the rabbi buys the food back and the sale is voided. Rabbi Zucker has arranged for me to sell my *chametz* for years now, and my alcohol has never been confiscated. ◇





# KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder



Saturday, April 23, 2016 6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

**Guest Cantor  
Barry Skolnick**

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Erica Lieberman-Garrett

hippiejap@hotmail.com, (305) 853-1003.

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be opening this to the public after April 1st.

Vegetarian options are available - please request when  
making your reservation.

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**Non-Members: \$50**

# Our Holocaust Torah Celebration Day

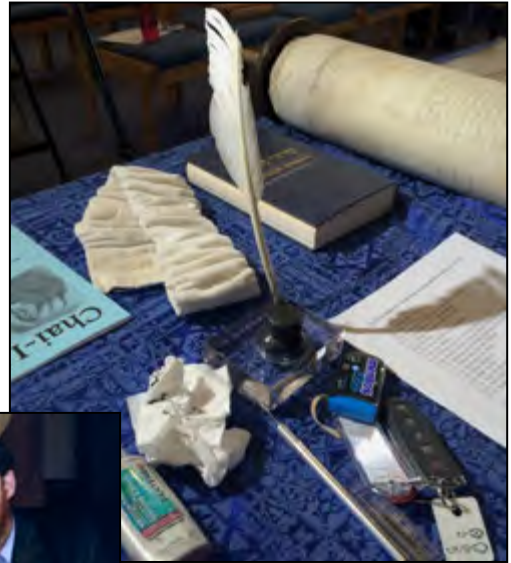
## L'dor Va Dor

by Gloria Avner

If you had been an observant seagull flying over the KJCC parking lot on the evening of March 13<sup>th</sup>, you'd be forgiven for thinking a wedding was taking place, or that our congregation was in the thick of prayers for The Days of Awe. We were that full. And there was plenty of awe. Toddlers to school-children to young adults, elders, and our centenarian Pauline, a *shul* full of members, some that we hadn't seen for 30 years, were celebrating what for most would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Each of us was writing a Torah, fulfilling the last of its 613 *mitzvahs*: "Write for yourselves this song" (*Deuteronomy 31:19*).

Who expected so many to come back for the closing ceremony? We were hoping for a double *minyan*. Our sanctuary had been full of activity all day, starting at 8:30 a.m. More than fifty families were scheduled to "scribe." We overflowed – with joy and tears, with laughter, hugs and stimulated minds. Look at the glowing, intense, engaged faces of our people as they pass from station to station. (Of course there were seven of those; long live the Jewish sacred number.)

Well over a hundred people participated, not just in the writing but in myriad other enriching



Above, scribe Rabbi Selwyn's tools of the trade mingled with iconic KJCC written words: list of names, Chai-Lights, Siddur, Torah. (Soul food.) Below, the display that greeted everyone as they entered.





sanctuary to the *Education* station, there are videos to watch (including one of a *soferet*, a rare female scribe, sharing the intricacies of scribing), beautiful books to look at, handouts on the deeper meanings of Hebrew alphabet letters and more, all facilitated throughout the day in shifts by Beth Hayden, Muriel Swartz and her daughter Diane, Medina Roy, and Yardena Kamely, who shared her

knowledge of 2,000-year-old Hebrew calligraphy. Fascinating conversations took place until it was time to move on. Bless the tireless facilitator Toby Bofshever, who helped people through the ritual *Handwashing* station, meant to bring an extra

activities. And people who had not made appointments also came; miraculously, room appeared for them to scribe as well. It was a day "*bashert.*"

We moved in a circle, starting with a warm *Welcome* table (hosted in turn by Linda Pollack, Donna Bolton, Art Itkin, Lee Schur, Susan Ellner and Joel Bofshever) and a photo display tour of our Holocaust Torah's journey, starting with its arrival at KJCC 33 years ago. (Many thanks to Dr. Steve Smith for researching and compiling a book on our Torah's history.) The photos continue through our Susice Torah's repair and return at a reunion with 26 other saved Torahs, also in American shuls, and a preview peek of what holding the feather and writing with a scribe will look and feel like.

Moving inside the



measure of holiness to the act of writing with our scribe. And then, it was on to the main event, or in the poetic words of Deuteronomy, "*And now you*

*shall write for yourselves a new Song.*"

From Rabbi Selwyn's first greeting, each knew they were in for a warm and moving experience. He talked about his own awe at the beauty, history and



age of our Torah. Did each scribing family get to choose its own letter? No. The founder of *Sofers-On-Site*, the group that re-koshered and restored our Torah to full beauty, Rabbi Gedaliah Druin, had explained it to us this way:

**Photos at the Welcome and Education stations.**







**Photos at the Education and Hand-washing stations**



letter selection is by God's lottery. At first I smiled; it sounded like a joke. Now I am purely in awe.

Every person walking away from their writing, letter in hand, looked



moved, a combination of dazed and inspired. How did this happen? If you were there, you know. Each scribe, welcomed immediately afterwards at the *Mazel Tov* station by Mitch Harvey and Linda Kaplan, told (and wrote, in a beautiful diary donated by Beth Hayden) of how his or her letter held perfect, deep and personal significance for them. Ask Mitch or Erica or Judy Greenman and you will get a great story. Ask any of your friends who were there. Share with us your own.

It was a day that called for *koach*, a dose

of extra strength. It took a village. Over twenty KJCC stalwarts put forth tremendous effort both to prepare for and keep this event moving, stimulating, effective and meaningful for all the people who walked the circle to completion. It worked.

The next stop was *Donation* station, where Gene Silverman and Foster Davidson, magically, with reserves of spirit energy and without taking a break, had the honor of listening to people's experiences and helping them express both gratitude and generosity by facilitating their contributions and writing down the dedications they wished to make in honor and remembrance of loved ones.

One of the many purposes behind this event, beyond the necessity of honoring our



Torah and the people of Susice by preserving it, was not merely to pay the costs involved in the repair, but to provide as substantial a cushion as possible to help ensure our shul's survival into the next generation. It was an opportunity

for our generation to "pay it forward" for our grandchildren." May there be a KJCC long after those who put this event together are gone. And wasn't it wonderful to have so many multiple-generation families with us!



This day, more than anything, was about union and re-union. In February our restored Holocaust

Torah had joined other restored 19<sup>th</sup> century Czech Torahs in a moving display of living and continuous Judaism. Then, after months



of a noticeable gap each time we opened our Ark, our Torah returned to KJCC to reunite with our congregation. And finally, through this day of celebration, our congregants re-connected to each other. There has never been anything like it. Look at “the three amigos” – David Goldfinger, Bob Temkin, and Stan Margulies – in smiling embrace. See brand new members (including one four-legged) embracing long-timers.



Founding members drove hours to be here. None of us can remember the last time we saw Joel and Sara Cohen’s daughter Sheila Steinberg and her husband Richard, but it felt as close to being with our temple’s founder as could be. Sheila could have used a whole box of Kleenex herself, but she was



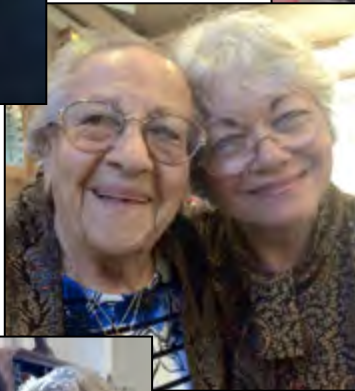
not the only one, nor were all the tearful people women.

We have not seen Pauline smiling much of late, but look at that youthful grin. And for those who only know the name Sara Cohen as



**Photos at the Hand-washing station.**

the name on our *Tzedakah* Fund, hear now that she was our original matriarch, and daughter Sheila kept look-



ing at the faces and activity around us and saying “our mother would be so proud.”

There is a phrase we read and sing and hear repeated in the Torah and in our prayers: “L’Dor VaDor.” In his Saturday morning services, Rabbi Agler chants it and we repeat it, over and over. It is important. It means “from generation to generation.” Whether we keep kosher or not – whether we light candles, go to services, celebrate holidays, believe in God, come to events, or not – what we all want to do as Jews, besides being good citizens who behave well in the world, is preserve our cultural heritage for the children and grand-

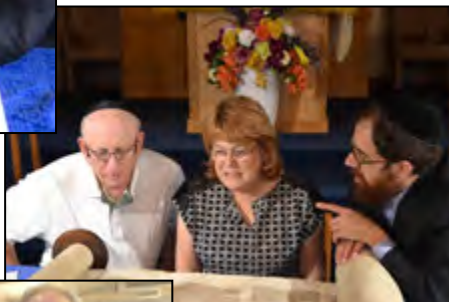




**Sitting with the sofer and our Torah.**

awe of that which we have inherited and were duly committed to repair.

But the day did not end with scribing or mazel tov or donating. Before leaving the sanctuary, there was the seventh station, *Creativity*. Two amazing artists, Marcia Kreitman in the morning and Natalie Dorf in the afternoon, encouraged, cajoled and supported all participants to leave a bit of themselves — a word, a symbol, a drawing,



their names — on a small, colorful piece of cloth that will be affixed to a long white prayer shawl, a sash that holds the Torah together known in Yiddish as a *gartel*. Ours was constructed, with each end beautifully embroidered to

children of ourselves, our friends and families. We want to do our part in repairing the world for them, but we also want them to treasure what has been passed to us in an unbroken line for over 4,000 years. Of the more than 300,000 words in the Torah, each letter of every word remains exactly the same in every scroll, no matter how old or its country of origin.

In all extant scrolls, going back 2,000 years, there have been only nine variant letters in all those words, and not one of those has changed the meaning of the text. Scribes obey complex laws. They cannot write by heart, they have to say each word aloud before writing it, and they have to say a special prayer, with special intent, before writing the name of God.



commemorate this day, by the talented Elaine Schulberg. Kudos to all who took part in this activity! Our Torah will be wrapped in your collective embrace, as individuals and community, every time we have a *Yizkor* service or *Yom HaShoah* commemoration.



Did leaving the Sanctuary and the Seven Stations mean the event was over? Of course not.



I believe that each of us, sitting in front of the Torah on Sunday, facing Miriam's Song of the Sea, (we were scribing in the panel right next to it) celebrating our escape from slavery in Egypt, felt in our bones and our hearts the







The Social Hall beckoned, with Marc Bloom's ever-fresh coffee and Erica Lieberman-Garrett's thoughtful, day-long nosh buffet, healthy lunch, and post-program oneq. With coffee and delicious refreshments in hand, one could even sit



family in the donated bricks and trees and orchids. What a joy to be singing in that setting, reunited with those who've gone before us, inviting them, too, to take part in our Holocaust Torah celebration.



at a table with friends and watch the video testimony of Hanna Gruna, the last living survivor of Susice (via video), given in a riveting interview in 1979.



We were well nourished, body and soul, into the evening.

Evening? Yes, back to the bird flying over our parking lot and looking at the overabundance of cars. Now she notices a parade. The people who have been coming and scribing and hugging and smiling and going all day are now singing and dancing on their way to the Meditation Garden with its meandering paths of sacred geometry embedded with names of our loved ones. I'm sure I am not the only one who felt the presence of departed friends and



tographer and one-time star pupil of our Religious School, along with her assistant and our dear friend Carla Williams, are nearly done with their gargantuan task of documenting this day. (Each





scriber left with a print-out commemorative photo of them with the *sofer*; Eve perfectly captured the radiant, happy faces of the scribes. I have seen all the photos. We cannot thank Eve and Carla enough.)

Joyce Peckman, who has been doing yeoman's work for weeks in preparation for this day and has been moving like the wind, catching many of the moments you see in these pages, can take a break now. *Sofer* Rabbi Selwyn shares more words of wisdom and his astonishment at the overwhelmingly positive attitudes and responsiveness of peo-

ple he has talked with throughout the day. KJCC president Sam Vinicur, who has spearheaded the planning and execution of this

event for more weeks and hours than he would care to remember, shares his awe and gratitude for all helpers

and contributors who helped make the day as deeply meaningful and productive as it has been. Yardena and I sing, along with the congregation, two rounds of "Eli Eli," and then it happens: The Grand Finale.

We break into song and start dancing the *Hora* in the aisles to *Hava Nagila*.

There is little

remaining to be done or said. The Torah has been paraded and kissed by everyone and returned, once again perfect, to its home. Beautiful certificates will be mailed to all who scribed and thankful notes sent to our donors. By Jewish fiat, there is more dessert to be consumed, but truly, we are already filled to the brim - with gratitude. ♦











**The end of scribing,  
and then the Mazel  
Tov station.**





At and around the Donation station.

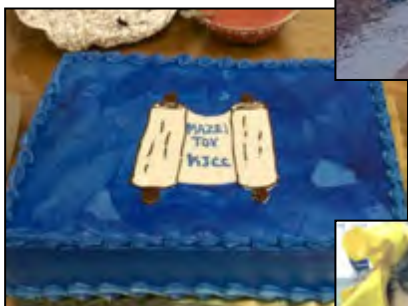






The final of seven stations — Creativity, where Marcia and Natalie helped scribes, after a profound experience with the Torah, make art.





And so a long and memorable day ended. The last few details were tended to by the sofer. We carried our Torah into our beautiful Meditation Garden, we went back into a lovely oneg provided by Sisterhood. We ate, we laughed, we were all a little changed. It was a good day. And it helped us provide such days for those who will come after us.



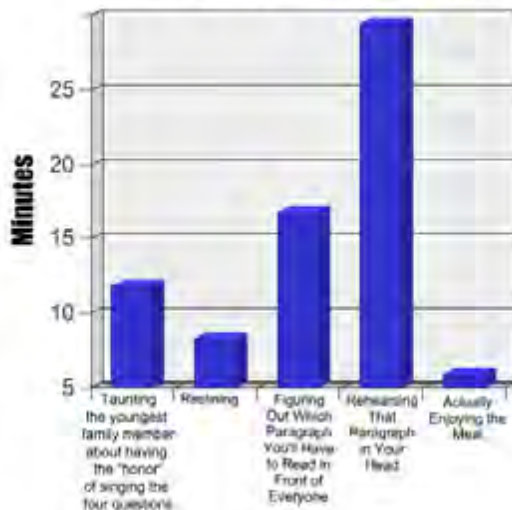
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# Chai~Lights



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May 2016

23 Nisan - 23 Iyar 5776

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**The History of Hatikva - page 25**

**Women's Seder Recap in text and photos - page 33**

**Jane Friedman, KJCC Woman of the Year - page 38**

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# May 2016

# 23 Nisan - 23 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood 9 a.m. KJCC Board Mtg. 11 a.m.	2	3	4	5 Yom HaShoah Film 7 p.m.	6 Yardena Kamely Medina Roy Muriel Swartz <i>Roy Pollack</i>	7
8 Rebecca Boehling Lecture 7 p.m.	9	10	11 Yom Hazikaron	12 Yom HaAtzma'ut	13 Hebrew class students <i>Medina Roy &amp; Bernie Ginsberg</i>	14 Harry's Eagle Scout Court of Honor
15	16	17	18	19	20 Healthy Dinner 6:00 p.m. Joyce Peckman Susan Gordon Arthur Itkin <i>Medina Roy</i>	21
22	23	24	25	26 Lag B'Omer	27 Sam Vinicur & Gloria Avner <i>Jim Williams</i>	28 Rabbi Agler Torah Learnng 10 a.m.
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



A few weeks ago, a long-time member called. At the end of the conversation, she said, "I want to tell you something. I have connections to other shuls, and I've been a KJCC member for a long time; I have never seen or felt a lovelier sense of community than exists at KJCC now."

I thanked her, of course, and after hanging up allowed myself a (brief) moment of satisfaction. Sentiments such as those are exactly what we all work so hard to cultivate here. Community. It's such a nice word, redolent with subtle flavorings of warmth, and courtesy, and shared purpose. Though it's part of our name, it isn't a word often associated with a synagogue. (Like many of you, I suspect, the very first time I saw KJCC's sign I thought, "hey, a place with a pool and gym and cultural events.")

As I sat, thinking, the word became ever larger, and I began to wonder about its history in Jewish thought. It seems clear that the word "community," at least in the Jewish mind, has origins in the rabbinic concept of "congregation." (This was a concept first written about in the *Mishnah* and later expanded in the Babylonian *Talmud*. Perhaps no one thought to worry about a congregation when they actually had a country.)

There's discussion and debate about it in the *Talmud* (naturally), but they eventually settled on the number ten (yes, a *minyan*) as the smallest possible congregation for Jewish worship. Reading the list of prayers and religious/social duties requiring a *minyan* (a congregation, a community) – not only Kaddish, but also the call to prayer (the *Barchu*), the *Amidah* (the central prayer of any service), and Torah readings (receiving the gift of God's teachings out loud) – I am once again awed by the practical brilliance of the early rabbis. They had been exiled twice and their society obliterated. How to assure their faith's survival? The first step was to mandate that Jewish prayer, the only avenue to God without the Temple, be a gathering.

There's a purpose to the work we do here to build and sustain our little Jewish outpost. There's a reason for the regular dinners (with credit to Bernie), and movie nights, and lectures, and classes, and Megillah readings, and Purim and Chanukah celebrations, and seders, and much more. There was an even deeper reason for all we did to make our recent Torah Project such a full and rich experience for so many.

It's that together, as a community, we nurture and sustain...us. ♦

# Nosh

## Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzma'ut!

On the day after our Shabbat Yom Ha-Atzma'ut ceremony, led on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. by Yardena Kamely and her Ulpan Hebrew class, KJCC will celebrate Israel's Independence Day on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. (Exactly 68 years since the actual day in 1948.) There will be Israeli food favorites, a screening of the movie "Above and Beyond," Israeli music, and more. The celebration begins at 7:00 p.m.

## A Healthy New Cookbook for KJCC

KJCC's library has one more cookbook in its extensive collection. Linda Kaplan has purchased and donated "The Jewish Food Hero Cookbook: 50 Simple Plant-Based Recipes for Your Holiday Meals," by Kenden Alford. It will be used as a major resource for the May 20<sup>th</sup> Sisterhood potluck dinner at KJCC. Many of us will be leafing through its pages looking for healthy inspiration as each of our Jewish holidays cycles 'round. What a boon to our vegetarian friends as well as those of us who, inspired by Jane's contributions to our *onegs* from Harry's "Eagle Scout Project Garden" at KJCC, would like to become a little less meat-dependent but need some guidance.

## A Beautiful Video of KJCC's Torah Day

Now that she's retired from her psychology practice in Miami, Dr. Jan Hartz is able to put time into her other talents. We knew she was a talented photographer. What we didn't know, was that she also has latent film-making talent.

At the end of that (very) long day, Jan approached Gloria and me with an idea. She'd taken a few videos. Eve and Joyce had spent the day taking photos. Why not put together a video of those elements as another remembrance of the day? We eagerly agreed. After lots of post-production work, the video is now finished. We'll be uploading it (or a link) to KJCC's web site shortly. Look for the details in an upcoming e-mail. You're going to love this.

— Sam

## Harry Promoted to Eagle Scout

I am pleased to announce Harry's promotion to the rank of Eagle Scout. He has been a Scout for over ten years, beginning when he was just 5 years old; he has grown and developed impressively. We want to cordially invite our entire KJCC *mish-pocha* to his Court of Honor ceremony, when he will be officially presented with this great honor. It will be held at the First Baptist Church of Key Largo, 99001 Overseas Highway, Mile Marker



99 oceanside, on Saturday, 14 May 2016, beginning at 4:30 p.m., followed by a reception. Please RSVP to me by either call or text to 305-720-6575, by 11 May.

We look forward to seeing everyone.  
Shalom.

— Jane Friedman

## Oneg Sponsors for May 2016

May 6th - Roy Pollack to celebrate Maddy's birthday.

May 13th - Medina Roy and Bernie Ginsberg to celebrate their shared birthday.

May 20th - Medina Roy to honor mom Bianka's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

May 27th - Jim Williams in honor of the KJCC.



## Holocaust Scholar to speak at KJCC

Save the date: Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. We will be privileged to hear first-hand the tales of Rebecca Boehling, gifted historian, University of Maryland professor, writer, storyteller (and KJCC member) on her three years heading the International Holocaust Archives in Bad Ems, Germany. (The Archives is run by a consortium of countries, including Israel, the United States and Germany. Scholars come from all over the world to do research there.) Some of us are lucky enough to have heard Rebecca speak at KJCC eight years ago when she was writing a book based on a treasure trove of newly discovered letters of a Jewish family thrust into their own diaspora, fleeing Germany for the United States, South America, Israel, and even Australia as the Holocaust approached, leaving the parents trapped and doomed to death in Europe. Rebecca wove those letters into historical context with compassion and humanity. Her book made the period and the family come vividly back to life.

Now, out of personal experience, she is writing again. At least one book, and perhaps two, will come out of this intense three-year period managing an international staff of hundreds, cataloging and preserving (one of her decisions was to digitize the entire archive) a mammoth collection of documents that is still being added to. And we at KJCC will be the first to hear her tell of it. Be there. We will learn what is actually going on in the process of collecting and preserving this important archival material. The timing is perfect. (Two days earlier, on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, a remembrance ceremony will be held at a Shabbat service led by our own Holocaust Committee). The Q and A should be fascinating, and afterwards, of course, refreshments will be served. There is no charge, and guests are welcomed.

## Don't Forget the KJCC Garden

Have you visited the KJCC Meditation Garden lately? Before it gets too hot, take some time to meander around the brick walks and just be immersed in its beauty. It's the perfect place for some quiet, contemplative time.

## A Gift To TAGS from "Daktari" Bernie

While searching Rabbi Agler's website for the latest news about the Talia Agler Girls Shelter (TAGS) in Nairobi, Kenya, I came upon all kinds of fine reports and photos pointing to the shelter's expansion and the fact that it and the girls are doing amazingly well. The number of girls being rescued, cared for, educated, and given training that will lead to self-sufficiency is increasing geometrically. It was inspiring to read, and then I came upon a sweet surprise, written by Rich: "Our friend Dr. Bernard Ginsberg, who traveled to Nairobi with us in November, recently donated a microscope and telescope for the use of the girls at the shelter. *Daktari* Ginsberg was moved by the dedication of the teachers and students at the TAGS and wanted to help enrich their science education. The gift is en route and will assuredly be put to good use when it arrives."



**Bernie with the telescope and microscope he's donating to the Talia Agler Girls School in Nairobi, Kenya.**

Bravo Bernie, giving rescued young women, now experiencing huge positive changes in their lives, a chance to look up to the stars and into the tiniest cells of living organisms. Perhaps this will lead to the first group of female scientists in Kenya. Who knows?

— Gloria

## About Our Library...

Due to your generosity, the KJCC library is now overflowing with wonderful books and videos, in almost every category of Jewish life and thought. (History, fiction, philosophy, mysticism and more.) Unfortunately, it truly is overflowing. Until we're able to expand the space, please check with KJCC Librarian Medina Roy (hiitsmedee@gmail.com, or 305-852-3872) before you drop off any more books. Todah.

## May Birthdays

2nd.....	Barney Coltman
2nd.....	Sherry Zwerdling
4th.....	Pamela G. Marmar
4th.....	Ryan Curtis
5th.....	Richard Palacino
7th.....	Scott M. Pearl
7th.....	Murray Rapport
8th.....	Sidney Boruszak
8th.....	Kelley Greenman
9th.....	Rhett Curtis
9th.....	Reid Schur
11th.....	Richard Agler
11th.....	Sheila R. Steinberg
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th.....	Nyan Feder
12th.....	Robert Silk
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
13th.....	Rose Marie Gordon
14th.....	Medina Roy
14th.....	John Temkin
14th.....	Bernie Ginsberg
15th.....	Paul R. Schur
18th.....	Jaime Brennan
18th.....	Andrea P. Silverman
19th.....	Sylvie Coeurjoly
19th.....	Jonathon Hodgson
21st.....	Jerry Herson
22nd.....	Christian Strasser
22nd.....	Sharon Repka
23rd.....	Rita Williams
23rd.....	Bianka Kirschenbaum
23rd.....	Jules Seder
23rd.....	Jenny Margulies
23rd.....	Nettie Seder
25th.....	Matthew Birnbaum
27th.....	Joan Boruszak
27th.....	Jeffrey Pollack
29th.....	Robin Forman
29th.....	Nancy Zinner
29th.....	Liati Mayk
31st.....	Mark E. Silverman
31st.....	Robert Sherman
31st.....	Wes Conklin

## The Children of Chabannes

On Yom Ha'shoah, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., KJCC will screen the film "The Children of Chabannes." In the words of the filmmakers: "A tale of courage, resilience and love set during WWII, *The Children of Chabannes* tells the story of how the people of Chabannes, a tiny village in unoccupied France, chose action over indifference and saved the lives of 400 Jewish refugee children. Through accounts by the extraordinary teachers who taught and loved these children, this lyrical and moving film shows the remarkable efforts made by the citizens of Chabannes, who risked their lives and livelihoods to protect these children, simply because they felt it was the right thing to do."

"A moving record of the unassuming, uncompromising heroism of ordinary people." – A. O. Scott, *The New York Times*

## Last Rabbi Agler Service of the Season

If you have loved coming to the monthly Shabbat morning services led by Rabbi Agler during the winter "season," know that this one, on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, will be the last until our snowbirds return in the fall. Come and be inspired. The service, as always, will be informal, interactive, warm and educational. The discussion will be animated and engaging. Last, but not least, we will get to hear chanting from our newly restored Holocaust Torah. We look forward to watching Rabbi Agler do the *Hagbah* ritual, lifting the Torah high in front of the ark, when we can all see with new eyes the physical beauty of the repaired words. As usual, the service will begin promptly at 10 a.m. There will be a light kiddush afterwards. All guests are welcome. These services are treasures we are happy to share with all the community.

## May Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Bennett & Deborah Beinfest.....	26
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz.....	25
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....	44
<b>24th</b>	<b>Alfred &amp; Sue Ann Wehl.....</b>	<b>57</b>

## **We're re-decorating the Social Hall**

After the sanctuary, the Ruth Richardson Social Hall is where we all spend most of our time at KJCC. (A case could be made that we spend even more time there than in the sanctuary.) It has been a long time since the room got a facelift. A little over a year ago we bought new and high-quality banquet chairs to replace the old folding chairs. Everyone loves them.

Now we're going further. The Board has approved money for new carpeting and a fresh coat of paint for the walls. The project won't be finished overnight, but it is underway. With the help of member and interior designer Natalie Dorf, the room is being beautified and updated.

## **Summer Mailing Addresses for Chai-Lights**

Some of you are very good about making sure we know when you've left for the summer and we'll need to send your copy of Chai-Lights to your out-of-Keys address. Some of you aren't so good. Please make sure we know your schedule so you don't miss any issues. Thanks.

## **The New 2016 KJCC Directory**

Speaking of addresses, the new 2016 KJCC Membership Directory is in production. If your addresses or e-mails or phone numbers have changed since last year, please make sure we have the new ones so that our database is perfect and the new Directory will be accurate.

## **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 Linda Pollack 305-852-8575.

**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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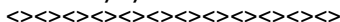
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked 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.

# *In Memoriam May 2016*

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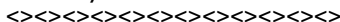
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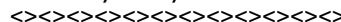
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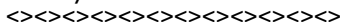
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In Memory Of

**Becky Kanowsky**

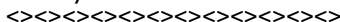
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**Sam Hitzig**

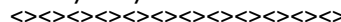
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**Emanuel Schafer**

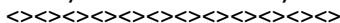
By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

**Gertrude Weisberg**

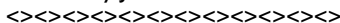
By Gerri & Frank Emkey



In Memory Of

**Carmel Catanese**

By Jane Friedman



In Memory Of

**Julie Gorson-Marrow**

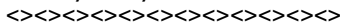
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Belle Kirschenbaum**

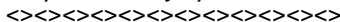
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

**Amalia Kahn**

By Franklin & Judy Greenman



In Memory Of

**Morris Moshe Grossman**

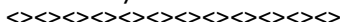
By Stuart Grossman



In Memory Of

**Yolanda Haviv**

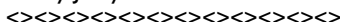
By Leo Haviv



In Memory Of

**Rose Herson**

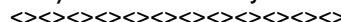
By Jerry & Barbara Herson



In Memory Of

**Esther Jacobs**

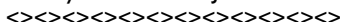
By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



In Memory Of

**Leo Grossman**

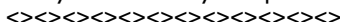
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

**Max Tuchman**

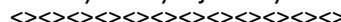
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

**Cele Rosen**

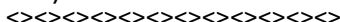
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

**Morris Kornbloom**

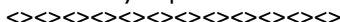
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

**Rene Rose**

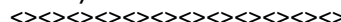
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

**Lilyan Sax**

By Stuart & Lauren Sax



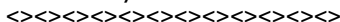


## *In Memoriam May 2016*

In Memory Of

**Robert Schur**

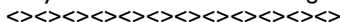
By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**Sam Wainer**

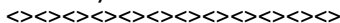
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Phillip Temkin**

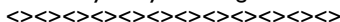
By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

**Robert W. Singer**

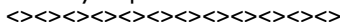
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

**Susan Cimkowski**

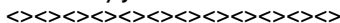
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Benjamin Weber**

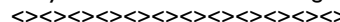
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

**Rose Wainer**

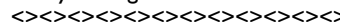
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Ida S. Reider**

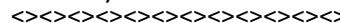
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Norma Cutler**

By Donald Zinner



## ***MISHEBERACH – A PRAYER FOR HEALING***

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

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

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

If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's *Misheberach* list, please, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 305-852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).



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**SISTERHOOD**

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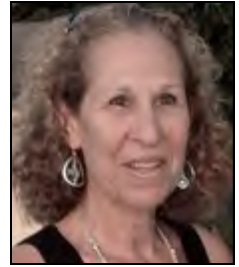
Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event such as a birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, bar/bat mitzvah, safe return or any other occasion of your choice. Sisterhood will purchase challah, wine, coffee/ tea/soft drinks and baked goods.

Contact: Joyce Peckman  
(732) 447-5225

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## Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



**A**pril was an exciting month. We began our Passover season with our 13th annual Women's Seder, one of my favorite events of the year. Eight years ago I attended my first Women's Seder as a guest of Gloria, and I have never looked back. It inspired and encouraged me to become more involved in the KJCC and has led me to my current role as Sisterhood president.

It is always enjoyable to have women who do not regularly participate in events, and women from outside the shul, join us for this special night. This year we had 42 women, including two young girls, join us as we sang, ate, and read from the inspiring and poetic women's Haggadahs. We signed and decorated squares of cloth, creating new memories to add to our Seder quilt/tablecloth that Marcia Kreitman began for us years ago. Gloria Avner, Beth Hayden and Beth Kaminstein led a meaningful service, and our matzah- plate pottery pieces added this year's creative touch to our already beautiful table settings. I love how the table looks at Passover, but our unique pieces from years past always make it even more special.

We honored Jane Friedman, our special woman of the year. Jane works tirelessly, shops and schlepps weekly. In addition she cooks and brings delicious, healthy food for our onegs, meetings and dinners. She is a vital asset to Sisterhood and makes my life so much easier. Her amazing garden skills provided the beautiful greens on our Seder plates, as well as the delicious fresh dill that I used in the matzah ball soup. Jane is committed to her Judaism as well as to the KJCC. It was a pleasure to honor her and let her know how much we appreciate her. She was glowing with joy.

The purpose of the Women's Seder is also *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. All of the

money raised is divided up to charities that have special meaning to us. This year, Joan Stark presented our donations to the KJCC scholarship fund, the VNA Hospice of the Florida Keys, and the Talia Agler Foundation. It gives us great pleasure to help what Mindy's daughter Talia began, now in her memory.

We continued Passover season with our Family Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Once again Chef Joseph prepared a delicious authentic Passover dinner, (with a little bit of input from me), and over 70 people gathered for a wonderful evening. This year was extra special with the addition of Susan Gordon's brother, Cantor Barry Skolnick. His beautiful voice and leadership was so nice, and gave us the chance to learn new ways of honoring Pesach. We also got to celebrate Susan's special birthday!! What a great night under the sailfish, at sunset by the bay. Special thanks to everyone who made our Seder season such a success. It is always a lot of work, but comes with great rewards, memories, and blessings. It reminds us of who we are as Jews, as a family, related by blood or not. I hope that your Passover season brought you renewal and blessings. It did for me.

So we look forward into May. Phew! We will meet for our Sisterhood meeting at 9 a.m. on Sunday May 1st, and will be discussing our May Shabbat Fresh Start Dinner to be held on May 20th, at 6 pm. We are going to have healthy Shabbat dinner recipes, using minimal dairy, sugar or flour. Look in the KJCC library for ideas for vegetarian dishes. Please RSVP to me if you plan on attending. We are going to do something fun in June to wrap up the year before summer. We will talk about it at the meeting, so please join us. ◇

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## General Fund

Itkin, Arthur

Pollack, Linda

Roy, Medina

Pollack, Linda

## Meditation Garden

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

## In Honor of

Barry Dorf's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday

John and Arlene Line –

wishing you much happiness in your move

Mort Silverman

## In Memory of

Sandy Lundy,

Elaine Schulberg's sister

## In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of

Sara Rose Friedman

## In Memory of

Sam Sax

## Sisterhood Onegs

Agler, Mindy and Richard

Friedman, Jane

Pollack, Roy

Roy, Medina

Silverman, Gene

Steinbock, Steve

Williams, Jim

## Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan

Harvey, Mitchel

Tallent, Lillian

## In Honor of

Birth of Jonah Arlo

Agler

Angelina & Harry's Birthdays

Madelyn and Will - Birthdays

Carl's Birthday

Their Anniversary and Gene's

birthday

His birthday

Honor of KJCC

Baruch Epstein

David Harvey

Ida Tallent

## 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.



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## YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



# Yom Ha'Shoah — Bystanders and Rescuers

*The world is too dangerous to live in – not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who sit and let it happen.*

- Albert Einstein

**Y**om Ha'shoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day - will be commemorated this year on May 5<sup>th</sup>. In Israel, at noon, we'll hear the sirens and the whole country will stop. Every person, a whole nation, will stand still for moments of silence. Wherever we are, whether at work or at home, in cafes or restaurants, in the street, in traffic, stepping out of buses and cars, we stand in silence remembering the Shoah.

At the KJCC, every Yom Ha'shoah we focus on the victims of the Holocaust and the perpetrators. This year we are going to talk about the other people in WW II and the choices open to everyone else once the Holocaust began. Who were the bystanders and who the rescuers? Thousands of courageous non-Jews risked death or imprisonment in camps to save their Jewish neighbors, and others—Jews and non-Jews—joined in the underground war against the Nazis. Others joined the killers, becoming perpetrators or enablers of genocide. But the vast majority of Europeans were bystanders who did little to deter the Nazis or to help Jews or other victims of Nazi persecution.

Raul Hilberg, historian and scholar of the Holocaust, says that most of those people, neighbors, were neither perpetrators nor victims. But many of them saw or heard something of what was going on. They were bystanders, not 'involved', not wanting to hurt the victims and not wishing to be hurt by the

perpetrators. All of these people thought of themselves as victims, be it of war, or oppression, or 'fate'. Were they "victims of fate"? Or did they still have choices? Albert Camus, a French writer who joined the resistance, believed that individuals can always make a difference. He wrote that yes, the horrors of the war could paralyze people and they would not think of anything to do but wait. Still he believed that although there is an illusion of impotence, strength of heart, intelligence and courage are enough to stop fate and sometimes reverse it.

Holocaust survivor Primo Levi, renowned Italian Jewish chemist and writer, was often asked, "Did the Germans know what was happening?" He replied with a question of his own: "How is it possible that the extermination of millions of human beings could have been carried out in the heart of Europe without anyone's knowledge?" He concluded that "..... most Germans didn't know because they didn't want to know. ....In Hitler's Germany a particular code was widespread: those who knew did not talk; those who did not know did not ask questions; those who did ask questions received no answers. In this way the typical German citizen won and defended his ignorance..... Shutting his mouth, his eyes and his ears, he built for himself the illusion of not knowing, hence not being an accomplice to the things taking place in front of his very door." (Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved*).

Some bystanders chose to act and become resisters. Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie were among the few Germans who did act on what they knew. In the spring of 1942, they

and a friend, Christoph Probst, formed a small group known as The White Rose. In July, the group published a leaflet that stated: "We want to inform you of the fact that since the conquest of Poland, 300,000 Jews in that country have been murdered in the most bestial manner....." The following February, the Nazis arrested the Scholls and Probst and brought them to trial. The three admitted that they were responsible for the leaflets. Sophie Scholl told the judges, "Somebody, after all, had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don't dare to express themselves as we did." Sophie, Hans, and Probst were found guilty and beheaded later that same day. Although the Nazis were able to destroy The White Rose, they could not stop their message from being heard. Helmuth von Moltke, a German aristocrat, smuggled copies to friends in neutral countries. They, in turn, sent them to the Allies who reproduced each leaflet and then dropped thousands of copies over German cities.

Some bystanders chose to rescue. In Germany, the government imprisoned anyone caught sheltering a Jew. In Poland, the penalty was death. Yet, about 2% of the Polish Christian population chose to hide Jews. They did so in a nation with a long history of Anti-Semitism. In his study of rescuers, Ervin Staub, professor of psychology known for his works on helping behavior and on the psychology of mass violence and genocide, states, "Goodness, like evil, often begins in small steps. Heroes evolve; they aren't born. Very often the rescuers make only a small commitment at the start - to hide someone for a day or two. But once they had taken that

step, they began to see themselves differently, as someone who helps. What starts as mere willingness becomes intense involvement." Other psychologists and sociologists agree with Ervin Staub that the decision to rescue Jews had little to do with the rescuer's religion, nationality, schooling, class, or ethnic heritage. Most rescuers were independent individuals who refused to follow the crowd. They also had a history of performing good deeds and did not perceive rescue work as anything out of the ordinary.

On Yom Ha'shoah, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at the KJCC, we are going to show the film 'The Children of Chabannes'. In the words of the filmmakers:

"A tale of courage, resilience and love set during WWII, *The Children of Chabannes* tells the story of how the people of Chabannes, a tiny village in unoccupied France, chose action over indifference and saved the lives of 400 Jewish refugee children. . .Through



**Photo from DVD "The Children of Chabannes"**

accounts by the extraordinary teachers who taught and loved these children, this lyrical and moving film shows the remarkable efforts made by the citizens of Chabannes, who risked their lives and livelihoods to protect these children, simply because they felt it was the right thing to do."

Kevin Thomas of the Los Angeles Times called it "One of the most heartening Holocaust films ever made." Stanley Kauffmann of The New Republic wrote: "It's not about the mystery of evil; it's about an equally awesome subject, the mystery of good."

Join us on at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 5th, Yom Ha'shoah to see this film and commemorate the righteous people in the Holocaust. ◇

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### An Historic Mission Ends

At the end of March, in a secret operation by the *Jewish Agency for Israel*, nineteen of the last remaining Jews from Yemen arrived in Israel. The group was made up of fourteen from the city of Raydah, including the community's rabbi and a family of five from Sana'a, Yemen's capital. The rabbi brought with him a 500-600 year-old Torah scroll. Some 200 Jews have been secretly brought to Israel from Yemen by the *Jewish Agency* in recent years. Attacks against the Jewish community there have increased and the country is now involved in a bitter civil war. Some 51,000 Yemenite Jews have immigrated to Israel since the birth of the country in 1948. The majority were brought through *Operation Magic Carpet* in 1949 and 1950. The U.S. State Department assisted with the project's organization. "From *Operation Magic Carpet*...until the present day, the *Jewish Agency* has helped bring Yemenite Jewry home to Israel. Today we bring that historic mission to a close," said Natan Sharansky, chairman of the organization. Fifty Jews remain in Yemen by choice, declining the offer to come to Israel. They all live in a closed compound adjacent to the U.S. Embassy and are protected by Yemeni authorities.

([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 3-21-16)

### Did Roman Soldiers Have Pockets?

An extremely rare gold coin bearing the image of the Emperor Augustus, Caesar's heir and founder of the Roman Empire, was found recently by a hiker at an archaeological site in the Upper Galilee area. The hiker reluctantly turned it over to the *Israel Antiquities Authority* (IAA). The 2,000-year-old coin was issued by the Emperor Trajan - who succeeded Augustus and ruled Rome from 98 C.E. to 117 C.E. - as part of a series to honor previous Roman Emperors. The coin is only the second

of its type known to exist; the other is in the *British Museum*. It was created as a tribute to the reign of Augustus, who ruled from 27 B.C.E. to 14 C.E. It refers to him as "*Divus Augustus*," Augustus the Divine. (Augustus was considered a deity after his death.) How did the coin end up in the Galilee? Donald T. Ariel, head curator of the coin department at the IAA, believes that it may have been part of a payment to a Roman soldier stationed in the area to suppress the *Bar Kochva* revolt (the third and final Jewish rebellion) against the Romans. The revolt had sympathizers near Galilee. The soldiers may have been there to maintain order.

([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), 3-15-16)

### Israelis May Love to Complain But...

...according to a report conducted by researchers from the *University of British Columbia*, they are some of the happiest people in the world. The report - prepared by the *Sustainable Development Solutions Network* and the *Earth Institute at Columbia University* - ranked Israel 11<sup>th</sup> out of 157 nations, placing them "happier" than the United States. The top ten were Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Canada and the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden. The survey studied 3,000 respondents in each of the 157 countries. Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, the report ranks the countries' happiness levels using factors such as gross domestic product, social support and healthy life expectancy. In this latest survey, the United States came in at #13. Syria, Afghanistan and eight sub-Saharan countries came in as the ten least happy places to live. This *2016 World Happiness Report* was released just before *World Happiness Day*.

([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 3-17-16)

## The “Kosher” Tartan

Scottish Jews never had a tartan, the plaid fabric patterns that have been used to distinguish between the various clans in Scotland for more than 200 years. But in 2008, an officially sanctioned tartan was registered and became available for Scotland’s 6,400 Jews. The design for a Jewish tartan was initiated by Rabbi Mendel Jacobs, the only Scottish-born rabbi living in that country. Jacobs and other rabbis worked together to design a tartan that would reflect both Jewish values and Scottish history. They came up with a design that features blue and white as the main colors, because they appear on both the Israeli and Scottish flags. There’s also a gold line running down the center, representing the gold from the Ark in the Tabernacle; a silver line representing the silver that adorns the Torah; and red for the traditional red *Kiddush* wine. Rabbi Jacobs sells other items featuring the tartan, including a mouse pad, a necktie, a kilt and a mug. The fabric items are made of 100 percent Scottish wool. According to Jacobs, Jews have been an integral part of Scottish culture for more than 300 years, with the first Jew having been recorded in Edinburgh in 1691. Jews were never persecuted in Scotland. In fact, when England exiled its Jews in the Middle Ages, Scotland provided a safe haven for them. ([www.thejewniverse.com](http://www.thejewniverse.com), 3-21-16 and [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-29-16)

## “If You Build it, They Will Come...”

An extensive website launched at the end of March covers the dozens of Jews who played in baseball’s major leagues or made contributions to the game. The website, “The Jewish Baseball Museum,” is filled with biographies and interviews as well as a timeline of Jewish baseball stories that dates back to the 1860s. The online museum’s creator, Jeff Aeder, says he has amassed one of the largest collections of Jewish baseball memorabilia in the country. His collection is showcased on the site and contains some 2,000 objects plus approximately 2,500 pre-1990 baseball cards of Jewish players. Aeder, 54, is a Chicago-based real estate investor and avid Cubs

fan. He says the website provides “an opportunity to introduce the stories of older Jewish ball players to younger generations.” Aeder is hoping the website will pave the way for an actual Jewish baseball museum to be built in his Lakeview neighborhood, on Chicago’s North Side (hence his Cubs affiliation) as early as 2017. Aeder and his wife Jennifer Levine were named “Chicagoans of the Year” in 2013 for opening the *Wolcott School*, a high school for students with learning disabilities. Aeder is also the founding owner of *Milt’s Barbecue for the Perplexed*, a popular kosher restaurant near Wrigley Field, donating its profits to worthy causes. To check out Aeder’s collection, go to [jewishbaseballmuseum.com/online-museum/collection/](http://jewishbaseballmuseum.com/online-museum/collection/) ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-27-16)

## Update

In the March 2016 issue of *Chai-Lights*, we reported on the *Knesset’s* historic, groundbreaking agreement approving the creation of an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall (*Kotel*) for non-Orthodox Jews. The agreement culminated two-and-a-half years of negotiations. At the time of this writing, the deal seems to be on the verge of collapse. Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, the rabbinical administrator of the *Kotel* and a key player in negotiating the deal, has suddenly renounced it. Why? Apparently he and the leaders of the *hareidi* (ultra-Orthodox) community underestimated the anger sparked by the deal. Rabinowitz, in a highly publicized letter to leaders of the *hareidi* parties, asked them to “save the Jewish people from the deal,” meaning that the agreement would officially legitimize and allow for public funding of the Reform and Conservative movements. Most of the ultra-Orthodox find it unacceptable to recognize the non-Orthodox movements, and now the *hareidi* political parties are insisting on rewriting the agreement. The non-Orthodox groups say they will not renegotiate the deal and will take the case to Israel’s Supreme Court if necessary to enforce the establishment of the mixed-gender prayer site. Oy. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 4-5-16)



## A “Phenomenon in Israeli Medicine”

According to a recent study published in the *European Heart Journal*, the Israeli death rate from heart disease has plummeted by an impressive 50 percent since 1998. The report was written by Professor Emeritus Mervyn Gotsman, who headed *Hadassah University Medical Center's* cardiology department for many years and was the personal physician of Prime Minister Menachem Begin. It was co-written by Gotsman's son, who currently works in the same department. Among the reasons given in the report were the decline in smoking plus rigorous prevention of atherosclerosis, obesity, diabetes and hypertension. Other strategies include the liberal use of statins to lower bad cholesterol levels, very early management of acute myocardial infarction and modification of lifestyles. The report gave credit to the *Israel Heart Society* and the *Health Ministry* for nationwide educational programs. The study also concluded that this excellent outcome may also be a result of the availability of affordable health care for the entire population, regardless of race, color or religious belief. The report adds that there is still much to be done to lower the death rate even more. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 3-8-16)

## In Memoriam

- Meir Dagan, former general in the Israeli army who headed Israel's *Mossad* for an unprecedented eight-year term, died in mid-March. He was 71. Dagan was thought of as an unlikely combination of a warrior and an intellectual. He was born Meir Huberman in the Ukraine to parents who were Holocaust survivors. The family immigrated to Israel when he was five. He joined the IDF in 1963 and served for more than 30 years, reaching the rank of major general. Dagan had a long and close relationship with former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who appointed him head of the *Mossad* in 2002. In the early 1970s, when Sharon saw an escalation of terrorism in Gaza, he appointed Dagan to lead a special anti-terrorist unit in the Gaza Strip called *Rimon*. Members of this unit dressed up as Palestinians and infiltrated the local communities in

order to identify and eliminate terrorists before they had an opportunity to strike.

A series of aggressive covert actions are attributed to Dagan's tenure as *Mossad* chief, among them the assassination of Imad Mughniyah, *Hezbollah's* number two man; cyber-sabotage targeting Tehran's nuclear scientists and technologies; the 2007 airstrike that destroyed a suspected Syrian atomic reactor and the 2010 assassination of Masoud Alimohammadi, an Iranian nuclear physicist. Dagan was nicknamed “Superman” by his Arab opponents. After retiring, he became a fierce critic of and waged a public battle with current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, strongly opposing Netanyahu's strategy on Iran. Throughout his career, Dagan kept a single photograph hanging on the wall of his office. It was a photo of Baer Ehrlich, Dagan's grandfather, kneeling on the ground surrounded by uniformed Nazis looking indifferently at the camera. Moments later, the Nazis murdered Ehrlich. The photograph kept Dagan focused on two things: his personal struggle against the enemies of the Jews the rest of his life and the slogan, “Never Again.” ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 3-17-16)

- Imre Kertesz, Hungarian novelist, Auschwitz survivor and winner of the 2002 *Nobel Literature Prize*, died at the end of March. He was 86. Born in Budapest, Kertesz was deported to Auschwitz when he was fourteen and was transferred the next year to Buchenwald. U.S. forces liberated Buchenwald in 1945. He returned to Hungary and worked for a while as a journalist, living under repressive Hungarian Communist rule. He later moved to Berlin. According to the *Swedish Nobel Academy*, Kertesz was awarded the \$1 million, highest honor for literature for “writing that upholds the fragile experience of the individual against the barbaric and arbitrariness of history.” His work repeatedly goes back to his experiences in Auschwitz. His defining first novel, “Fateless,” is a first-person account of a boy's survival which was incorporated into Hungary's high school curriculum. Kertesz was the first Hungarian to win the *Nobel Prize* for literature. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 3-31-16) ◇



Keys Jewish Community Center

Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner

Friday, May 20, 2016, 6:00 pm

## Fresh Start Challenge

Covered Dish Dinner

**Use:** *Vegetables, brown rice, quinoa, fruit, salads, seeds, nuts, beans, legumes. Wine is fine.*

**Be aware:** *No meat, little or no dairy, little or no sugar (a bit of honey is ok), little or no flour.*

**Refer to The Jewish Food Hero Cookbook at the Center for assistance and ideas.**

**The Cookbook can be downloaded at [www.jewishfoodhero.com](http://www.jewishfoodhero.com).**

Not Sure What to Bring???

Contact Linda Kaplan @ (305) 396-7000

[lk@lindakaplan.com](mailto:lk@lindakaplan.com)

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett

to reserve your spot

@ 305-393-1162

[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)

**Sponsored Dinner - No Charge**

# Photo Gallery



A pre-Purim Torah learning service was led by KJCC Resident Scholar Rabbi Richard Agler on March 19th. We completed the third and last (and most violent) part of the Megillah, as we dealt with historic, adult themes.



The newly restored Torah was held high for all to see, then read at prayer service for the first time since its rededication. The dark, contrasting clarity and beauty of its script was striking.

At left, Rabbi Agler's Shabbat services often begin with a few moments of silent reflection.





In the two photos below, the March 26th Oneg was sponsored by Lee Schur and Jane Friedman in honor of their birthdays.



Above and left, Bernie Ginsberg presented a fascinating lecture and film describing the ancient and disappearing Jewish communities of Azerbaijan.



Above, the beginning /intermediate Hebrew Class, led by Yardena, as they learn to read and understand the Hebrew Siddur. Ivy Blumenfeld is the only student missing from the photo.



# Shabbat Services



At left, the April 8th service was led by the now semi-professional team of Joyce Peckman, who led the prayers, and Arthur Itkin, who delivered an interesting and inspiring *d'var Torah* speech.



We had lots to celebrate at the April 8th Oneg. At right, Mindy and Richard Agler celebrate the birth of their first grandchild. Gene Silverman is joined at far right by husband Mort and daughter Robin Denker for birthday wishes and cake.



At Rabbi Agler's Torah service on April 16th, Steve Hartz chanted from the Torah. Joyce read the blessings. Guests Steve Gibbs and Rev. Pam Feeser observed; Bernie and Zoe assisted.



## Joyce Peckman Receives Joel S. Cohen Award



Visibly moved and very happy, Joyce accepted KJCC's highest honor, the Joel S. Cohen Fellowship Award, in a surprise ceremony during Shabbat services April 15th. All present agreed the award is well-deserved. For years, Joyce has made significant contributions to our shul and to the community. The plaque reads, "Sisterhood President, organizer of Onegs, lists for *Misheberach* prayers and cultural outings, Board Corresponding Secretary, writer and Chai-Lights editor, bringer of classical music to our community, you are a model of *gemilut hasidim* (deeds of lovingkindness)."



The decision, always made by previous winners in secret ballot, was unanimous. At left are some past years' recipients. A special trip was made (after the fact) to confirm Pauline's vote.







Sara Rose Friedman, the great-granddaughter of founding members Joel and Sara Cohen, was called to the Torah at Temple Beth Am in Jupiter. She will graduate from the Arthur J. Meyer Jewish Academy. In center, she is joined by proud grandparents Sheila and Richard Steinberg. (We were glad to see them at the

Torah dedication.)



Harry Friedman's Eagle Scout Project provides lovely fresh greens for a local food bank, with some left over for KJCC onegs. His Court of Honor ceremony will be on May 14th. Contact Jane for info and RSVP.





# KJCC Gift Shop



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



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



# RABBI HERSCHEL SCHACTER

## *MEMORIES OF A MODERN GIANT*

by Arthur Itkin

*In honor and memory of both Rabbi Herschel Schacter and Yom HaShoah, the stunning attempt to eradicate Judaism from our planet that did succeed in murdering fully one-third of all the world's Jews, Chai-Lights presents this personal connection to Rabbi Schacter by KJCC's Recording Secretary and one of the many stories that reveal the humanity and stature of this great teacher. Those who survived did not include the Czechoslovakian village of Susice. But their precious Torah, now fully restored and beautified and forever occupying the highest place of honor in the Ark at KJCC, defiantly spreads its message of a possible human march toward...full humanity. As it lives, the people of Susice and the Jewish ideal live.*

Rabbi Herschel Schacter performed the ceremony at my first marriage in 1954 (which ended in divorce in 1987 before I even discovered the Keys). I had not had any contact with the Rabbi since that time. I guess you can refer to him as a friend from a different era in my life. Rabbi Schacter was a very close friend of my in-laws at that time and he always jokingly referred to me as the "family son-in-law."

The story below is taken from his 2013 obituary, written by Margalit Fox in the New York Times, to whom we offer our thanks and appreciation.

The smoke was still rising as Rabbi Herschel Schacter rode through the gates of Buchenwald. It was April 11, 1945, and Gen.

**Rabbi Schacter giving his famous service at Buchenwald in April of 1945, when the rabbi was 27 years old.**



George S. Patton's Third Army had liberated the concentration camp scarcely an hour before. Rabbi Schachter, who was attached to the Third Army's VIII Corps, was the first Jewish chaplain to enter in its wake. That morning, after learning that Patton's forward tanks had arrived at the camp, he had commandeered a jeep and driver and sped toward Buchenwald. By late afternoon, when the rabbi drove through the gates, Allied tanks had breached the camp. He remembered, he later said, the sting of smoke in his eyes, the smell

of burning flesh and the hundreds of bodies strewn everywhere.

In Buchenwald that April day, Rabbi Schachter said afterward, it seemed as though there was

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**“Shalom Aleichem,  
Yidden,”  
Rabbi Schachter  
cried in Yiddish,  
“ihr zint frei!” —  
“Peace be upon you,  
Jews, you are free!”**

---

no one left alive. In the camp, he encountered a young American lieutenant who knew his way around. “Are there any Jews alive here?” the rabbi asked. He was led to the *Kleine Lager*, a smaller camp within the larger one. There, in filthy barracks, men lay on raw wooden planks stacked from floor to ceiling. They stared down at the rabbi, in his unfamiliar military uniform, with unmistakable fright.

“*Shalom Aleichem, Yidden,*” Rabbi Schachter cried in Yiddish, “*ihr zint frei!*” — “Peace be upon you, Jews, you are free!” He ran from barracks to barracks, repeating those words. He was joined by those Jews who could walk, until a stream of people swelled behind him. As he passed a mound of corpses, Rabbi Schachter spied a flicker of movement. Drawing closer, he saw a small boy, Prisoner 17030, hiding in terror behind the mound. “I was afraid of him,” the child would recall long afterward in an interview with The New York

Times. “I knew all the uniforms of SS and Gestapo and Wehrmacht, and all of a sudden, a new kind of uniform. I thought, ‘A new kind of enemy.’” With tears streaming down his face, Rabbi Schachter picked the boy up.

“What’s your name, my child?” he asked in Yiddish.

“Lulek,” the child replied.

“How old are you?” the rabbi asked.

“What difference does it make?” the seven-year-old said. “I’m older than you, anyway.”

“Why do you think you’re older?” Rabbi Schachter asked, smiling.

“Because you cry and laugh like a child,” Lulek replied. “I haven’t laughed in a long time, and I don’t even cry anymore. So which one of us is older?”

Lulek, who eventually settled in Palestine, grew up to be Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, the former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel.

Rabbi Schachter remained at Buchenwald for months, tending to survivors, leading religious services in a former Nazi recreation hall and eventually helping to resettle thousands of Jews.

He discovered nearly a thousand orphaned children in Buchenwald. He and a colleague, Rabbi Robert Marcus, helped arrange for their transport to France — a convoy that included Lulek and the teenage Elie Wiesel — as well as to Switzerland, and to Palestine.

Rabbi Schachter died in the Riverdale section of the Bronx on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at age 95 after a career as one of the most prominent Modern Orthodox rabbis in the United States. For his work, Rabbi Schachter was singled out by name that Friday by Yisrael Meir Lau, in a meeting with President Obama at *Yad Vashem*. He thanked the American people for delivering Buchenwald survivors “not from slavery to freedom, but from death to life.” He had not yet learned of Rabbi Schachter’s death the day before. ◇



**Rabbi Schachter**

# The History of Hatikva

by Yardena Kamely

Israel has many stories to tell, about immigration (Aliyah), the first pioneers, their hard work becoming farmers, about building settlements like the Moshavah (farming community), the Kibbutz, the Moshav, and how the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael) became the independent State of Israel. In celebration of Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, here is a background story about *Hatikvah*, explaining how *Hatikvah* became Israel's national anthem.

An ad in the paper "Ha'tzvi" (published in Jerusalem) told its readers in 1886 about a booklet of songs in Hebrew written by Naftali Hertz Imber. Among those songs was his song *Tikvateinu* (our hope). The news about Hebrew songs published in Israel touched the soul of the Jewish people in the Diaspora and brought joy to the society of "Hovevei Zion" (Lovers of Zion). The song *Tikvateinu* resonated in the hearts of Jews in Israel and the Diaspora and became very popular. Soon it was adopted as a national anthem.

Apparently, the first version of the song *Tikvateinu*, later renamed *Hatikva* (The Hope), was written by Imber in Jassy (Yash), a town in Romania, in 1877. When Imber made Aliyah (immigration) to Israel (1882), he wandered from Moshavah (Jewish settlement) to Moshavah reading his poem *Tikvateinu*, and other songs he wrote, to the public. Imber was described by one contemporary as "a vagabond, a drunkard and a Hebrew poet." When in

spired, after a drink or two, he added more stanzas to the song *Tikvateinu*, ultimately creating a total of nine. Today, we sing only the first two stanzas. During the period of the First Aliyah, one and another Moshavah would claim: "Imber wrote *Hatikva* here." The last version of the song was probably written in Jerusalem. People who knew Imber at that time remembered that each time he was thinking of nice, rhyming words for his song, he would rush and write them on the wall of his room, in order not to forget them.

Who composed the melody to Imber's song? We don't know. People started to sing *Hatikva* with the melody we sing today around 1887. Some say that the melody is from the symphonic poem "Moldava" (Czechoslovakia/Moldavia), composed by Smetana. When the British Mandate government briefly banned the performance of *Hatikva* in 1919 due to Arab anti-Zionist political activity, you could frequently hear Smetana's "Moldava" playing on the radio "Kol Yerushalayim," The Voice of Jerusalem (radio with transmissions in Hebrew, Arabic and

English). The British became aware of its connection to *Hatikva* and prohibited the playing of "Moldava," too. Apparently, the melody of the Romanian song "Oys - Tzi" (the wagon and the ox) is the origin for the melody of *Hatikva*. When the *Moshavah Rechovot* was founded (1890),

## The modern lyrics of Hatikva

As long as deep in the heart,  
The soul of a Jew yearns,  
And forward to the East  
To Zion, an eye looks  
Our hope will not be lost,  
The hope of two thousand years,  
To be a free nation in our land,  
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Kol od balevav p'nimah	כל עוד בלבב פנימה
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah	נפש יהודי הומיה
Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah	ולפאתי מזרח קדימה
Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah	עין לציון צופיה
Od lo avdah tikvatenu	עוד לא אבדה תקותנו
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim	התקוה בת שנות אלפים
L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu	להיות עם חופשי בארצנו
Eretz Tzion v'Yerushalayim	ארץ ציון וירושלים

the construction workers who walked every day from *Rishon L'tzion* to *Rehovot* were singing *Hatikva* on their way and thus it became a very popular song. In 1898 Herzl visited *Rehovot* and a little girl, dressed in blue and white, presented him flowers and a song, ... *Hatikva*. All the people around joined in her song. *Hatikva* started to spread in Eretz Yisrael; farmers in the fields, workers, mothers to their children, guards on horseback, everybody was singing the popular Hebrew song. *Hatikva* became a national song.

*Hatikva* came to be known to the Jewish Communities in Europe, when settlers from Israel visited them (1894), asking for help for their *Moshavah*. The Zionist settlers presented them a booklet with popular Hebrew songs; in it, the name of Imber's song "Tikvateinu" was changed to "Hatikva", and some words were changed by the editors. This booklet, "Shirei Am Zion" (Songs of the People of Zion) became popular very soon, after being sold at the International Fair in Berlin (1896) together with wine and almonds from the *Moshavot*.

This was all before the First Zionist Congress organized by Herzl (Basel, 1897) and the Zionist Movement was looking for an anthem. A competition for composing a "Jewish National Song" was announced; the jurors would be Herzl and Nordau. Most of the songs received were written in German, some in English, French and Italian; only one was written in Hebrew. Herzl and Nordau didn't like any of the songs, so no Jewish anthem emerged at the first Congress. At the end of a Zionist Assembly in London (1900), some of

the participants started to sing *Hatikva* with English translation. The people remained standing in silence like they did before for the English anthem. The same happened in an assembly in Germany, singing *Hatikva* with German translation, and in Vilna (Soviet Lithuania). After Imber heard of this popularity of his song, he wrote a letter to Herzl asking him to choose it as the Jewish National Anthem. Herzl didn't answer him.

At the end of the heated discussions at the Zionist "Uganda Congress" (1903), the participants chanted *Hatikva* spontaneously and with enthusiasm. The line, "As long as forward to the East - To Zion, looks the eye - ....", became significant, since at the Congress the decision was made not to choose Uganda but only Zion for the Jewish State. After this Congress, all other Congresses ended with the singing of *Hatikva*. So in essence the People chose it as the Jewish anthem, not some official committee of the Zionist organization.

When the *Olim* (immigrants) of the Second Aliya came to Israel, their popular song was "The Blessing of the Jewish People" by the renowned poet Chaim Nachman Bialik. The poet refused the proposal to make his song the National Anthem, and finally *Hatikva* was accepted as the traditional Jewish national anthem. Still, even when the State of Israel was established in 1948, the law did not establish *Hatikva* as the Israeli State anthem. It was still a "tradition." It wasn't until November of 2004 that *Hatikva* was officially accepted as the National Anthem of Israel by the Knesset. ◊



**Poster celebrating 100 years of Naftali Imbar's publication of "Hatikva"**



# In Vienna: *Looking Beyond the “Woman in Gold”*

by Nancy Kluger

Recently, I spent a long weekend in Vienna, Austria. I traveled with Wolf Raymer, who speaks German, and was supportive and eager to travel to Vienna with me. There were many reasons I needed to go there and have felt persistently pulled in that direction.

It started with the film “Woman in Gold.” The character, Maria Altman, played by Helen Mirren, fascinated me, as did her need to recover the famed painting that Gustav Klimt had painted of her aunt and that hung in their house while she was growing up in Austria. When the Nazis marched into Vienna, they stole many possessions of its Jewish residents, including the golden Klimt portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer. After the war, the Austrian government had seized the painting, claiming it to be a national treasure and not the property of the Bloch-Bauer family.

Kurt, my late husband, and his family had lived in Vienna, before fleeing to Amsterdam during the Holocaust. They were well-to-do, had their own business and a beautiful home. So I hoped there must be some trace of what had been a beautiful life before leaving it all behind. Like the protagonist in “Woman in Gold,” I was seeking to establish a connection to their life in Vienna.

While in Toronto, several weeks ago, Wolf and I had brunch with distant cousins of Kurt’s, David and Edna Magder. Edna lost her mother at Maly Trostinets (a Nazi concentration camp just east of Minsk in Belorussia) and is extremely active in supporting organi-



**At the Hochstrahl Fountain (Hochstrahlbrunnen), dedicated by Emperor Franz Joseph in 1873 to inaugurate the first spring water main (from the Alps) into the city of Vienna.**

zations that bring Jewish history and causes to light, including The Association for the Stones of Remembrance. Her well-informed contacts are located in Vienna and she provided us with names and resources with which to begin our journey.

Our hotel in Vienna was lovely, old-world, on a narrow, quiet street. Lunch, of course, was Wiener Schnitzel. In the evening, we went to the opera, followed by a late dinner at the Sacher Hotel, where we were offered the famous sacher torte.

Our second day was with Walter Juraschek, a highly recommended tour guide. Vienna is not a large city and is very manageable, but Walter kept us going for six hours. I believe we walked in circles most of the time. His knowledge of history was mind-boggling and I quickly lost track of the number of wives,

brothers and mistresses of the Austrian kings and well-known celebrities like Mahler, Strauss, and Klimt. Walter's knowledge was matched by Wolf's love of history – two of the best tour guides you could ask for.

We walked parts of the Ringstrasse, the street built to replace the city walls from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and learned the history of the Opera House. We saw many former Jewish homes that are now hotels or, sadly, commercial establishments. McDonalds, the one with the golden arches, is in the former home of the Wertheim family. Wertheim had invented the fireproof safe.

We visited the synagogue in the Jewish district, closed because it was Friday, and had lunch at the Jewish Museum, where we bought the book "Good Living Street," about the fortunes of a Viennese family called Gallia. Prior to the Holocaust, there were 200,000 Jewish people living in Vienna; today there are 7,900.

We went to the Palace and saw the monuments to Prince Eugene and also the Hapsburg family chapel, where marriages were often performed without a groom. Attendance by proxy was acceptable.

Our third day was spent at the ChristKindlmarkt in front of City Hall. This Yearly event is much like a flea market in the



**The Stadtempel, the main synagogue of Vienna. Only Catholic churches were allowed to be stand-alone buildings, so the synagogue was built into a city street. This is what allowed the synagogue to survive Kristallnacht in 1938 and to be the only synagogue (out of 93) in Vienna to survive World War II.**



**Located in Judenplatz, this is the Vienna Holocaust Memorial, dedicated to all Austrian Jews killed in the Holocaust. It is also known as the Nameless Library.**

United States, but I believe one level better. We bought beautiful and fun trinkets for our grandchildren and enjoyed the spirit of Vienna during this time of year. Our last stop was the Belvedere Museum where we finally brought our trip to a close. We saw Klimt's "Woman in Gold," the painting sought by Maria Altman, and what we thought was even more beautiful, Klimt's "The Kiss."

Unfortunately, we didn't recover any additional information about previous residents the Kluger family. Like the history of many families, this one may be absent in what has been written, but will live forever in our thoughts and our respect for this era of history. ◇

## — This Month in Jewish History —

### May

1096 – On his way to join the Crusade led by Peter the Hermit, Emico, the Count of Leiningen, attacks the synagogue at Speyer, on the Rhine in southwestern Germany near Worms. The Jews defend themselves but are systematically slain. This begins a period of more frequent and organized attacks on Jews in Europe.

1103 – The anniversary of the death of Isaac Alfasi (Fez, born 1013) also known as the "RIF," who compiled the first codification of Jewish law, called *Sefer Halachot*, which still appears today in every volume of the Talmud. Joseph Caro later used *Sefer Halachot* as a basis for his work.

1160 – Bishop William of Bezier, France, is appalled by the custom of beating Jews during Palm Sunday, and issues an order excommunicating priests who do so.

1171 – The first ritual murder accusation in Europe occurs in Blois, France. Fifty-one Jews are burned, seventeen of them women. While burning to death, they chant the hymn *Alenu*, which had been composed in Talmudic times.

1267 – The city council of Vienna decides to force all Jews to wear a cone-shaped head-dress in addition to the badge. Called the *Pileum cornutum*, it is prevalent in many medieval woodcuts illustrating Jews.

1291 – After a two-month siege, the Christian fortress at Acre (just north of modern Haifa) falls to the Fatimid Egyptians, bringing a final end to the Crusades. (Six of them over a period of almost two hundred years.)

1415 – Enraged by the lack of voluntary conversions after the Christian "victory" at the

Tortosa disputation in Aragon, Spain—one of the most famous Christian/Jewish debates—Pope Benedict XIII bans Talmudic study in any form, institutes forced Christian sermons, and tries to restrict Jewish life completely.

1420 – Albert V of Austria accuses a rich Jew, Israel of Enns, of purchasing a wafer in order to desecrate it. All the Jews in the territory are jailed.

1554 – After an appeal by Jews in Catholic countries, Pope Julius III agrees to allow the burning of the Talmud but spares "harmless rabbinical writings."

1947 – The *Irgun Zeva'i Le'ummi*, the underground organization fighting for an independent Jewish state (better known as the *Etzel*), breaks into the British prison fortress at Acre and frees 41 *Etzel* and *Lehi* prisoners. This daring action is later immortalized in the novel "Exodus" and subsequent film, after the agnostic pioneer Barak Ben Canaan looks heavenward and prays "God, please don't let my brother die at the end of a British rope." He is overheard by his son, Ari.

1934 – The district of Birobidzhan, in the far southeast of the Soviet Union on the northern border of Manchuria, is established as a Jewish Autonomous Region. It is to cover an area of 36,000 square kilometers, with Yiddish as its official language. Within two years the Stalin government has a change of heart, as its infamous 1936 purges begin, and many Jewish socialist leaders are liquidated. After World War II, attempts are made to revive Birobidzhan, with Yiddish culture but without Judaism, as the Soviets do not allow religion. All attempts fail miserably, and soon a real Jewish country miraculously appears. ♦



# KJCC Meditation Garden

**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](http://keysjewishcenter.com).





# In the Month of May

## *Our American Jewish Heritage*

by Gloria Avner

“Nothing significantly Jewish is happening in the month of May this year,” I thought to myself, a touch kvetchily. Some research later my thinking morphed to: well, there is this lightweight holiday related to Passover, called *Pesach Sheni* (Second Passover), meant to give another chance to people who missed the *mitzvah* of sitting around a dining room table, saying blessings over ritual foods, and answering the “Four Questions” in a way that tell us once again, and yet stays forever new, our story – how we became the people that we are. I like the idea of “second chances,” a fresh start. Yes, that would be a good thing to celebrate. But more research brings a new, fully focused answer to my search for significant Jewish happenings this month. Suddenly and surprisingly, thanks to none other than George W. Bush, “nothing” becomes “everything.” In 2006, President Bush declared the month of May to be forever known as “Jewish American Heritage Month.”

How do we celebrate such a month? I remember one year KJCC went on an outing to a Marlins game where during the seventh inning stretch there was a tribute to



**Uriah Phillips Levy**

Jewish Heritage. (The game was against the New York Mets, and we just happened to also see Mets fan Rabbi Richard Agler there, in his Mets hat written in Hebrew.) We may even have had specially priced seats and Kosher hot-dogs to go with (if there is such a thing) kosher beer.



**Haym Salomon**

This special month, by Congressional resolution and presidential proclamation, is now officially the time set aside to acknowledge the more-than-350-year history of Jewish Americans who wove, and are weaving, their contributions “into the fabric of American history, culture and society.”

Go to the website: [jewishamericanheritagemonth.us](http://jewishamericanheritagemonth.us). It features a wonderful rotating compendium of Jewish contributors and their achievements entitled “Tell Me a Story.” The profiles range from the well-known and iconic, those whose names are household words – Golda Meir, Louis Brandeis, Bernard Baruch, Barbara Streisand, Joan Rivers, Sophie Tucker, George Gershwin, Edna Ferber, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Levi Strauss – to the lesser known and perhaps even more important. Read about Uriah Levy, the first Jewish officer of the United States Navy, who ended the practice of flogging as discipline or punishment. (He also bought and restored Monticel-



**Garrett Reisman**

lo, Thomas Jefferson's home, which had fallen into ruin due to the penury and indifference of Jefferson's heirs, then gave it to the American people.) Meet the man who may be more deserving than

George Washington of the title *Father of Our Country*: Haym Salomon was responsible for raising much of the money needed to finance the American Revolution, and later saved the new nation from collapse. Historians say that without him, there would be no America. Am I the only one who had never heard of Gertrude Elion, who revolutionized drug development, including creation of the immunosuppressant that made organ transplant possible; who developed treatments for childhood leukemia, hepatitis, lupus, and more, becoming the fifth woman ever to receive the Nobel Prize in Medicine?

As I read through the list and absorb each person's remarkable life story, I am struck by how many rose above desire for personal aggrandizement. They did what they did out of passion, love for their work and the world's people. Whether they were entertainers like Molly Picon and Barbara Streisand, scientists like Jonas Salk, writers like Emma Lazarus, or Ida Cohen Rosenthal, the co-founder of Maidenform bras, this vibrant cadre of Jewish people seemed to operate almost wholly from compassion for people who suffered, whether from disease or mistreatment at the hands of what we now call "the one percent." Go to the website. It is worth meeting these *lantsmen* of ours - and worth being inspired by them.

Imagine you are the one listed as Garrett Reisman, a nice Jewish boy born in New Jersey in 1968. You earn your Ph.D at Caltech in 1997, where, among your many achieve-

ments, you design the thruster-based attitude control system for the NASA Aqua Spacecraft. You serve as flight engineer aboard both the Expedition-16 *and* -17 crews on the International Space Station. In your most recent mission, on May 14, 2010, you get to operate the Space Station robotic arm, install and attach the Russian-built Mini Research Module to the Space Station. You also carry with you, in space, well out of the orbit of anti-Semitism, the 2006 presidential proclamation declaring May to be Jewish American Heritage Month. When you get back to earth, you will make sure the document finds a home at the National Museum of Jewish American History, in Philadelphia.

Do I need to say it out loud? Is it an accident that May was chosen as the month in which to honor the Jewish Americans who make life better for all Americans (and I believe not just for Americans, but all people)? Think about what else happens in May. Yes, this is the month in which we commemorate the Holocaust. On *Yom HaShoah*, May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will sit in our synagogue sanctuary and pay tribute both to the memory of the murdered and to the righteous few who attempted to save the lives of Jews in their midst.

We can't help wondering how many of the 6,000,000 might have added miraculous and subtle accomplishments for the benefit of their country or the world. Who knows in what directions they would have taken us in the realms of justice, science, athletics and the arts? It is both good, and ironic, that the presidential proclamation honoring Jewish Americans, better late than never, resides in the City of Brotherly Love. ◇



**Gertrude Elion**

# KJCC Women's Seder Reaches *Bat Mitzvah* Age

by Gloria Avner

It seems that every year we say, "This was the best one ever!" We always mean it. But this 13<sup>th</sup> variation on a theme – relevant Pass-over celebration by women working to repair the world, fighting for the lives and freedom of those less fortunate than ourselves, for the rights to health and full self-development for women, children, and families everywhere – it did seem special, less formal, more family-like, with wonderful participation and lots of creative buzz.

For one thing, our handsome Judy-Chicago

-inspired tablecloth brimming with the decorated names of past participants (yes, there was cause for tears and sadness when we saw the names of those no longer with us), turned into a gorgeous *seder* quilt when spread over our three large display panels. Women slightly

new to our Women's Seder community, here to "break matzoh" with us for the first time, had a meaningful chance to add their names in vibrant color to the mix of us. We got to know each other as we sat around a card table overflowing

with magic markers, thankful for Marcia Kreitman's fabric and her years' worth of gentle leadership on this and our on-going honoree banner project. This year's group of creative clay matzoh holders, made under the gener-

ous tutelage of Beth Kaminstein, added even more to the multi-dimensional bonding of Women's Seder experience.



More new people helped set up this year too, so we had great introductions and even more of a chance to get to know each other (in addition to the usual time eating, drinking, reading and music making.) We

were a houseful of Aunties, in our own home, setting tables, washing dishes, laying out *Haggadahs*, preparing for eagerly awaited company. We could hardly wait to per-

form the *mitzvah* of telling our story.

Beth Kaminstein gave a moving introduction, put-





ting our years and intent in graceful, grateful perspective. Muriel Swartz reminded us of how the “*seder-tablecloth-turned-quilt*” came to be, and then we began the seder. Leadership duties were shared by Susan Gordon, Beth Hayden, and me, with lots of stories, poetry, shared readings, musical instruments, and “joyful noise.” A mix of Jew and non-Jew, members, non-members, friends, families, children and adults, we were a jubilant crowd.

Erica Lieberman-Garrett coordinated – dare I say it – the most delicious, well-laid-out group of dishes ever, from multiple varieties of brisket and chicken, kugels, roasted vegetables, and “bark,” both vegan and straight (where would we be without Suzi Feder’s “shmeat matzoh” and dark chocolate bark, Beth Kaminstein’s tropical gefilteh fish, Susan Gordon’s apricot chicken, Marcia Kreitman’s Moroccan Chicken, the three brisket sisters’ variations on a gravied theme, Linda Perloff’s chopped liver and matzoh stuffing, Jane Friedman’s and Terry’s Tainow’s great veggies, Linda Kaplan’s fruit salad, Barbara Knowles’ macaroons and jellies and oh please forgive me if I left out names of our other great cooks and their

dishes.) Erica’s Matzoh Ball Soup was delicious as ever; and so was Linda Pollack’s corn pudding. But new, different, and great favorites this year were Donna Bolton’s spectacular organic beet horseradish and Beth Hayden’s classical extra-wine-laden *charoset*. But some might say the best part was yet to be.

We come together for a serious purpose as well as a chance to give our story a more contemporary slant than at

most of our community seders. In the words of our Women’s Seder *Haggadah*, “WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING.” We fundraise for projects we believe in.

We are serious about repairing the world (*tikkun olam*).

This year’s recipients extend from

across the great water to Africa and all the way back to our own tiny islands. We thank Joan Stark for her thoughtful coordination of the choosing and her presentation at the *seder*.

Once again we chose to honor the work being done by TAGS, The Talia Agler Girls Shelter, the extraordinary organization in Nairobi, Kenya, established in the name of Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler’s daughter of blessed memory, Tali, for the rescue, reintegration, and education of girls who have been traumatized by kidnapping, rape and torture. (For more infor-







mation, go to [www.rabbiagler.com](http://www.rabbiagler.com)).

Our second recipient, closer to home (in all senses of the word) is the Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice of the Florida Keys. With their gifted cadre of social workers, medical personnel and hardworking volunteers, they do come into our homes; many of our members have benefited physically and emotionally from their ministrations in these last few years. As it says in our Shabbat morning prayer-book, the kind acts they perform are those “whose worth cannot be measured.”

The final KJCC grantee comes as close to home as you can get: the KJCC Scholarship Fund. We are proud to announce that this year’s scholarship recipient will be Joshua Bernstein, son of Dr. Paul and Barbara Bernstein. He is such an integral part of *this shul* that our memories go back to his *bris* and baby naming. Watch for next month’s feature on Joshua, his achievements and his goals.

Each year we honor two women — one from our community, and one from Jewish history. It is especially fitting that this year’s choice for honoree from the past was Lillian Wald, founder of the Henry Street Settlement House and the NY Visiting Nurse Service. Joyce made the presentation.

A most significant part of our seder is honoring our “Woman of the Year.” This year we honored Jane Friedman. A full article about Jane follows.

The final presentation was to Beth Kaminstein, our pottery mentor. Medina Roy created a unique ceramic holder for a beautiful orchid. It will hang in the KJCC orchid pergo-

la.

We have history here, 13 years of it, and we are still creating, moving with conscious awareness forward to the present and through to the future. Like 13-year-old *B’nei Mitzvah*, our Women’s Seders are coming into maturity. We know what we are doing and are committed to doing it better and better. I heard that the amount we raised for “*tikkun olam*” this year also outperformed our previous years. May our children be of the “wise” variety. Let

them listen well, stay fully awake (long enough to understand the story), imagine themselves inside it, enjoy the food, sing out the four questions, find the *afikomen*, get the reward and store up memories they will feel compelled to pass on to their own children. If they only tell the story, “*Dayenu*.” It would be enough. If we say next year, “this is the best Women’s Seder ever,” *Dayenu v’dayenu*. ◇



# The Seder Moves On...

We light candles, sing, read from our special Women's Haggadah, we bless our ritual foods and enjoy each other's company as Joyce moves tirelessly around the room snapping photos.



## And on...

Our seder tablecloth-turned-tapestry expands with the addition of new names. Welcome, new member Mary Anne Pearl and Trish Rogers, guest returnee and office manager for Dr. Paul Bernstein. The creativity continues...



*(Our thanks to Marcia Kreitman for the fabric and Elaine Schulberg for the colorful markers.)*



After all the presentations (and dessert), the seder ends with a raffle drawing. Thank you, Oceana Gross (above at right, with Susan Gordon), for selecting the three winning tickets.



*Our thanks to all those who contributed photographs of the Women's Seder: Joyce Peckman, Gloria Avner and Erica Lieberman-Garrett.*

We love dipping our pinkies in wine, making the plague story in the Haggadah a true sensory experience. Sylvie Coeurjoly (above, left), Medina Roy and Linda Pollack (in photo at right) are totally focused.





# Meet Jane Friedman: KJCC Woman of the Year

by Gloria Avner

One of the best things about introducing the Women's Seder Honoree is the chance to get to know her better by asking questions. The questions were standard. Her answers were not. The 3-D portrait that emerged as we talked made me prouder than ever about our unanimous choice; this strong, self-sufficient but modest role model is a unique human being, great friend, and strong supporter of KJCC.

At our "seder" I asked the attendees: "how many of you think Jane grew up in a city." No hands. "Small town?" Many hands. "Outskirts of a village?" All hands on deck. Jane is an island girl, born and bred on the Philippine Island of Panay. The nearest town was Bugasong, and Jinalinan (these names are positively musical) was the village. The outskirts are called Bayyu. The mail was delivered by motorcycle. Since there were no street names or house numbers, if the mailman did not know where someone lived, he'd have to ask and be given directions; of course everyone who lived there knew where everyone else lived.

So what was it about this village and island that shaped our Jane? Not surprisingly, her family lived on a farm. They grew all their own food. At the back of her house was the ocean. In front were the rice fields. To the side were the vegetable gardens, and all around were mountains. If you wanted to eat, you planted, tended and harvested. If you wanted protein, you fished. You also had to do housework and take care of siblings. Ready? Jane is number nine of fourteen children. She had five sisters and eight brothers and was responsible for all those younger

than she.

Getting educated was not easy, but Jane hungered for it. There was no such thing as public school in the Philippines, and never the possibility of going beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Each child and child's family had to pay for and provide *everything* from books to supplies to – believe it or not – a chair to sit on. Fast forward. Here comes our first glimpse of how Jane developed her philosophy of life (which she continues to pass on to Harry, her only child). "Don't ever say 'I can't,'" she tells him. Jane believes in trying and not giving up. I can still see the proud sparkles in her eyes as she describes the chair she designed and constructed, all by herself, out of bamboo, to carry to school.



Jane

Jane did not dislike farming, or childcare, or fishing. We can see how good she is at all of it; it is part of her, this innate ability to make plants and humans thrive, her respect for all growing things. Jane had bigger dreams, though. She wanted adventure, travel and the opportunity to learn things she couldn't even articulate. Even when she left for America, at 18 years old, her curious, slightly dissatisfied self, was looking for answers and a faith that could speak to her.

Two of Jane's sisters had entered the military, married American military men, and moved to the United States in the 80s. They in turn brought Jane's parents over. When Jane joined them, she found work as a military family's nanny (lucky family!). They all lived around Washington, D.C. She met her





**Jane brought her friends Linda Hartsing and artistic daughter Jessica to the Seder to share in the celebration.**

future husband, Air Force Intelligence Specialist Steve Friedman, at the Pentagon. A few years later they were married. After a few more years, Harry came along, and in 2006, when Steve's parents grew frail, Jane, Steve, and little Harry relocated to Florida to assist the elderly in-laws. Jane brought her mother, the regal Angelina, with them. To Jane, "family values" was not a phrase but the way you lived your life.

Steve was Jewish. They lived on the mainland. Jane and Steve wanted to give their son a Jewish education and Steve looked at places in and around Miami. Somehow he found Key Largo School and Keys Jewish Community Center and decided this would be a good place to grow his son's education (never mind all the driving that Jane would have to do to get her child to and from his classes every day). We are so glad they made this decision.

Now Jane started bringing shy little Harry to Sunday School and began not just to give us her time and energy, but to become a quiet and necessary part of us. Jane was the parent who would always bring and prepare food for the children's break times. We could count on her. She started to want to learn along with Harry and the children. She regularly came to services and brought Harry with her. Harry grew taller and smarter and more

responsible, helping Jane regularly to feed the homeless, gather food for food banks, participate in myriad scouting events, go to demonstrations to support Israel, and by the time Harry became Bar Mitzvah, Jane could not only read Hebrew but knew the Friday night service by heart.

She could have stopped coming to Sunday School classes when Harry graduated and became Bar Mitzvah, but she didn't. She had learned enough to become a tutor. She became ever more active in Sisterhood, eventually becoming its Vice President. She still does most of the shopping for Sisterhood and has made her signature contribution to KJCC members health, bringing a variety of salads, fruits and vegetable dishes for those who do not want to ingest sugar. Now that Harry's Eagle Scout Garden Project is abundantly successful, we have become even more grateful, a fringe beneficiary along with the local food banks.

Could we be more grateful? No. But in the quiet depths of Jane's inner life, that hunger for a meaningful faith had grown. She liked what she had become a part of. She wanted to know more, and with Yardená's help and encouragement, she studied for a year (along with a Miami rabbi), did all that was asked of her and immersed in a ritual bath (*mikvah*) in the Florida Bay to complete her conversion.

Over the years we have watched Jane grow in confidence and knowledge. She is in the roster of Friday night service leaders, often with Medina, occasionally with Harry. We are her *mishpocha*, and she is ours.

Jane is so quiet, so humble, so giving in hundreds of behind-the-scene ways, we can never thank her enough. We certainly have never had a *Tu B'Shvat seder*/celebration in which she has not been a key player, especially in tree planting and introduction of exotic and even medicinal fruits to our KJCC orchard.

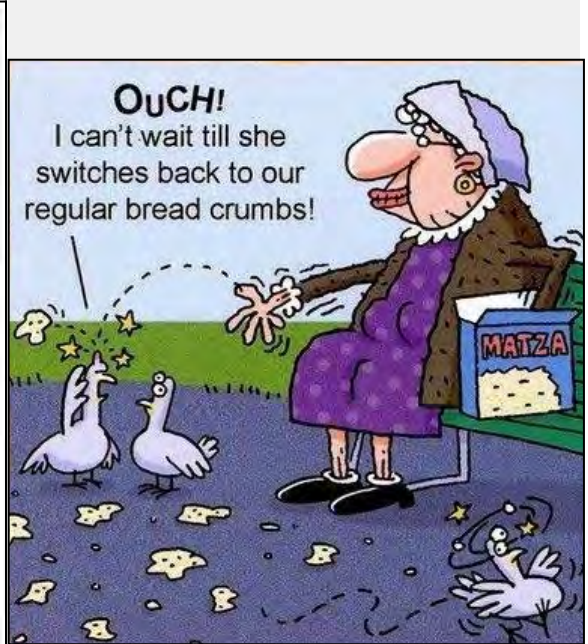
We salute you, Jane, the eager learner, ever helpful, generous, and principled Jew. I just wish we had a photo of that bamboo chair you made, testimony to your right and ability to do good in the world and achieve any goal important to you. ♦



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# Chai~Lights



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June, July and August 2016

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**A New Look at Tisha B'Av - page 45**

**The Forging of A People - page 47**

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# June 2016

24 Adar - 24 Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Steve Hartz & Steve Steinbock  <i>Erica Lieberman- Garrett</i>	4
5 Sisterhood 9 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting 11 a.m. Yom Yerushalayim	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Dairy Dinner</b> Beth Hayden & Gloria Avner <b>(Yizkor)</b> <i>Lynn Nobil</i>	11
12 <b>Shavuot</b>	13 <b>Shavuot</b>	14 <b>Flag Day</b> (for Skip)	15	16	17 Erica Lieberman -Garrett & Mitch Harvey	18
19 <b>Father's Day</b>	20 First Day of Summer	21	22	23	24 Joyce Peckman & Arthur Itkin  <i>Gloria Avner</i>	25 <b>Pot Luck Lunch &amp; Clothing Exchange</b> 12:30 at KJCC
26 Marlins Game leave KJCC 10 a.m.	27	28	29	30		

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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



Being a lover of words and their unparalleled magic, I pay close attention each week to the text of our KJCC *siddur*. I listen carefully to everyone's *Parshah*. I am always grateful for Rabbi Agler's penetrating discussions during his Saturday morning services. I've learned – perhaps more accurately am learning – that the words of the psalms and songs, and especially complex prayers like the *Amidah*, have layers. One doesn't just read the deceptively simple words; one discovers how to see into them. I now know to fight off the false intimacy of repetition; just because the words are familiar doesn't mean one understands them. More than once I've felt more an archeologist than a reader. Meaning – like ancient cities and tangible evidence of real people who lived and fashioned things there and probably wondered, like Spartacus, where the wind comes from – is often buried deep beneath the surface.

My best understanding so far (I am not, even by the most elasticized application of the term, a theologian) is that Judaism does not measure us by the things we think, or believe (or, wisely, profess to believe), but by the things we do. It's by our actions that we are seen.

So what actually happens here at KJCC? What do we

do? A more important question is...what do we do that matters? Since summer is nigh, with high season over, let's look back at what we did just this past season.

The list certainly includes all the things you'd expect from a synagogue, though nothing is done here without careful thought. How many shuls have members cook homemade dinners for each other once a month? This year we joined the International Shabbos Project and offered a challah-making class; laughter and joy ensued (and flour flew). Like Abraham, we opened our tent, and our membership grew dramatically. We brought one of the world's leading Jewish musical anthropologists to perform here, and Laura Wetzler dazzled. We honored our traditions, and our *mitzvot*, through celebrations of Sukkot, and Simchat Torah, and Chanukah, and Purim, and Tu B'Shvat, and Passover, and Shavuot. Most significantly of all, we restored our Holocaust Torah and allowed over seventy of us the opportunity to fulfill the 613<sup>th</sup> and final *mitzvah*, to "write for yourselves this song." We continued to work hard to bring you a monthly publication that both informs and delights. We offered films, and lectures, and a library, and the world's most gregarious weekly one-ges.

And, like the Torah, a new cycle begins again in the fall. Stay tuned. ♦

# Nosh

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot: June 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.

Eat. Pray. Remember. We will celebrate Shavuot, the fiftieth day after our release from slavery in Egypt, on Friday night, June 10<sup>th</sup> (though the holiday technically begins on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>) with a creamily delicious dairy pot luck dinner. Eating will be followed by a service that will include the dramatic reading about the receiving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, and the fourth (and last) mandated Yizkor (Memorial) service of the year. Afterwards, enjoy an evening of informal teaching and discussion with our Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler. We don't want to be caught sleeping through the giving of the sacred law as our ancestors so nearly did, so we participate in what has become an adaptation of a 16<sup>th</sup> century mystical custom initiated in S'fat, the Kabbalistic center of Israel. We will not stay all night, but if we make it past 10, especially after all those creamy carbs, we will be doing well. (Did I mention there will also be desserts, cheesecake chief among them?) Come. This is one of our three significant pilgrimage holy days, when sacrifices were brought to the Temple in Jerusalem. Let your presence and your sincere prayers be your sacrifice. Relive and renew the covenant that made us a people.

## Summer Happenings

Summer season is fast approaching. Snowbirds have flown north, leaving us to enjoy our little piece of paradise, blessed with sunny days and balmy breezes. The KJCC Activities Committee has fun events planned. Jewish Heritage Day at Marlins Park is on Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be leaving by bus to enjoy a nosh and a ball game between the Marlins and Cubs. See the flyer in this issue of Chai-Lights for more details. We are also organizing a sunset cruise. Stay tuned for more information when it becomes confirmed. And, of course, there is the annual Shabbabaque on July 1<sup>st</sup>, celebrating our country's independence and Pauline Roller's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday! Contact

me, Mitch Harvey at 303- 521-5240 or [harveyaip@yahoo.com](mailto:harveyaip@yahoo.com) to confirm so we can plan the food. Remnants of the Men's Club will man the grills. Have a great summer!

## Girls Just Want to Have Fun

At the last Sisterhood meeting it was decided to break with "tradition" and dance to a different tune. Just because the last Sisterhood get-together of the year has always been celebrated with a restaurant luncheon doesn't mean that we have to do it the same way forever. We like our own food better anyway. And what could be more fun than trying on new(ish) clothing and accessories previously chosen by our friends whose tastes we already like and whose prices will beat the best yard sale bargains ever -- free.

So save the date. On Saturday, June 25, at 12:30 p.m., the first-ever KJCC Sisterhood Pot Luck Clothing Exchange will take place. To have even more fun, volunteer to help with the set-up of clothing racks, mirrors, and table settings at 10:00 am. in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall. Please see the house ad on page 28.

## July Service Leaders

July 1:	Sam Vinicur and Gloria Avner
July 8:	Bernie Ginsberg
July 15:	Erica Lieberman-Garrrett and Mitch Harvey
July 22:	Ken Atlas and daughter Sara
July 29:	Beth Hayden and Linda Pollack

## Good Rabbinic News for the Fall

We've just had the last of Rabbi Agler's Shabbat morning learning services for the season. We will miss them. After Tikkun Layl Shavuot activities on June 10<sup>th</sup>, Rabbi Agler sightings will be sporadic and non-rabbinic. His Saturday morning services usually do not start again until well after High Holy Days, but change is in the air. Here's the good news. Because of our added leap month this year, High Holy Days will not

begin until early October. There is a good chance that Rabbi Agler will offer one of his services in September, before *Yamim Noraim* (the ten Days of Awe) begin. Watch this space in the September issue.

### Member Authors Everglades Guidebook

KJCC member Robbie Silk, a longtime journalist of the Florida Keys, has produced a magnificent guide for those who seek to explore the local flora and fauna. *An Ecotourist's Guide to the Everglades and the Florida Keys* is an exceptionally well-written book providing advice on touring the vast array of natural attractions found in South Florida. It provides background on the history and ecological challenges of the area. The warm and moving foreword by legendary Everglades photographer Clyde Butcher is a powerful endorsement of Robbie's ability to capture and convey the complex beauty of South Florida. Available on Amazon, the guide is perfect for residents and tourists who want to maximize their experience in our natural paradise. I would get a few copies to keep and to give away. I never knew how much great stuff I have missed.

-Steve Hartz

### June Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark.....30
1st	Jim & Rita Williams.....32
5th	Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Ron Garrett .22
<b>7th</b>	<b>Richard &amp; Sheila Steinberg .....57</b>
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman.....20
11th	Medina & Carl Roy.....44
12th	William & Donna Bolton.....23
12th	Steven & Jan Hartz.....40
14th	Harvey & Joan Kay.....46
19th	Richard & Mindy Agler.....40
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake.....29
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax.....42
<b>25th</b>	<b>Herbert &amp; Elinor Grossman.....59</b>
28th	Lloyd & Rae Wruble.....47
28th	Wes & Rita Conklin.....46

### July Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross.....16
9th	Terry Willner-Tainow & Jon Tainow....44
9th	Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly.....6
12th	Jason & Debbie Madnick.....21
24th	Dick & Rita Bromwich.....42
30th	Andrew & Randi Grant.....27

### Wanted: Summer Postcards from Away

We don't really want postcards. We want photos of you in summer situ -- jpegs attached to e-mails. Chai-Lights staff may be taking the summer off, but that doesn't mean that you should. Please take photos of people and places, what you love to do while away, the exceptional places you go and the peeps you take with you. We miss you already and don't want to miss any skydiving, bungee jumping, hot dog eating, river cruising, horseback riding, concerts, baseball games, beach time, hiking or indescribable uncontainable experiences you are having with friends and grandchildren. If we get them before August 10<sup>th</sup>, we will share them with *mishpocha* in our September issue. Have fun, stay safe, and *zai gezundt!*

### KJCC Library

Thanks to Muriel Swartz, we now own the DVD of "The Children of Chabbanes." If you missed its screening on *Yom Hashoah*, you can borrow it to watch at home. It is both moving and uplifting. There are plenty of other cool DVDs and books there to enjoy over the long hot days ahead. Rabbi Agler enthusiastically recommends a recent acquisition - "Rethinking God and Ethics" by his beloved teacher and mentor, Rabbi Eugene Borowitz. Or check out the many novels and cookbooks to help feed your mind and body. Just look for the sign-out book on the shelf, near the gift shop.



## June Birthdays

Todd Botwin.....	1st
Barbara Osder.....	2nd
Myra Kaplan.....	2nd
Elanor Forbes.....	3rd
Abraham Rakov.....	3rd
Alfred Weihl.....	4th
Scott Kay.....	4th
Dorothy Wolfe.....	5th
Joseph Sachs.....	5th
Sam Weis.....	5th
Suzanne Gilson.....	6th
Nancy Kluger.....	6th
Donna Bolton.....	6th
Joan P. Wohl.....	7th
Carrie Smith.....	7th
Elaine Solas.....	8th
Eina Fishman.....	8th
Renee Brodie.....	9th
Zoe Moshe.....	9th
Kevin M. Silverman.....	12th
Israel Mayk.....	13th
Jeff Miller.....	13th
Justin Greenbaum.....	13th
Jennifer Nobil.....	14th
William Bolton.....	15th
Deborah Weiss.....	15th
Haley Mayclin.....	15th
Marvin Blumenfeld.....	16th
Leo Haviv.....	17th
Anita Krieger.....	17th
Kim Haviv.....	18th
Amelia Kasinof.....	18th
Judy Schmidt.....	20th
Harvey Klein.....	20th
Sam Janowitz.....	21st
Nancy Hershoff.....	21st
Roberta Chester.....	21st
Taryn Nobil.....	21st
Steve Levine.....	23rd
Dale Chasteen.....	23rd
Delaney Rohde.....	24th
Rita Bromwich.....	24th
Frank Emkey.....	27th
Kristy Moss.....	27th
Alan Cooper.....	28th
Arthur Feinberg.....	29th
Milo Tainow.....	29th
Bob Friedman.....	30th

## July Birthdays

Jennifer Gilson.....	1st
Patti Gross.....	1st
Alex Hudson.....	1st
Nelson Chester.....	1st
Elissa A. Denker.....	2nd
Rabbi Ed Rosenthal.....	2nd
Max Botwin.....	2nd
Michael Kaufman.....	3rd
Joseph Moss.....	3rd
Max Finkelstein.....	3rd
Pauline Roller.....	4th
Mindy Rosenthal.....	4th
Lucy Moss.....	7th
Joyce Peckman.....	9th
Lindsay Gould.....	10th
Steven Hartz.....	11th
Richard Steinberg.....	12th
Rebecca M. Schur.....	12th
Dana Grace.....	12th
Leslie Reamer.....	13th
Dot Brooking.....	13th
David Gross.....	14th
Paul Eric Bernstein.....	14th
Danna Levy.....	15th
Shira Listman.....	17th
Foster Davidson.....	17th
Luzviminda Levine.....	18th
Carol Laskin.....	20th
Roosmary Benowitz.....	20th
Linda Perloff.....	21st
Joshua Samuel Bernstein.....	21st
Brian Smith.....	21st
Arlington Garrett.....	21st
Millie Tainow.....	22nd
Carrie Temkin.....	23rd
Carol Field.....	26th
Lance Royce Kaufman.....	26th
Marc Bloom.....	27th
Stephanie Bittner.....	27th
Rachael Bloom.....	27th
Mary Anne Pearl.....	28th
Lila E. Juenger.....	28th
Bruce Boruszak.....	29th
Barry Neumann.....	29th
Mary Lee Singer.....	29th
Candy Stanlake.....	29th
Molly Bloom.....	30th
Drew Nobil.....	31st
Mark Steinberg.....	31st

## August Birthdays

Nicholas Rivera.....	1st
Marc S. Field.....	2nd
Jessica Forman.....	4th
Nissan Mayk.....	5th
Joseph Reamer.....	8th
Eric Freundlich.....	9th
Delia Grace Smith.....	9th
Barbara Smith.....	10th
Emma Feig.....	10th
Larry Weiss.....	12th
Stephan Friedman.....	13th
Gina Moritz.....	13th
Linda Ulman.....	15th
Patricia Isenberg.....	15th
Danielle Zinner.....	15th
Alan Lindenbaum.....	16th
Tom Brennan.....	16th
Alison Thompson.....	16th
Ben Botwin.....	17th
Pamela Friedman.....	19th
Amanda Nobil.....	20th
Rachel Zinner.....	21st
Dave Mont.....	23rd
Fia Botwin.....	23rd
Carl McNew.....	24th
Mikhaela Bitton.....	26th
Jaimee Marshall.....	27th
Judy Greenman.....	27th
Evan Stuart.....	28th
Robert Temkin.....	30th
Sue Ann Weihl.....	30th
Ivy Blumenfeld.....	31st
Brynn Borisoff.....	31st

## August Anniversaries

	Years
3rd	Augie & Kristy Moss.....3
<b>7th</b>	<b>Larry &amp; Dorothy Wolfe.....59</b>
15th	Richard & Barbara Knowles..... 17
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts.....48
<b>16th</b>	<b>Ira &amp; Shirley Stein.....58</b>
17th	Stephen & Marsha Harris..... 15
21st	Jeff & Lisa Miller.....39
22nd	Franklin & Judy Greenman.....34
27th	Israel & Nissan Mayk.....44
28th	Renee & Sam Weis..... 18

## Oneg Sponsors for Summer 2016

- June 3rd: Erica Lieberman-Garrett in honor of her Anniversary.
- June 10th: Lynn Nobil in memory of Joel and Sara Cohen.
- June 17th: Sisterhood
- June 24th: Gloria Avner in memory of David Gitin.
- July 1st: Sisterhood
- July 8th: Sisterhood
- July 15th: Sisterhood
- July 22nd: Arthur Itkin to celebrate Vi's birthday.
- July 29th: Sisterhood
- Aug. 5th: Sisterhood
- Aug. 12th: Steve and Barbara Smith in honor of Barbara's birthday.
- Aug. 19th: Barney Coltman for KJCC fellowship.
- Aug. 26th: Sisterhood

## New Members

We are happy to welcome new members Adam and Judy Starr of Islamorada and Westport, Connecticut. Bob Pratt saw our sign, came to Friday services, and asked to join our KJCC *mishpocha*. He has homes in Islamorada and Deerfield Beach. Sheree Savar, our newest member, lives in Tavernier and Miami.

We look forward to seeing all of you become vital components of our little shul by the sea.

## Chai-Lights Hiatus

Chai-Lights is published ten times per year. What you're reading 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. Please continue to send your photos and events to us at the Chai-Lights e-mail. We'll publish them in September. Have a healthy and safe summer.

## Need Service Leaders for August

Not volunteering for services because you're nervous before an audience? Summer would be the ideal time, since attendance is lower. Contact Gloria, 305-619-0216, who will happily match you up with an experienced co-leader.

### **Remember the Bricks**

The KJCC Meditation Garden pathways have room for more dedicated bricks, a moving way to honor and remember loved ones. Contact Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143 for details.

### **Summertime Creativity**

An art project is brewing this month. We may channel pre-history and create our own cave paintings, make self-portraits, or work with watercolors, India ink and string to create abstract masterpieces which we will frame.

Contact Gloria with your preference, and watch Sam's Tuesday messages for the date and time.

### **Grillers Needed**

Be a part of our Independence Day Shabbabaque and help celebrate Pauline Roller's 101st birthday. Hamburgers and hot dogs will need to be tended. Contact Mitch Harvey at 303-521-5240 or [Harveyaicp@yahoo.com](mailto:Harveyaicp@yahoo.com). Our Independence day will happen on Friday, July 1st this year. Look for the ad in this issue.

## **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.

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**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.

*In Memoriam June, July and August 2016*

In Memory Of

**David Gitin**

By Gloria Avner



In Memory Of

**Esther R. Cohn**

By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Leo Finklestein**

By Max Finklestein



In Memory Of

**Samuel Schneider**

By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

**Samuel Horn**

By Susan Horn



In Memory Of

**Ruth Rosen**

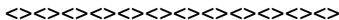
By Michael & Lorena Kaufman



In Memory Of

**William Saul Kerman**

By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

**Samuel Segal**

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein



In Memory Of

**Lois Owen**

By Nancy L. Cohn



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**Moritz Gelbard**

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In Memory Of

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**Lucy Kaufman**

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman



In Memory Of

**Emilia Mendez**

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman



In Memory Of

**Florence C. Kerman**

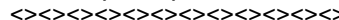
By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

**William Owen**

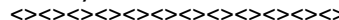
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Louis R. Coltman**

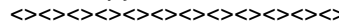
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

**Betty Weiss**

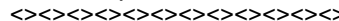
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Andrew Hutchison**

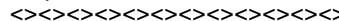
By Susan Horn



In Memory Of

**Celestina Bravo-Mendez**

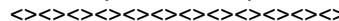
By Michael & Lorena Kaufman



In Memory Of

**Arthur Klimpl**

By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

**Carl C. Reiff**

By Rick & Roberta McNew



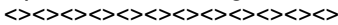


# *In Memoriam June, July and August 2016*

In Memory Of

**Dale Gerber**

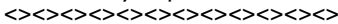
By Dave Mont & Georgia Landau



In Memory Of

**Morris Rose**

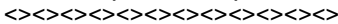
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

**Leon Kirschenbaum**

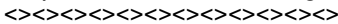
By Medina Roy



In Memory Of

**Wally Steinberg**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Rose Fine**

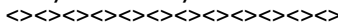
By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memory Of

**Abraham L. Blumenfeld**

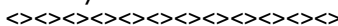
By Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld



In Memory Of

**Robert L. Cline**

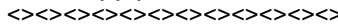
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

**Leslie Peckman**

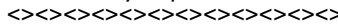
By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

**Milton Lang**

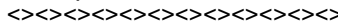
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

**Jan Finer**

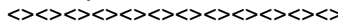
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

**Leonard Tobin**

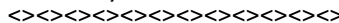
By Andrew M. Tobin



In Memory Of

**Nettie Goodman**

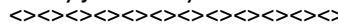
By Gloria Avner



In Memory Of

**Laura Bofshever**

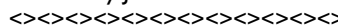
By Joel & Toby Bofshever



In Memory Of

**S. Marshall Gorson**

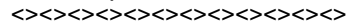
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Ben Horwitz**

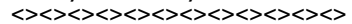
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

**Harold Rosenthal**

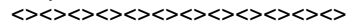
By Ed & Mindy Rosenthal



In Memory Of

**Rose Graff Rosenfeld**

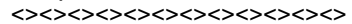
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Irma Weihl**

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl



In Memory Of

**Phyliss Bloom**

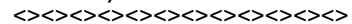
By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

**Zelda Edelman**

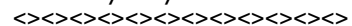
By Dale Chasteen



In Memory Of

**Max Gould**

By Maryon Gould

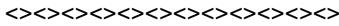


*In Memoriam June, July and August 2016*

In Memory Of

**Jason Grossman**

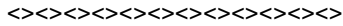
By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman



In Memory Of

**Sylvia Hershoff**

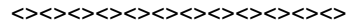
By Jay & Nancy Hershoff



In Memory Of

**Jacob Ratchik**

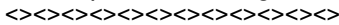
By Susan Horn



In Memory Of

**Margaret Isenberg**

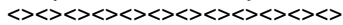
By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

**Sydney Emsig**

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



In Memory Of

**Beulah Grossman**

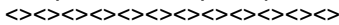
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

**Les Reitman**

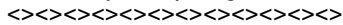
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

**Otto Kluger**

By Nancy Kluger



In Memory Of

**Fred Ross**

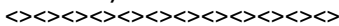
By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

**Bob Freundlich**

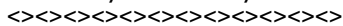
By Linda Perloff



In Memory Of

**Paula Travers**

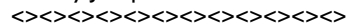
By Michele Riley



In Memory Of

**Frank Stanley Sachs**

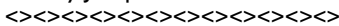
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

**Morgan Rowen**

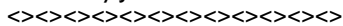
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

**Aaron Schmidt**

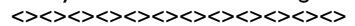
By Judith Schmidt



In Memory Of

**Beth Schulberg**

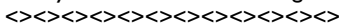
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Harvey Kelman**

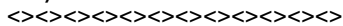
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Sylvia Sachs**

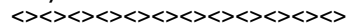
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Jack L. Sachs**

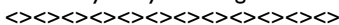
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Stanley H. Klipper**

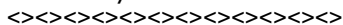
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

**Bernard Solas**

By Elaine Solas



In Memory Of

**Manya Starr**

By Adam & Judy Starr

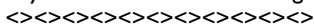


# *In Memoriam June, July and August 2016*

In Memory Of

**Mollie Z. Cohen**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Ben Steinbock**

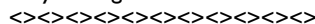
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Mack Swartz**

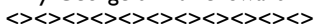
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Milton Swartz**

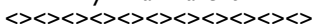
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Ida Estrin**

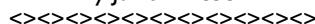
By Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

**Alfred Eichler**

By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

**Frieda Feinberg**

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memory Of

**Henrietta Zinner**

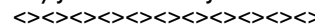
By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

**Sidney Stark**

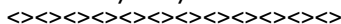
By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark



In Memory Of

**Frane Alter**

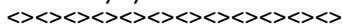
By Barry Alter



In Memory Of

**Isaac Berman**

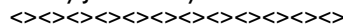
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Ralph Bofshever**

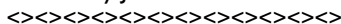
By Joel & Toby Bofshever



In Memory Of

**Priscilla Leshin**

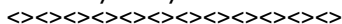
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

**Gary W. Cohn**

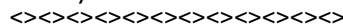
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Sandra Kanarek**

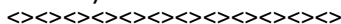
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**Robert Davidson**

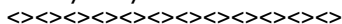
By Foster Davidson



In Memory Of

**Dorothy Schafer**

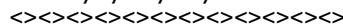
By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

**Marty Faye**

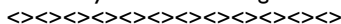
By Sydney! Faye-Davis



In Memory Of

**Harriet Feinberg**

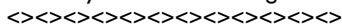
By Arthur Feinberg



In Memory Of

**Jesse Ginsberg**

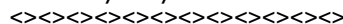
By Bernard Ginsberg



In Memory Of

**Jeanette Gould**

By Maryon Gould

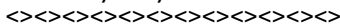


# *In Memoriam June, July and August 2016*

In Memory Of

**Richard Gould**

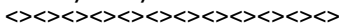
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

**Henry Kirschenbaum**

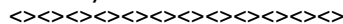
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

**Margaux Rene Grossman**

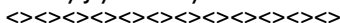
By Stuart Grossman



In Memory Of

**Manuel Hershoff**

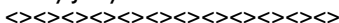
By Jay & Nancy Hershoff



In Memory Of

**Nathan Herson**

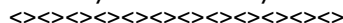
By Jerry & Barbara Herson



In Memory Of

**Chanoch Levy**

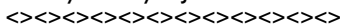
By Yardena Kamely



In Memory Of

**Eva Raub**

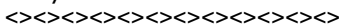
By Harvey & Judith Klein



In Memory Of

**Shirley Lieberman**

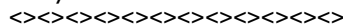
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

**Billie Kornbloom**

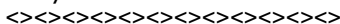
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

**Max Lieberman**

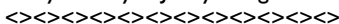
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

**Isaac Cohen Pardo**

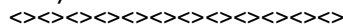
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

**Dorothy Marmar**

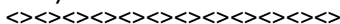
By David & Pamela Marmar



In Memory Of

**Gizella Reiff**

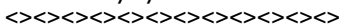
By Rick & Roberta McNew



In Memory Of

**Jim Nobil**

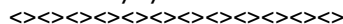
By Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

**Erik S. Persoff**

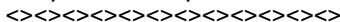
By Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

**Leonard Pearl**

By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl



In Memory Of

**Joel Reed Baker**

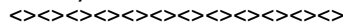
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

**Howard Shutan**

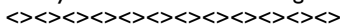
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

**Martha Schulberg**

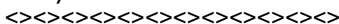
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Selma Smith**

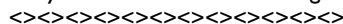
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

**Meyer G. Cohen**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



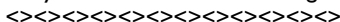


# *In Memoriam June, July and August 2016*

In Memory Of

**Samuel Wainer**

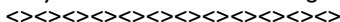
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Erwin Wainer**

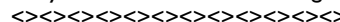
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**James Nobil**

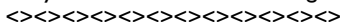
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Erik S. Persoff**

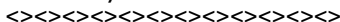
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Ralph Tallent**

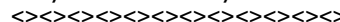
By Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

**Seymour H. Levin**

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow



## ***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 Jochebed*.)

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

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

If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's *Misheberach* list, please, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).

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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



Summer in the Keys allows us the time to replenish our energy, while we continue to spend time together, with a bit less chaos. Regular Sisterhood meetings are suspended, but summer onegs, havdalahs, and special events still occur.

We began the summer season with our Fresh Start Shabbat dinner on May 20th. With the encouragement of Linda Kaplan, who has been following a healthier diet (and looks fabulous as a result), we sat down to some new and adventurous dishes. Restricting the meat, dairy, sugar, and flour, we created scrumptious and healthy dishes with vegetables, brown rice, quinoa, legumes, fruit, and salads. I love food, especially fresh food, so I really appreciated the effort of all who participated in this new Sisterhood event. We challenged ourselves to step it up another level and try some new things. It gave us some new motivation to continue to eat healthier and pay more attention to our food choices. Perhaps our adventures with veggies helped us to lose a few pounds after the big Passover season. Oy!

But we will make up for it at our dairy Shavuot dinner on June 10th. We look forward to yummy blintzes and cheesecake. Please let me know if you are coming and what you can bring.

Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> will bring a brand new endeavor -- our first ever pot luck/clothing exchange. Set up will be at 10 a.m., and lunch and "shopping" (no money exchanged) at 12:30. We will clean our clutter, clear our closets and jewelry boxes, and gather together for some shopping, a mini fashion show, and pot-luck lunch event. It will be so much fun to give away to our Sisterhood girlfriends things that we do not need or use anymore, or that don't quite fit or suit us. It is such a good feeling to reorganize, and *feng shui* your clutter. And of course it is also exciting to take home something "new." The positive

energy of the event will continue when we take the remaining items to the local MARC store and Women's Shelter.

Speaking of positive energy, Sisterhood will present our annual gift to the KJCC at the June board meeting. Additionally, from the Women's Seder a gift was made to the KJCC Scholarship fund. The Women's Seder "*Tikkun Olam*" also presented a special gift to Mindy Agler in support of the Talia Agler Foundation, and another to the Florida Keys VNA Hospice.

We are small, but we are productive. It was a very successful year for Sisterhood thanks to the hard work of our members, and all of our guests who participated in our fabulous dinners, events, and gatherings. Special thanks to Susan Gordon, our vice president of Sisterhood, gift shop coordinator and master event decorator; Jane Friedman, who shops and schlepps and now grows the food too; Joyce Peckman, for her diligent work with the oneg sponsorships; Beth Hayden, who keeps our finances in order; Gloria Avner who with ritual committee makes all our Sisterhood events meaningful; and to Linda Pollack, who prepares our beautiful fliers each month to let everyone know what is going on.

Sisterhood will continue to have delicious and meaningful onegs each Friday night with those who are in the Keys over the summer. Please contact Joyce Peckman (305-451-0665) for sponsorship to help celebrate and honor your special simchas. We wish Pauline Roller a Happy 101<sup>st</sup> birthday as we celebrate our annual Shabbabeque for the Fourth of July. I hope that you all enjoy your summer season. We are glad to have a bit of reprieve before we return in the fall and start our High Holiday season. We look forward to a wonderful 5777. ◇

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## General Fund

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Peckman, Joyce

Pollack, Linda

Pollack, Linda

Singer, Mary Lee

Singer, Mary Lee

Steinbock, Steve

## In Honor of

Sponsor 1<sup>st</sup>

Seder at KJCC

birth of Jonah Arlo Agler

birth of Jonah Arlo Agler,

grandson of Rabbi Rich and Mindy Agler

Harry Friedman, Eagle Scout

Harry Friedman, Eagle Scout

Molly Bloom's graduation

Sponsor 1<sup>st</sup> Seder at KJCC

## Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Joe and Susan Sachs

## Sisterhood

Hight, Holly

Nancy Kluger – sale of Islamorada house

## Yahrzeits

Horn, Ron & Dorothy

Anna Horn &

Ida Ratchik

Joel Pollack

Robert Schur

Pollack, Linda

Schur, Lee

Sheinker, Miltra

Warren J. Sheinker

Temkin, Robert

Phillip Temkin

Wohl, Joan P.

Dr. Milton A. Wohl

## Meditation Garden

Steinbock, Steve

Steinbock, Steve

## In Honor of

Harry Friedman, Eagle Scout

Wishing Skip Rose

a speedy recovery

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

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

*Tree of Life Leaves:* We have 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.



## Shavuot Celebrated in Israel

**S**havuot is one of the three pilgrimage holidays when Jewish males traveled to Jerusalem at the time of the ancient Temples. It has several names – *Shavuot* refers to the counting done from Passover to Shavuot (it literally means “weeks”), “*Yom HaBikurim*” refers to the bringing of agricultural offerings to the Temple in Biblical times and “*Chag Matan Torah*” refers to the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

It is a one-day holiday in Israel (two in the Diaspora) and has many traditions that offer something for everyone. For many, Shavuot is about celebrating Israel’s agriculture. It was at this time of year that the Israelites would bring an offering from the first wheat harvest to the Temple in Jerusalem. In modern times, *kibbutzim* and *moshavim* (A *moshav* is a type of cooperative agricultural community of individual farms pioneered by the Labor Zionists during the second wave of aliyah.) organize agricultural festivals on Shavuot and bring an “offering” of Israeli produce to the President of Israel – a contemporary pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Another custom is praying at dawn at the *Kotel* (Western Wall) or the beach. To be at the *Kotel* at dawn of Shavuot is a unique experience. Hundreds of people gather to pray and at the exact minute when the sun rises, a united voice arises as the people recite the prayer “*Shema*

*Yisrael.*” The beach in Tel Aviv is another place where people come together at dawn on Shavuot for a spiritual prayer experience.

A fourth tradition is dressing in white and eating tons of dairy food. It isn’t entirely clear why people dress in white on Shavuot or eat dairy. One explanation is that once the laws were given on Mount Sinai, the people could no longer eat meat until they began preparing it according to the new laws they had just received. And so meanwhile, as they celebrated the giving of the Torah, they feasted on dairy.

Holidays tend to take on different forms as they pass from one historical period to another, influenced by diverse cultures and social contexts. In Biblical culture, when the Israelites were an agricultural society centered on the Temple, Shavuot was an agricultural festival “set to take place seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing corn.” (Deuteronomy 16:9), marking the conclusion of the harvest period.

After the destruction of the Temple, the Temple-centered society of the Biblical period was replaced by a rabbinic society that emphasized Torah study, and it became necessary to add new content into the holiday. Shavuot gradually became the “Holiday of the Giving of the Torah,” based on a Biblical reference to the Israelites congregating at Mount Sinai to re-





ceive the Torah during the month of Sivan (Exodus 19:1). In the centuries following the destruction of the Temple, customs like *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* that emphasize the value of Torah study developed around the Shavuot holiday and became the main significance of the festival.

An interesting change in the holiday's customs began at the beginning of the Zionist project, when first fruit celebrations were created in the pre-state Yishuv, inspired by the magnificent festivities that took place in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem and that are described in the Mishnah (Tractate Bikkurim). Now the local public space of the village or city was substituted for the temple, a representative of the Jewish National Fund took the place of the high priest, and the first fruits were brought to strengthen Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel instead of being offered up to God. Big "first fruits" celebrations were held not only in villages and Kibbutzim, but also in urban communities such as Hadar Hacarmel in Haifa, and in Tel Aviv.

Not everyone, however, wanted to give up the "Holiday of the Giving of the Torah." For example, in a speech at a first fruits ceremony at Kibbutz Ein Harod in 1937, Shlomo Lavi, a prominent figure among the early *halutzim* (Zionist pioneers), called for celebrating Shavuot not only as an agricultural festival but also as the holiday of the giving of the Torah. His reasoning for this

was that "this Torah gave us the human conscience." Lavi and many of his contemporaries believed that abandoning the idea of celebrating Torah study would be harmful for the project of renewing Jewish culture, which for them was the essence of Zionism. In the 1960s, the young intellectuals of the Kibbutz movement, who also called for Jewish renewal, raised similar arguments.

Today more than ever, participation in a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* is a tradition not only of the observant Jews. Several years ago, for example, a night of learning was held for the first time at the Tel Aviv Municipality building. This event was initiated and supported by the municipality and conducted by the liberal, inclusive, and egalitarian Beit Tefilah Israeli congregation. Many Kibbutzim still celebrate colorful first fruit ceremonies. Thousands of Israelis love to spend the whole day of Shavuot outdoors in one of the Kibbutzim, but the perception of Shavuot as a holiday of the giving of the Torah remains predominant. This reality reflects a growing sense among Israelis that the Torah belongs to everyone. ◇

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*This year Shavuot begins in the evening of Saturday, June 11th and ends in the evening of*

*Monday, June 13th.  
Chag Same'ach*

- Yardena



**It's clear that the ancient practices of celebrating the Jewish connection to the land and nature still appeal to modern Israel.**

**Young Israeli women celebrate the outdoor festival of first fruits**



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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### It Tricks Your Brain

Eight cups of water a day....we all know that's what we should drink each day - not soda, or fruit juice but just plain water. To some, plain water is tasteless and boring when compared to the sugary alternatives. But we also know that high intakes of sugar increase the risk for diabetes, obesity and other chronic conditions. With that in mind, Israeli entrepreneur Isaac Lavy has invented a unique but ordinary-looking BPA-free plastic cup. He calls it *The Right Cup*, and it provides flavor without sugar by taking the same FDA-approved substances that make drinks sweet and tasty and infusing them inside the cup itself and not in the drink. By doing that, the "smell" of the flavor tricks the brain into believing that one is drinking a fruity beverage when, in fact, it's plain drinking water. Our sense of smell accounts for 80 percent of our "taste experience," which helps explain why we lose our sense of taste when we are down with a cold. The cup took six years to perfect. Seventy-eight dollars will buy you a package of four flavored cups (apple, lemon-lime, orange and berry). The company is working on reproducing the flavor of cola - probably the most popular sweet drink - to be used with sparkling water. (*World Jewry Digest, April 2016*)

### Italy Promotes Its Jewish History

At the end of April, Rome's Jewish catacombs opened to the public for the first time as part of a campaign to "highlight diverse cultural sites throughout Italy." Numerous Christian underground burial sites have been drawing hundreds of thousands of tourists each year but, until now, Jewish catacombs have only been open to small groups and private tours. *Vigna Randanini*, the Jewish burial site outside of Rome's old city walls,

was built between the second and fourth centuries. It's made up of a network of underground tunnels. Inscriptions on the tombs are in Hebrew, Greek and Latin and describe the lives of those who are buried there. The catacombs, the remains of an ancient port city synagogue and the *Arch of Titus* - which portrays the Roman destruction (and looting) of Jerusalem in 70 CE - along with other Jewish-themed locations, are part of a series of sites that Italy's cultural ministry is promoting to honor Pope Francis' *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 4-26-16)

### A "Golden" Winner

"Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking," written by Israeli-born chef Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook, recently won both *Book of the Year* and *Best Book* (in the international category), the culinary world's top honor at the prestigious *James Beard Foundation's 2016 Book, Broadcast & Journalism Awards*. The two authors run the popular award-winning Israeli restaurant *Zahav* (the Hebrew word for gold) in Philadelphia, which opened in 2008. Solomonov also operates several other Philadelphia restaurants including *Dizengoff*, a hummus spot which is named for a major Tel Aviv thoroughfare. *Dizengoff* is scheduled to open a New York branch in Manhattan's Chelsea Market. Solomonov also won the 2011 *James Beard Award for Best Chef, Mid-Atlantic*. Another Israeli, London-based Yotam Ottolenghi, along with co-author Rameel Scully, took the *Cooking from a Professional Point of View* prize for their work "NOPI: The Cookbook," which contains recipes using exotic ingredients. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 4-28-16 and [www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 4-29-16)

## **Military Advisor to the President**

At the end of April the Pentagon announced that President Barack Obama had nominated Gen. David Goldfein to serve as the United States Air Force's 21<sup>st</sup> Chief of Staff. The position is the branch's highest ranking officer. Goldfein, 57, currently serves as Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. The Jewish fighter pilot flew during the Gulf War in Afghanistan and in NATO's missions in Yugoslavia. His F-16 fighter jet was downed over Serbia in 1999 after a surface-to-air missile exploded near it in an operation near the city of Belgrade. It forced Goldfein to eject and parachute into an open field. He was rescued shortly after. The Senate must confirm his appointment and if it does, Goldfein will be the second Jewish person to serve in this position. (Norton Schwartz was the first. He served from 2008-2012). The Air Force Chief of Staff is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the top military advisors to the president and secretary of defense. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 4-26-16)

## **No Jewish History to the Temple Mount?**

In recent months, we have been reporting on places declared cultural heritage sites in Israel by the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Association* (UNESCO). Well, it seems that UNESCO, which is charged with preserving history, now claims there is no Jewish connection to Jerusalem's Temple Mount (the holiest place for Jews) or to Hebron, a city that has a 3,500-year history of Jewish life and is the location of the *Tomb of the Patriarchs* and *Rachel's Tomb*. UNESCO recently passed a resolution entitled "Occupied Palestine," which was sponsored by several Arab countries and adopted by the organization's 58-nation executive board. The resolution named Israel as "the occupying power" and refers to the Western Wall (the *Kotel*) as *Al-Buraq Plaza* and to the Temple Mount (*Har HaBayit*) as the *Al-Aksa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif*, their Islamic names. The Israeli government was outraged by the resolution. "UNESCO ignores the unique historic connection of Judaism to the Temple Mount, where the two Temples stood for a thousand

years and to which every Jew in the world has prayed for thousands of years," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "The UN is rewriting a basic part of human history..." Carmel Shama Hacohen, Israel's representative to UNESCO, issued a press release stating "even if UNESCO passes dozens of resolutions, and decides to continue passing thousands more, Jerusalem will always remain as part of the capital of Israel and the Jewish people." The resolution condemned Israel for "the continued conversion of many Islamic and Byzantine remains into the so-called Jewish ritual baths or into Jewish prayer places." It also declares Hebron and Bethlehem as "an integral part of Palestine." ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com) and [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 4-17-16)

## **Oldest Still in Use**

A Torah scroll from the synagogue in the northern Italian town of Biella has been recognized as most likely the oldest in the world still owned and used by a Jewish community. Carbon-14 dating carried out by the *Geochronology Laboratory* of the University of Illinois dates the scroll to around 1250. An Italian *sofer* (scribe) began restoring the scroll in 2012 and it was recently returned to the Biella Synagogue. This particular scroll is not the oldest Torah scroll to have been found in Italy. It is however, the oldest that is still kosher and in use by a Jewish community. In 2013, a Torah housed in the University of Bologna library was carbon-dated to sometime between 1155 and 1225. It was recognized as the oldest complete Torah scroll known to exist. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 3-3-16)

## **"Madness" in Jerusalem**

There's a well-documented phenomenon where Israeli tourists come to believe that they are figures from the Bible or messengers proclaiming the End of Days. Take the case of an Irish schoolteacher who went to a Jerusalem hospital believing that she was about to give birth to the baby Jesus when in fact she wasn't even pregnant. Known as the *Jerusalem Syndrome*, Israel's Health Ministry records about 50 cases a year where a tourist's delusions are so strong that police or mental

health professionals are forced to intervene. Not surprisingly, the peak time for visitors who are “intoxicated” by the Holy City is during major holiday observances – Christmas, Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, Easter and Passover. Evidence of *Jerusalem Syndrome* actually dates back to medieval times. It was first clinically identified in 2000 by Dr. Yair Bar El, the former director of the *Kfar Shaul Psychiatric Hospital*, the hospital where most sufferers are treated. Bar El studied 470 tourists who were referred for treatment between 1979 and 1993. Interestingly, a 1999 study found that the condition has been recorded among Jews and Christians but not Muslims. Most of the individuals needing hospitalization suffered from mental health problems in their own countries and came to Jerusalem on what they considered to be a mission from G-d. Similar phenomena have been found in other cities. *Stendhal Syndrome*, for example, describes the breakdowns that art lovers sometimes suffer in Florence when they see Renaissance frescoes. ([www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk), 3-26-16)

### In Memoriam

-Frederick Mayer, a German Jew who, at sixteen, fled Nazi Germany with his family for Brooklyn only to parachute back into Nazi-controlled Austria seven years later as an American spy, died toward the end of April. He was 94. Mayer was the leader of an elite operation (code-named *Greenup*). He was dropped behind enemy lines in 1945 and posed as a German soldier for more than two months in western Austria. There he gathered critical intelligence on Nazi troop movements and sent the information back to the United States and its wartime *Office of Strategic Services* (O.S.S.), which after the war was re-named the *Central Intelligence Agency*. Mayer also secretly organized hundreds of anti-Nazi resistance fighters in the region. In one of his biggest coups, Mayer learned of a convoy of German military trains headed for Italy with troops and munitions. The information was radioed ahead to American commanders, allowing Allied warplanes to bomb the trains. Shortly before the end of the war, the Gesta-

po discovered his identity. He was imprisoned and tortured but never revealed the location of other American spies and soldiers. He was freed just as American troops took control of the region. Trained as a mechanic, Mayer enlisted in the U.S. Army the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Bored with his military assignments, he volunteered to become a spy for the O.S.S. because he felt a sense of duty to the country that had adopted him and his family. After the war, Mayer worked as a power plant supervisor at *Voice of America* outposts around the world. He retired to West Virginia in 1977 and volunteered there for *Meals on Wheels* for more than 30 years, delivering meals to the elderly and shut-ins until just weeks before his death. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 4-20-16)

### Did You Know....

-In mid-May, in a ceremony marking *Yom HaZikaron* (Israel’s Memorial Day), 23,477 fallen soldiers along with civilian victims of terror were honored and remembered. The number has increased by 157 since last year’s observance. The figure is calculated from 1860, when Jews first began to settle outside of Jerusalem. More than 1.5 million Israelis visited the country’s military and other cemeteries for the observances. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 5-10-16)

-The *POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews*, located in Warsaw, is the winner of the *European Museum of the Year Award* for 2016. It opened to the public in 2013. The museum’s core exhibit presents the thousand-year history of Polish Jews. (Its name is from Hebrew, both the Hebrew word for Poland and also a word that means “rest here.”) ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 4-10-16)

-The *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, one of America’s oldest learned societies and a center for independent policy research, has announced the election of 213 new members. Included are six Israeli academics – four from the *Hebrew University of Jerusalem* and two from the *Weizmann Institute of Science*. The new class will be inducted in Cambridge, Massachusetts in October. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 4-25-15) ◇



# **KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

## **TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT**

### **SISTERHOOD SHABBAT DINNER**



We have been wandering in the desert for 49 days.

Omer counting is over.

It is time to receive the Torah.

JOIN US on FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016, 6:00 PM

SHAVUOT CELEBRATION

DAIRY DINNER, SHABBAT SERVICES, YIZKOR REMEMBRANCE

DISCUSSION WITH RABBI AGLER

RECEIVE THE TORAH



- Contact Erica -

[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)

to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

- No Charge -

# Photo Gallery

For the second year in a row, Pesach's first night fell on Erev Shabbat. We held services to fulfill our commitment to have a Shabbat minyan every week. Michael Kaufman and two-year-old Sean joined Steve Steinbock on the bema, the first time either Kaufman had led services at KJCC. No one had to run out quickly or miss a seder, because we had one right down the hall. The food was pot luck, coordinated by Beth Hayden. Sam Vinicur led almost forty of us as we read the Haggadah and told the story of our redemption from Egypt.



Above, Rev. Tom Graf, of St. James The Fisherman Episcopal Church in Islamorada, and his wife Isabel, were our guests and here await dinner with Tomar Gross.

Benjamin, at left, and his new buddy Sean were too young to ask the Four Questions, but had a good time finding (and eating) the Afikomen.



## Community/Family Seder

Seventy KJCC members and guests came together at the Islamorada Fishing Club for our traditional but much-enhanced musical Second Seder. At left is Cantor Barry Skolnick, in town to celebrate sister Susan Gordon's birthday, joined by Gloria and Barry's wife Laurie.



When Barry led us in "Go Down Moses," we felt the presence of Paul Robeson. Susan and Gloria shared seder leadership duties while at every table people took turns telling our story.



**Below, Gene Silverman and Beth Hayden enjoyed greeting and seating our guests.**



**Sean and Rachel had the honor of opening the door for Elijah, who would have felt at home with her peace sign. Welcome, Elijah!**





KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY  
CENTER

**Shabbabaque**  
AND  
**101st**  
**Birthday Party**  
**For Pauline**

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2016

PLACE: KJCC

TIME: 6:00 PM BARBECUE DINNER

COME, EAT, DRINK, AND BE  
MERRY AND WISH PAULINE A HAPPY  
101ST BIRTHDAY!

CONTACT MITCH HARVEY  
WITH QUESTIONS AND  
RESERVATIONS  
HARVEYAICP@YAHOO.COM  
(303) 521-5240



## Our Harry Flies Like an Eagle

It is no mistake that the Boy Scouts chose a majestic, high-flying, far-seeing creature as the symbol of its highest achievement. Harry Friedman, competent, confident, standing erect and

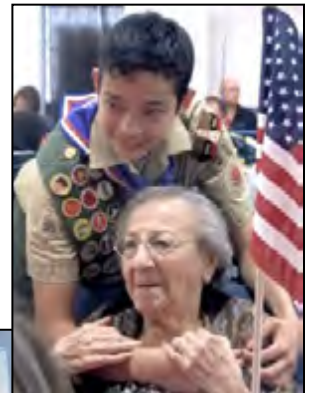


**At left, Harry giving his address, with Scout Master Allen Neuzil behind.**



The greatest collective *kvelling* came when Harry, early in his speech, gave a sincere, loving thank you to his KJCC

“mishpocha” (yes, he said those words) for the support we had given him over the years. He later called up Linda Kaplan to accept a plaque of appreciation for KJCC.



smiling, had achieved many goals.

His Eagle Scout project was the garden that will provide fresh produce to the community food bank for many years. Friends, family and fans watched as he and co-honoree Joseph Matulin were led onto the stage by an honor guard. Scout Master Allen Neuzil presided as Steve gave son Harry the blue Eagle Scout scarf and slide. It was touching to see Harry fasten the special Eagle Scout pins on his parents, and hug them. He acknowledged and gave plaques to the local businesses that supplied the materials and advice that made his work possible.





At right, Yardena introduces the film, "The Children Of Chabbanes," shown on *Yom HaShoah*, May 5th, Holocaust Memorial Day. Over coffee and cake, Linda Pollock and granddaughter Maddie talk about the movie with Medina Roy. Below are Bobbie and Nelson Chester, and George Swartz; below them are Yardena Kamely and Art Itkin.



At right, Friday, May 6th Shabbat Services were led

by the Holocaust Committee of Muriel Swartz, Yardena Kamely and Medina Roy. It included a moving candle-lighting ceremony — six candles for the six million murdered. On the *bimah* are yellow tulips, honoring Holland, which gave haven to many fleeing refugees.



We are waiting for a full report about “March of the Living,” but we did get these photos from Rabbi Richard Agler and Bernie Ginsberg. At left, they are with the students at Auschwitz. Below, the students celebrate Independence Day in Jerusalem by bopping each other with giant plastic mallets.



Gloria’s mom, looking much like the Queen of England, enjoys a tea party, happy to wear her hat, in celebration of Mother’s Day.



Those of us who toured Israel in 2013 with Rabbi Agler will remember our friendly and fabulous tour guide, Mike Rogoff. They met up in Jerusalem after the March.





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If it's nearly brand new  
(but just isn't you)

If it never quite fit  
(or you're just tired of it)

If it's making you sad  
('cause you just don't like plaid)

If it's bad to the bone  
(GIVE IT A NEW HOME!!)



RSVP to Erica Lieberman Garrett:

[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)

On April 17th, Rabbi Richard Agler was asked to speak about Passover to Tavernier's Spirit and Truth Church by his friend, Pastor Marlin Simon. The Jewish view of the Book of Exodus, plus the Rabbi's familiar story-telling prowess, held the room in rapt attention. The Rabbi and Mindy are shown below with Pastor Simon and wife Marian.



Prior to leading services on May 20th, Joyce Peckman lights to Shabbat candles and rinses her hands before chanting HaMotzi. Joyce is shown at left with co-leader Susan Gordon, along with Art Itkin, who delivered the evening's d'var Torah.



## Fresh Start Healthy Dinner

If the colorful display of dishes weren't proof enough, the satisfied grins and numbers of flying compliments would have clinched it. From Susan Gordon's South-west Salad to Sue Sigel's tasty tagine, Linda K's date balls, Jane's home-grown sautéed egg-plant and Terry Willner-Tainow's Chinese Veggie Rice (mind you, that's



just a sampling), the evening's Sisterhood cooks on May 20th — at dinner prior to services — proved that healthy food can be delicious. Linda Kaplan's idea was so successful, we are about to change the wording to



"First Annual Fresh Start Healthy Dinner."

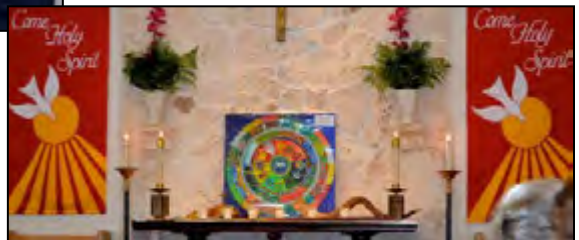
Yes, that means you get another chance.

Even if the word "healthy"

puts you off a bit, make sure to come next year. You'll be surprised and happy you did.



**On May 21, KJCC participated in an interfaith event at Islamorada's St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church, co-sponsored by St. James and Keys to Peace. Shown at left, Shaikh Shafayat Mohamed and long-time friend Father Tom Graf of St. James. Representing KJCC on the dais were KJCC President Sam Vinicur and Vice President/Ritual Director Gloria Avner. Note the shofar among the table's religious objects.**



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Ira and Shirley Stein  
Richard and Sheila Steinberg  
Stephen Steinbock  
George and Muriel Swartz  
Arthur Lee and Johanna Willner

The Torah Restoration Project Committee thanks all who made this event such a great success.

Sam Vinicur, *KJCC President*; Gloria Avner, *KJCC Vice President & Ritual Chair*;  
Joyce Peckman, *KJCC Corresponding Secretary*; Linda Kaplan, *KJCC Board of Directors*;  
Gene Silverman, *KJCC Board of Directors*; Foster O. Davidson.



# **KJCC Live Green - Recycle**



**In our quest to help you help the planet, we are collecting:**

- ◆ **ink cartridges**
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- ◆ **tablets**
- ◆ **and more.**
- ◆ **Items can be working or in need of repair.**

**Contact Steve Steinbock  
305-394-0143  
or just bring to the KJCC.**



# From Monaco to Dubai

## The Final Installment of Gene and Mort's Cruise from Europe to the Arabian Peninsula

by Gene Silverman

*Kalimera* (or good morning) to the city of Agios Nikolaos in Crete. This is our first stop after a stop in Piraeus (a port near Athens), Greece to pick up new passengers after letting off some who had boarded with us at the beginning in Monaco.

We awaken to quite a beautiful sight. This town is different than others in Crete, as it has three hills and instead of being known for its antiquity, is known for its artsy, leisurely, sleepy but active pace. Its name is pronounced *eye-yoss*, but locals call it *Ag Nik*. It's very charming, a busy port with all the requisite tourist items. We just walked around and did buy some Greek spices to bring back for gifts. Tomorrow we're at sea and then into Haifa and a visit with Israeli friends. Yay!!!! The last time we had seen them was on our cruise to the Amazon (on another ship) and we have corresponded since then and remained friends. He is an aeronautical engineer for Boeing and she is a judge. Extremely lovely people, who have lived in the United States but wanted to return to Israel to raise their two children.

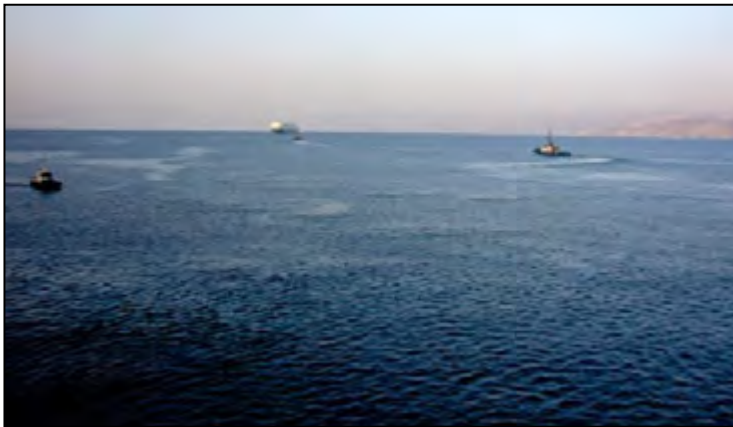
Mira and Simon were waiting for us when we arrived in Haifa at 10 a.m. And of course, Simon the professional and perfectionist

had the entire day planned.

But first we had to attend, on board, a "face to face" inspection that is mandatory for all guests to attend. We had to pick up our passports first and proceed to Israeli immigration officials and then we were given our landing card and our passports back. Even guests not planning on going ashore had to go through this procedure and then return their passports to the ship. It didn't bother us and actually made us feel a little bit protected.

That accomplished, off we went with Mira and Simon to see *Beit She'arim* National Park. Neither Mort nor I had ever been there and Simon obviously had thought of that. It is located in the Lower Galilee within the town of *Kiryat Tivon*. It was re-discovered in 1871, but in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century C.E., the Sanhedrin had conducted deliberations nearby in Sepphoris, where many Judeans had gone after the failed Bar Kokhba rebellion (the third and final Jewish

rebellion against Rome) ended in 135 C.E. Though the Sanhedrin moved to Tiberius by 150 C.E., several centers of Jewish learning had been established in Sepphoris. Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi, the compiler of the *Mishnah*, was buried



**In this photo showing the vastness of the Bitter Sea in its center, ships wait to enter the Suez Canal.**



**The train that brought Lawrence of Arabia to Jordan is on display at Wadi Rum. Mort loved the movie.**

there and the desire to be laid to rest near him turned 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century *Bet She'arim* into an important cemetery for Jews from both Galilee and Israel and also abroad.

So now we were going to enter the "Caves" of the Rabbis. It was quite intimidating, especially if you dislike small, dark places, but we hadn't come this far not to join in anything our friends wanted to do. And especially since Simon is taller than Mort, as is Mira to me, we would have never thought not to follow them! A total of 30 caves were excavated from 1936 -1940 and then from 1953-1957; what they revealed was an ancient city with remains of a synagogue, public building (basilica), religious school, houses, city walls, a gate and an olive oil plant, all dating from the second to the fourth centuries, C.E. The entrances to each cave are carved from the bedrock of the hill and constitute a huge City of the Dead. The entrances are an impressive façade designed in classical architecture style, with each façade having one or more doors in various sizes. The caves themselves contain burial shelves and large stone coffins (sarcophagi).

On the walls and the coffins are many decorations and inscriptions in Hebrew, Aramaic, Palmyrene (a dialect of Aramaic spoken in the prosperous Syrian merchant town of Palmyra) and Greek, telling of the origins, professions and family ties of the interred.

We returned to the ship before 10 and were on our way to Ashdod, which is the Port for Jerusalem. We didn't have any particular plans, as we had been there many times.

We arrived in Ashdod at 7 a.m. and after breakfast I thought I would take a bus supplied by the ship to the nearest shopping center. After a brief ride I had arrived at the newest Jerusalem shopping center. BUT there were no armed guards, nor any metal detectors. After briefly looking around I decided that this was not the place to be, so I quickly exited and waited for the next private bus to return and rode back to the ship. By the way, when you are in any Israeli port you are in a guarded and safe area. We began looking forward to the next day, when we would enter the Suez Canal.

The Suez is a man-made, sea-level waterway, which means there are no locks. It just connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. It was opened in November 1869. We had been through the Panama Canal many, many times, but never the Suez, so we were



**Gene is at Captain's Desert Camp, a rest stop between Wadi Rum and Petra.**

very curious about it. It is about 119 miles long with really nothing to see except for the bridge to NOWHERE. It is beautiful, the bridge, but it does absolutely nothing and connects to nothing. In the middle of the Suez is a lake called the Great Bitter Lake. There we saw literally hundreds of ships waiting to go the way we had just come. Because the Suez is so narrow, it only allows one-way traffic. Hence every kind of ship, whether private or commercial, has to wait at Great Bitter Lake until it is their turn. We were going toward the Red Sea so got started very, very early in the morning. The ships that were going in the opposite direction set off in the afternoon. What is strange about the Canal is that north of Bitter Lake the current flows north in the winter and then south in the summer. South of the Lake the flow is tidal, following the ebb and flow of the Red Sea.

Did you know that the Red Sea is the habitat of over 1,000 invertebrate species and 200 soft and hard corals? The name of this Sea gets its name from the seasonal blooms of the red-colored "*Trichodesmium er-*



**Jordanian camels, part of a caravan. It's easy to imagine this photo as having been taken hundreds of years ago.**

*thraeum*" which is near the water's surface.

Hello Aqabah, Petra, Jordan! We have plans to go out into the desert on a 4x4 Jeep to see Wadi Rum and then onto Petra.

Our first impression of Jordan is of its filth. Out in the desert on the way to Wadi Rum there was trash of every kind littering the road and desert. Lots of it! Wadi Rum, which is also known as The Valley of the Moon, is cut into the sandstone and granite rock in Southern Jordan. It is in a protected area and was created in 1998. There are several Bedouin tribes that live there and make their living from tourism.

We were supposed to be going out there in a 4x4 Jeep, which turned out to be an old flat-bed pickup truck with boards for seats in the back. You had to be boosted over the tailgate because it no longer came down. And if you couldn't do it and someone had already sat in the front with the driver you were out of luck! We couldn't wait to get to Wadi Rum. But first we had to stop at the railroad station to see the actual train that had brought Lawrence of Arabia to Jordan.

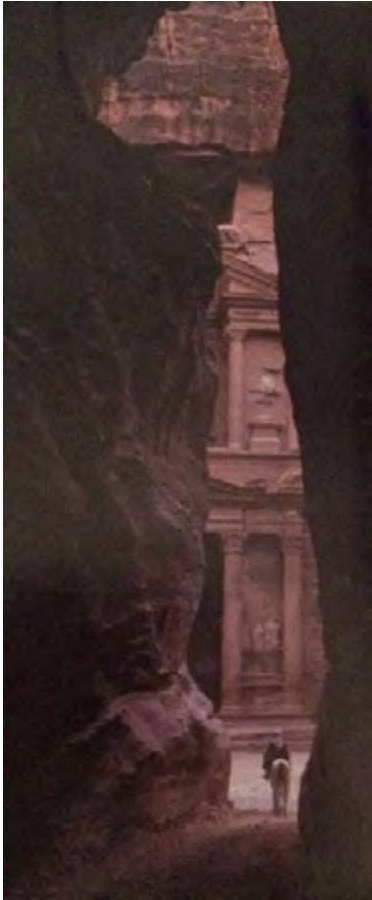
And on the way to Wadi Rum we had to stop and see camels racing. Notice anything different about them? They are dromedary, which only has a single hump! We had no way of knowing that the camels racing in the desert would be the nicest part of Wadi Rum.

We saw the Valley of the Moon and many



**Gene and Mort in the vast Jordanian desert on the road to Petra. So near to the sea, but so far.**





**Gateway of the Gorge provides a dramatic first view of the ancient city.**

been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985 and is one of the richest archaeological sites in the world. It is reached through a narrow entrance. Two horses would have a very difficult time to pass each other. This pass, which is also known as “Gateway of the Gorge” has an impregnable entrance. After you pass through the narrow *Bab as Siq*, which is almost a mile in length and very, very narrow, you come out and in front of you is the *Treasury*. After viewing this we followed the path to the *Theatre*. It has 45 rows of seats to accommodate several thousand spectators, and was begun in 9 B.C.E. Then to the *Royal*

other Bedouin sites like the Thamudic (a northern dialect related to Arabic), Kufic (the first Arabic calligraphy) and Nabataean rock art, which looked like our Native American carvings.

But first we had to stop at a Mosque, which thank G-d was a very small one in the middle of almost nowhere, to see the Prophet Job’s tomb.

Onward to Petra, The Rose City! (And we couldn’t wait to leave Wadi Rum.)

Petra has

*Tombs*, the *Urn Tomb* and the smaller *Silk Tomb*, and then to the *Palace Tomb*.

That was it and we were exhausted. We couldn’t wait to board our transfer back to the ship, as we had been gone the entire day. Oh yes, we did have shawarma with falafel for lunch.

Thank G-d we had the next five days at sea before we would reach Salalah, Oman.

As we were saying goodbye to Jordan, we picked up four armed escorts who would accompany the ship to Dubai. They looked very Israeli to us. Yes, as we are in dangerous waters where ships have been held for ransom. Everyone had received a formal letter that talked about safety and security for the guests but never mentioned the security detail. It just talked about “enhanced security measures that will be in place to include deployment of additional security equipment and personnel.” It was being done out of “abundance of caution and not because of any specific threat.”

Now to bed (feeling pretty safe)! We were going to be on the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday, but certainly would not be stopping anywhere. And then up the east coast of the Arabian Peninsula to Dubai, journey’s end. ♦



**Magnificent Petra**

# On Independence

*As we observe Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day, what exactly does independence mean to Jews? Is it something political, or religious, or social, or some unique combination of that plus a lot more?*

By Sam Vinicur

**Y**ardena asked me to offer a few thoughts from the bemaah during the Erev Shabbat service celebrating *Yom Ha'Atzma'ut*, Israel's Independence Day, to explore what it means to Jews, both emotionally and historically. (I was then asked to submit my text for Chai-Lights, so here it is.)

It's such a nice word, "independence," especially for Americans. From the time we're little, we associate the word with a fun summer day, with cookouts and family gatherings and, for those of us lucky enough to have grown up in Washington, D.C. (me, for example), incredible fireworks on the lawn of the Washington Monument. (The big concerts, by the way, came years later.) The word has burrowed itself deeply into the American self-image. Think about what it evokes: self-reliance, freedom, a life un-yoked from the demands or whims of kings or lords of any kind, the intoxicating notion that YOU, and you alone, are the Master of your Fate and the Captain of your Soul. (I quote here, of course, from the poem "Invictus," by W.E. Henley. A doff of the cap, sir, for one of the most stirring anthems to indomitability ever written.)

For the Jewish people, of course, Yom Ha'Atzma'ut is more accurately a SECOND Independence Day. (Some might even argue that it is, in fact, our third.) Modern history records it as coming some 1,878 years af

ter Jewish independence had been extinguished by the Romans in 70 C.E., when they destroyed the Second Temple and created the second great scattering of Jews outward from what had been their home and spiritual beacon for about 1,200 years. (Another historical note, since Jewish history is nothing if not complex: this span of years admittedly includes the short 50-year *Templum Interruptus* courtesy of Nebuchadnezzar and his army in 586 B.C.E., who destroyed the first Temple and exiled the Jewish elite, though not everyone else, to Babylon, until the ascendant Persians under Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon a few short years later and allowed the Jews to go home. For a little self-referential perspective, that early period of sovereignty, which in some Jewish lore is presented as so fleeting, is still roughly five times the current duration of the United States.) One could also argue, with some justification, that Jewish

independence had begun to end some 400 years before the Romans made it official, when Alexander the Great and Hellenism conquered Persia in 332 B.C.E. and therefore won sovereignty over all the Middle East.

Yes, there was also that brief period, about 150 years, when Jewish sovereignty was wrested back from the Greeks by the Maccabees. Certainly that dramatic seizure of independence (short-lived, due to a combination of small-nation-in-the-

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*For the Jewish people, of course, Yom Ha'Atzma'ut is at least their SECOND Independence Day.*

---



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Meet at the KJCC at  
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world's-crossroads fate plus painfully incompetent leadership by the latter Hasmonean kings) has been loudly celebrated in the Jewish mind and mythology ever since, through the growing significance of Chanukah. I would argue that the battle against Hellenism had nevertheless already been lost, and that Chanukah would never have achieved its current importance had it not become the Jewish Christmas, but that's a discussion for another time.

The most important aspect of this, I think, is that the big idea of independence – and its stirring grip on the hearts of people – is not a focus on Judaism the monotheistic religion and richly layered system of interaction with God, but is actually

about *Am Yisrael*, the larger social group called the Jewish People. Is there not some religious component to all of this? Yes, of course there is. Religious Jews have lived in Jerusalem and Tiberius and Jaffa and Tz'Fat continuously since the

destruction of Judea in 70 C.E. But the mix of passions and sinew and blood that joined to begin carving the modern State of Israel out of Palestine when it was still ruled by the Ottoman Turks did not spring from the loins of the pious. Zionism may well have had its embryonic beginnings in the timeless longings of Jews to return to Jerusalem. But the overwhelming majority of those longings were for an ancestral *homeland*, not a re-built Temple. They had synagogues in which to worship God. (It's hard to imagine urbane 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Jews hauling freshly slaughtered sheep or rams or 2,000-pound bullocks onto a raised surface and then lighting them on fire in order to please their God.) Zionism actually sprang into full flower as an outgrowth of the other passionate nationalistic movements that emerged in the fading royal agglomerations of 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe. As we



all know, the super-religious Jews, excepting individuals, of course, were – and often to this day remain – lukewarm to Israel's re-emergence as an actual nation.

Therefore it's Zionism, not Judaism, the idea of a unified and again-sovereign Jewish *people*, that has so captured the imagination and commitment of Jews around the world. No one likes to be an *other*, a status all Jews know in their bones, even in this haven of a country. Most Jews don't get weak in the knees or have their childlike emotions soar when they see a Torah; that's for another and more reflective (and deeper) part of their beings. They get weak in the knees and find tears running down their cheeks when they

see the Israeli flag waving, or behold strong and proud and unafraid Sabra soldiers and pilots swaggering in determined defense of their homes and families, *Jewish* homes and families. Yes, there were tender and memorable moments at the *Kotel*, the Western Wall, when Israeli

troops recaptured it in 1967. But I contend that this was more about access than sovereignty. In this case religion was the smaller of the two needs. Religion, we had proven for a millennium-and-a-half, could be practiced by Jews anywhere.

No, this sense of pride, in independence and the stubborn success of the re-imagined nation of Israel, is about our *peoplehood*, not our souls. It is true that there is a unique duality in Judaism, in being both Jewish – meaning a personal struggle to find one's way to higher states of being – and a member of *Am Yisrael*, an independent and, we hope, enduring full participant among the world's community of nations. Still, Israel is so revered not because of its abstract meaning but because it is there.

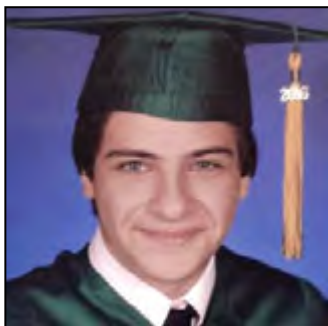
Shabbat Shalom and *Yom Ha'AtzmaUt sameach*. ◇



## Scholarship News

*Sometimes good things come in threes. Judaism is all about encouraging the values of education and good citizenship. Since KJCC's creation, we have been committed to fostering these values among our congregation's children. Spurred by Joel Pollack's initiative many years ago, we established a scholarship fund and committee to offer scholarships to our religious school students when they graduate High School and go on to higher learning. Our youngster roster is small. We've had three years without award giving. This year we are happy to give out three: to Joshua Bernstein on his graduation from high school, to Molly Bloom on graduation from Florida Atlantic University, and to Nyan Feder, entering his senior year at FSU in Tallahassee. They've all been with us since they were knee-high to grasshoppers. We hope they will stay in touch and come home often.*

### Joshua Bernstein



*O*n June 7th, KJCC will honor Joshua Bernstein with a scholarship

award at the Coral Shores High School Performing Arts Center. We are proud of him for being ranked at the top of his class, but equally proud because he embodies so much of what we hold dear -- commitment to family, friends, his faith, education, and making a difference in the world. We love that we have known him and watched him grow from the day of his baby naming.

Joshua will be majoring in Electrical Engineering this fall at the University of Florida. In his words, "I plan to continue my education to get Masters and Doctorate degrees. I hope to work at NASA, designing and working on electronics that are used in satellites, space probes and shuttles. Even as a child I liked to take things apart to see how they worked." Joshua, also a fine musician, gives credit to Dave Feder for mentoring him when a guitar amplifier failed. Dave helped him see what

went wrong and how to fix it.

It takes a village. And this village has faith that Joshua will achieve his goals. Did we mention that our bright multi-talented boy is also popular? Yes, the photo at right is of Joshua the Prom King. Kudos to Joshua and proud parents Paul and Barbara Bernstein.



### Molly Bloom

*L*et's give a resounding *Mazel Tov* to Molly Bloom, daughter of Marc and Ellen, granddaughter of founding members Marvin and Barbara Galanty, sister of Rachael and Auntie of Maddie. Four Bloom generations have walked the aisles of our Sanctuary. The girl we've been nurturing and mentoring since she was seven years old and an active



student in our KJCC Religious School, has grown into a woman committed to educating others. It takes a big heart to teach children with learning problems, and we are proud of Molly for

her dedication. We honored Molly Bloom a month ago with a graduation gift and continuing education award.

In the words of Marc, her Dad: "Please send a huge 'Thank You' to KJCC and the Scholarship Committee for Mollie's graduation gift and the start for her Masters! Molly ended up with a 3.75 grade point average and is now qualified as an ESE teacher!



It's been an amazing trip that we've all been privy to enjoy!" Molly, your KJCC *Mishpocha* is as proud of you, and happy for you, as are your Mom and Dad.

## Nyan Feder

Nyan Feder is not just on the cusp of a great career. He has begun to live it. Yes, he will start his senior year at FSU Tallassee in the fall, preparing for a career in all aspects of professional musicianship (he is a composer as well as performer), but to us, and apparently to many others, he is already a star. Those of us who saw him at Ootray or at any of the big Music Festival events at Founder's Park can testify.

In Suzi and Dave's words: *It's been a banner year for Nyan -- he won his first 1/2 marathon, got all A's, hiked some of the Appalachian Trail, and is set to play saxophone on George Clinton's next album,*



*which will be a real 'feather in his cap.'*" This happy, healthy young man has just turned 21 and already he can put on his resume that he has worked with Jimmy Buffet, Steven Tyler, and George Clinton (who, for those of us not in the know, is an amazing performer, founder of Parliament Funkadelic, or P-Funk, huge in the 70s and 80s). And Nyan also excels in schoolwork. We love when he returns home on occasion to jam with Dad. Lucky us. We get to hear them both.

---

*Thank you, parents, for all the photos. And for sharing the kids with us.*

# Yom Ha'Atzma'ut: Remembrance and Celebration

by Gloria Avner

We began our celebration of Israel's independence just as they do in Israel, by honoring those who fought and died to create a nation. The soldiers came from everywhere – the *ganssa* diaspora – willing to give everything to win a homeland for displaced Jews. Many came directly from European D.P. camps, having barely survived the crematoria of Europe.

I close my eyes and see their names: so many teenagers, so many different countries of origin. Their graves in that special cemetery

near Jerusalem's Herzl museum (the man who first dreamed the impossible dream) do not look like graves. They look like well-made

beds with coverlets of green, moss, herbs and low-growing ivy. The paths are lined with lavender and other sweet scented herbs. All this came back in living color to those of us who traveled to Israel with Rabbi Agler when our service leaders at KJCC read the poem that told how this land was not handed to us on a silver platter but

on the precious bodies of these boys. We paused to light a



candle for them that Friday night, and remembered Rich's voice breaking as he told us the story while

standing amidst their graves.

The service was moving and the following celebration so lively that we came together the next evening to do it again, to watch a wonderfully told film in the voices of the actual American pi-



lots who risked their lives and citizenship in 1947 and 1948 to smuggle planes, equipment and people into Israel to change the handi-



cap. "Above and Beyond" - what a perfect title. These men were young, hot, and handsome in the 1940s. As their 80-something faces told their stories, it was wonderful to see their photographs, hear their irreverent, wise-cracking reminiscences and feel their pride in the role they played as Jewish boys helping to create a Jewish nation in the face of the longest-possible odds. We heard their grief for the lost



**At top, the Jewish way of celebrating, with food. Donna holds a cake brought for Medina, who shares her birthday with Israel, right. At left, Bert brought his guitar.**

all prepared by *morah* Yardena's KJCC Ulpan classes. Guitar music by Humberto and Israeli songs spiced up the evening. We rounded out the evening by singing *HaTikvah* and Happy Birthday once more (in both English and Hebrew) to Medina Roy (who willingly shares her birth date with the State of Israel). It was Bernie's birthday as well, and they usually celebrate together, but Bernie was still en route from Israel, where he and Rabbi Agler had gone as attending physician and spiritual advisor to a contingent of Miami youth on this year's "March of the Living," which begins in Poland at the death camps and concludes in Israel for the joy of Independence Day. ♦



ones, too. These were not religious men. They were Jews who knew they had to do this - because they could. We dedicated our short, sweet *Havdalah* service after the movie to these courageous men.

As if that were not enough (especially for those of us just coming in from Harry Friedman's Eagle Scout ceremony and mom Jane's fine feast), the movie was followed by an Israeli-themed repast - halvah, tabouleh, baklavah, hummus,



**Yardena teaches an Israeli song to Dave Mont, above. At right, James the engineer figured out how to make the speakers work.**







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# New Take on Old Sorrow: *21<sup>st</sup> Century Tisha B'Av*

by Gloria Avner

*Tisha B'Av* (the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Av) is a hard sell. It marks the end of the three-week period of ever-intensifying mourning that began on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Tammuz, when we remembered all that led to the conquest of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E. and the destruction of the first Temple. Rabbinic tradition says that on this summer day in Av, over the course of two millennia, more destruction of Jewish people, landmarks, institutions and culture occurred than on any other single day, affecting so much and so many that I will enumerate here only the most devastating, the destruction of the first and then the second Temple in Jerusalem, millennia ago, and the expulsion in 1492 of all the Jews in Spain (refer to the chart for a complete and horrifying list). Each separate, tragic event led to what has seemed like an eternal Diaspora.

Far from our fallen Temple, we have traditionally observed this day with a fast (second in seriousness only to Yom Kippur), allowing no bathing, no sex, in fact no pleasure of any kind – just weeping in a darkened room and reading aloud from Jeremiah's "*Eichah*," the Book of Lamentations. Here, in five chapters, Jeremiah describes and mourns the Temple's destruction in vivid detail. (Here's one example

from chapter two: the prophet pictures the glory of Israel thrown from Heaven to the ground. Jerusalem is on fire. Children die of hunger, beg their mothers for food, and then expire on their mothers' bosom. "There is no comparison in history to bring you comfort," proclaims the prophet.)

The fast day inevitably arrives in the season of blossoming gardens, baseball games, warmth and languorous vacations. Jews don't get a whole summer when "the livin' is

easy." (Never mind that those words – with a tinge of irony – were written by the Jewish Ira Gershwin.) We know it is important to remember tragedies, to learn from history. Remembrance is an antidote to re-occurrence, but when can we stop crying? According to Reconstructionist rabbis and

many Reform synagogues, it's time to let in some light. We mourn our losses, but we honor our heroes and then move on. Simply mourning is not enough. We need to create ways to celebrate the achievement of those who lived through the losses so that we could be here now, living examples of the culture that refuses to die.

Rabbi Lewis Eron, of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, wants us to acknowledge that the world has changed and we need to change as well. The fact that we have a country of our own is proof that we have overcome the innumerable setbacks and obsta-



**The looting of Jerusalem's Temple as depicted on a famous frieze of Rome's prominent Arch of Titus.**

cles that have hounded Jews for centuries:

*...Today we are no longer in exile. Our people have returned to our ancient homeland and rebuilt its towns and cities. We are no longer powerless...Our existence today is a triumph of our people's spirit. Any commemoration of Tisha B'Av that does not acknowledge this reality is inadequate.*

*There is something miraculous about the*

*Jewish people, our culture, and our faith. (We) need to discover new paths to cherish all that we have gained... Our chief worry is not being crushed in our weakness but becoming arrogant and careless with our success and power...We must not take for granted and foolishly lose all that for generations we could only obtain in our dreams.*



**At left, today's remnants of the Temple stones hurled from atop the walls by the conquering Romans. Above, a rendering of the grandeur of what is now called Robinson's Arch when it was part of Judea's Second Temple.**

Though a small but long-standing contingent of ultra-orthodox Jews insist that a rebuilt Temple is necessary to hasten the coming of the messiah, more and more mainstream Jews see that focus as a threat to the fragile peace in Jerusalem. They prefer to view the destroyed Temple as a call for introspection rather than rebuilding, just as the Yavneh rabbis, after the destruction by Rome of the *second* Temple, ensured the survival of Judaism by making prayer the avenue to communication with God instead of the old practice of sacrificing animals on the altars of the Temple.

I was struck by one synagogue's project that might resonate with us. They gave a formal burial to sacred books too damaged to use – an intentional contrast to the book-burnings and Torah destruction perpetrated for centuries by Jew-hating (or Jew-scapegoating) regimes across the globe.

We've been talking about all the old *Siddurs* we no longer use, the Maxwell House *Haggadot* we have long since replaced, the

*Yizkor* books now out of date and even the printed handouts we use for special learning services. They contain the names of God on every page. They have been held and viewed and prayed with by us and by those who came before us. They cannot be thrown away, but must be dealt with respectfully. Let's do it. Let's prepare our own "*genizeh*," (a special storage place), collect our holy books and papers we no longer use, and commit to digging a grave for them here on our property. Then we can plan a ceremony and honor them next *Tisha B'Av*.

The call today to make this a day of remembrance and honor makes sense to me. We want to find more and newer ways to give deep thanks to those ancestors of ours who lived through the tragedies and hardships the rabbis tell us occurred on *Tisha B'Av*. We want our observance to show our gratitude for their steadfastness and refusal to lose faith in the heritage they worked so hard against painful odds to keep intact for us. Then we can bathe and return to summer joy renewed. Maybe the fish will still be "jumpin'." ◇



# Forty-Nine Days:

## *From Egypt to Sinai, the Forging of a People*

*Two of the three major holidays mandated in the Torah take place within seven weeks. The journey towards the Jewish nation begins with the Passover escape from slavery and ends in nationhood at Mt. Sinai with the giving of the Torah on Shavuot.*

### Shavuot:

#### **Omer Counting and Polishing Our “Rocks” to be Worthy of Torah**

by Gloria Avner

**A**n old friend of mine, and the synagogue’s, gifted me with a small book eight years ago, a spiritual guide that forever transformed my view of *Shavuot*. It is called “Counting the Omer: Forty-nine Steps to Personal Refinement According to the Jewish Tradition,” written by Rabbi Simon Jacobsen. Say thank you to Chaim Shaffer, creator of “Shabbos Shirts,” the next time he visits. Ritual Committee bought several books and they are available in the office for your perusal. The counting of *omer* is about more than barrels of barley.

There is a teaching that our centuries of slavery in Egypt degraded us to such a degree that had we sunk only one more level, we could never have recovered. We could never have become worthy of receiving the Torah, the precepts upon which our life as a people is built. The process of receiv-

ing the Torah — “instruction” — actually begins 49 days prior to the moment at Sinai, the period traditionally called “Sefirat Ha’Omer,” the Counting of the Omer.

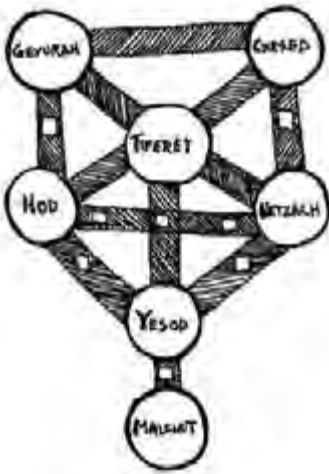
Ancient Israel’s economy was based primarily on agriculture. On a purely physical level, the “waves” of grain were offered up every day from Passover to Shavuot as sacri-

fices in the Temple. But is that the whole story? Of course it isn’t. We are talking about Judaism. We take the physical and through it reveal the metaphysical, unearthing ever-deeper layers of meaning.

**A copy of the booklet in KJCC’s library, donated by Ritual Committee, explaining in detail the richer and more complex story the rabbis tell about counting the Omer.**







Though *omer* is the proper name of a dry measure, similar to a barrel or basket by which grain was measured, the specific word in Hebrew for meas-

ure is *midah* (plural: *midot*), the same word that is used to describe personal character traits or emotional attributes. Isn't our language wonderful?

The word *s'firah* (plural: *s'firot*) also has two meanings. We are familiar with the "counting" definition, but listen to what the famous 16<sup>th</sup> century Kabbalist RaMak said: "*Sefirah* means both 'mispar,' or number, and 'sipur,' as in story telling. A third root is 'safir,' or sapphire, a brightly shining translucent crystal. By this root/route, we come to the meaning of "emanation – light from a source of illumination."

According to our little booklet, "counting *sefirot* illuminates the different aspects of our emotional lives. The days of *sefirah* tell us a story — the story of our souls. The spectrum of human experience divides into seven emotions and qualities, known in plural as *sefirot*. Each of these in turn divides into seven again, making a total of forty-nine."

Here is a very basic description of the seven emotional attributes:

- Chesed*: Lovingkindness, benevolence;
- Gevurah*: Justice, discipline, restraint, awe;
- Tiferet*: Beauty and harmony, compassion;
- Netzach*: Endurance, fortitude, ambition;
- Hod*: Humility, splendor;
- Yesod*: Bonding, foundation;
- Malchut*: Mobility, sovereignty, leadership (feminine aspect).

Each person when created is given a certain measure of each attribute, which determines that person's particular personality. It is his or her spiritual work to refine these *midot/sefirot*.

Each week is represented by a specific attribute, and each day of that week is represented by a particular aspect of that attribute. Imagine a grid, with each of the attributes standing for one week along the left hand side. Then imagine seven columns that represent days, again with each of the *sefirot* listed at the top. We begin to make a repair by focusing on the interaction of two attributes every day. There are forty-nine squares. On the first day, for

example, we would focus on *chesed b'chesed* — lovingkindness in lovingkindness. On Day Two of Week One, we focus on *g'vura she'b'chesed* — the aspect of restraint in lovingkindness. On Day three of Week One, the

focus is *tiferet she'b'chesed* — harmony in lovingkindness. On we go for seven weeks.

In consciously counting the *Omer*, we take the opportunity to focus on one aspect of personality and character on every one of our 49 days' walk toward Mt. Sinai and the Torah. We repair ourselves one trait at a time. We polish our facets as if we were the gem, the brilliant sapphire.

Spiritually and emotionally uplifted, we can then receive the Torah properly, as much more than a legal and historic document. Torah becomes a resource guide, not just to behavior in daily life but also to attaining higher and deeper spiritual connection to our source. Bring your brightly polished self to KJCC on the evening of June 10 at 6:00 p.m. Share our dairy repast. Celebrate all the aspects of Shavuot with your *mishpocha*. ◇

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*The spectrum  
of human  
experience  
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seven emotions  
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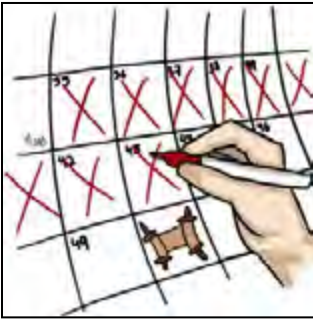
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# Counting The Omer Q & A

by Arthur Itkin

## What is an Omer?

To define “omer” requires going back to ancient, biblical units of measurement, based on a numerical system that disappeared many years ago. The word “omer” is sometimes translated as “sheaf”, defined as the amount of grain large enough to require bundling. It was used as a unit of volume for grains at the time of the Temple in Jerusalem. Working through a complicated system of ancient units of volumes



and weights, it can be shown that that the “omer” is approximately equal to 3.64 liters, where the liter is a unit of weight. Although the word appears elsewhere in the Torah, its main significance is with regard to the traditional offering of a daily omer of barley during the period between Pesach and Shavuot.

## When do we count the Omer?

In the days of the Temple, Jews brought barley offerings on the second day of Passover. It marked the beginning of the barley harvest when Jews would bring the first sheaves to

the Temple to thank G-d for the produce. The offering was called the “omer” and would permit consumption of recently harvested grains. It is considered a mitzvah to “count the Omer” every day starting on this second day of Passover and continuing for 50 days, leading up to the arrival of Shavuot. It is on Shavuot that the Jewish people stood at Mount Sinai to receive the Torah, and this required a seven-week preparation period. Since we were freed from Egypt in order to receive the Torah, we were obligated to perform a daily count from the second day of Pesach until the day that the Torah was given.

## What is “Sefira?”

That is the Hebrew word that means “counting” often used to refer to counting the Omer. Today, of course, the counting, while no less important, is only symbolic.

## Can we refer to the “sefira” as a countdown from Passover to Shavuot?

Not really. A countdown refers to the number of days that are remaining until the occurrence of some event. You’re simply counting how much time is left. But the Omer

**The diagram below is what is known as a “word cloud.” It’s an artistic compilation of the most frequent words used to describe something, in this case “sefirot.”**



is not a countdown. Notice that as we progress through the counting period, the number of days and weeks that we say increases. We are counting up towards something truly significant, the giving of our Torah. The Rabbis argued that G-d had rescued the Jewish nation from the slavery of Egypt and had offered us an eternal bond with the Torah. But since we had become so downtrodden in Egypt we were in no condition to receive the Torah just then. The 49 days until Shavuot were given as a time to cleanse ourselves and prepare for the big event. We counted up because each day we grew a level higher; each day we took one step closer to becoming G-d's chosen nation.

### How do we count the Omer?

Commencing with the second night of Pesach, those who "count the Omer" recite a blessing each night after the start of the Jewish "day", which occurs about 30 minutes after sunset. In the synagogue the count occurs

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*Many people use the "sefira" as a time to take a personal accounting, and focus each day on a different spiritual strength or concept.*

---

near the end of the *Maariv* service. It is accompanied by appropriate blessings.

To properly count the Omer, both the number of days

and number of weeks must be said. On the first six days of the counting period, only the number of days is said. For example, "Today is 3 days of the Omer". On days which form complete weeks, we say, for example, "Today is 28 days, which is 4 weeks of the Omer." On all other days, we say, for example: "Today is 33 days, which is 4 weeks and 5 days of the Omer." In all cases, the blessing is recited before the count. The inclusion of both the



number of days and the number of weeks comes from a rabbinic argument about whether the Torah requires counting days or weeks. According to biblical text, there is an instruction that "you shall count 50 days", but there is also "count ... seven complete weeks." The compromise is to include both counts.

Also, because the blessing should precede the counting, many Jews will not say what day it is until after the count. Thus, their reminder about which day to count is often phrased something like "yesterday was the fifth day of the Omer."

It is expected that the count will be performed on each day of the seven-week period. If the count should be missed for an entire day, it may be continued on subsequent days, but without a blessing. The reason for this is that, according to the Torah, "Seven weeks, they shall be complete". Thus some authorities say that if even one day is missed, the counting period can no longer be considered complete.

Many people use the "sefira" as a time to take a personal accounting, and focus each day on a different spiritual strength or concept. There are books and pamphlets available to help shape these efforts. In modern hectic life style that we all subscribe to, it may be difficult to count the Omer on a daily basis. If we forget for one or more days, there is no reason to discontinue. As long as we try, we have not failed. Partial counting is better than none.

*Hag Sameach! ◇*

# Shavuot: the Under- Appreciated Holiday

by Joyce Peckman

**P**oor Shavuot. Every other holiday is commanded and heralded with a date. For Rosh Hashannah: "In the seventh month, the first day shall be a solemn rest." For Yom Kippur: "The tenth day of this seventh month is the day of Atonement." "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at dusk, is the Lord's Passover." Queen Esther mandated that the 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar be a celebration of victory. But for Shavuot we have only, "Count ...seven weeks. After the seventh week is complete, on the fiftieth day you will present a new meal offering." "Shavuot" simply means "weeks."

Shavuot has no shofar, no *succah* with a *lulav* and *etrog*, no seder, no *grogger* to make noise during a dramatic reading, not even a special menorah. No wonder that growing up, many of us ignored this holiday which fell out during final exam time!

But those seven weeks led up the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, the formative event in Jewish (some would say world) history. So how is it celebrated? On Shavuot the shul is often decorated with branches and flowers in honor of the harvest of first fruits of the season, and because legend says that Mount Sinai blossomed with flowers on the day the Torah was given.

We do "*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*" (translation: fixing ourselves on the night of Shavuot) by



staying up all night studying Torah. (Here at KJCC, we do *Tikkun light*, optimistically aiming for midnight.) We read the book of Ruth, about the determined convert who became the ancestor of King David, the heroic poet-monarch who was born and died on Shavuot. Since Shavuot is defined by the Torah as the culmination of a seven-week count beginning with the first barley harvest, and the story of Ruth unfolds against the background of the barley harvest in ancient Judea, the reading is doubly appropriate. Tradition has the prophet Samuel as the book's author, but many historians think it was written during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, as a reaction to their policy of disdain for foreign-born wives. If so, it was effective, because now tradition says that the souls of future converts were also present at Sinai.

It is also an ancient and universal custom to eat dairy on Shavuot. A number of reasons have been suggested: The Biblical book Song of Songs (4:11) refers to the sweet nourishing value of Torah by saying: "It drips from your lips, like honey and milk under your tongue." The verse in Exodus 23:19 juxtaposes the holiday of Shavuot with the prohibition of mixing milk and meat. On Shavuot, we therefore eat a separate meal of milk. Also, when they received the Torah, the Jews immediately became obligated in the laws of *sh'chita* - slaughter of animals. Since they did not have time to prepare kosher meat, they ate dairy. And of course we always have numerology: the numerical value of milk - *chalav* - is 40. This hints to the forty days that Moses spent atop Mount Sinai. (Aish.com)

The Yizkor memorial prayer for the departed is recited on Shavuot. KJCC will be celebrating Shavuot one day early, on Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>, with a dairy dinner beginning at 6 p.m., followed by Shabbat services, Yizkor, and Tikkun Leil Shavuot. ♦



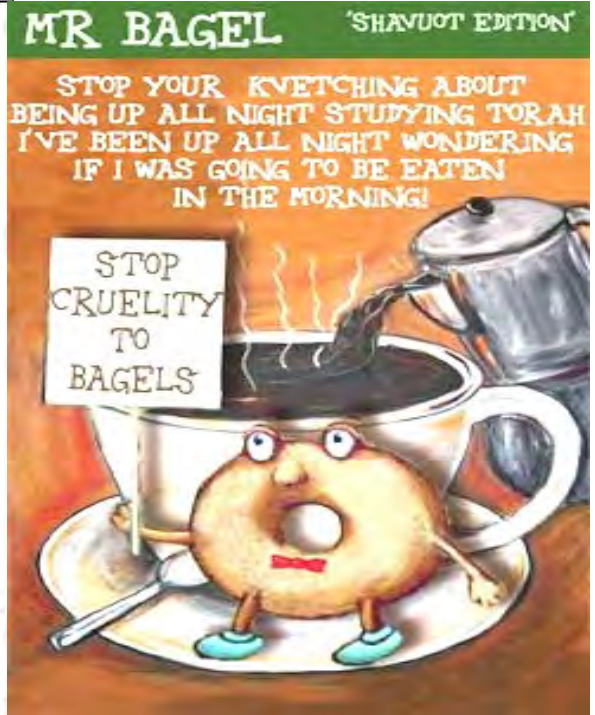


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# Chai~Lights



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September 2016

28 Av - 27 Elul 5776

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**Remembering Elie Wiesel - page 45**

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# September 2016

28 Av - 27 Elul

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Beth Hayden & Richard Knowles	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9 Joyce Peckman, Susan Gordon & Art Itkin  <i>Steve &amp; Barbara Smith</i>	10 Rabbi Agler Shabbat Torah Service 10 a.m.
11 First day of KJCC Sun- day School 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16 George Swartz	17
18 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	19	20	21	22 Autumn arrives	23 Barney Coltman  <i>Toby &amp; Joel Bofshever</i>	24 <i>S'lichot</i> Service, Pizza and a Movie 6:00 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur  <i>(Happy birthday, Lisa)</i>	



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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



The other day at KJCC, waiting for the air-conditioning tech to inspect our systems and then report his findings, I did what I typically do when free time beckons. I went looking for a book, in this case from the burgeoning KJCC library. My eyes met Herman Wouk's "This is My God." I plucked it and sat down to read. This is not a Jew-in-non-Jewish-America novel, such as the younger Wouk's tale of Miss Morganstern spreading her wings as the post-Jewish Marjorie Morningstar. It's Wouk's earnest attempt (written in the late 1950s, but still fresh) to reconcile the traditional rhythms (and meaning) of Judaism with the lives of modern, assimilated Jews, those with good secular education and with tailoring and home decor and entertainment tastes very like those of their presumably Christian, but certainly ethnically anodyne, suburban neighbors.

Being a novelist, Wouk introduces the conflicts he wishes to discuss through character and not dialectic. He presents to us a modern, successful American Jew. This man has earned several academic degrees, lives in a nice house, enjoys classic literature, sails on the weekends. His grandparents were observant, his parents less so, and he now happily grills

pork chops on the bar-becue alongside steak. He and his wife discuss whether they should join a neighborhood Temple for the children's sake, though both find the faith alien. He is described as a warm, decent, and intelligent American.

Walking after work one evening toward the train to Long Island, he sees two men coming toward him. They are dressed in medieval Jewish garb and are conversing animatedly in Yiddish. He is instantly repelled, and resentful. He screams out silently: "if you are Jews, I am not a Jew!" He rails silently because shouting it aloud would make no difference. To the world, and even deep in his own heart, despite the different clothes and tastes and attempts at distance, he is one of them.

Most of us, I think, recognize this conflict, feel it within, and wrestle with it our own way. What does our Judaism mean to us? How deeply is it a part of our core, and how does it help define us? A new season is about to begin at KJCC, another cycle in the eternal attempts to learn and sort and understand. There is no safer space in the world to explore these complex questions of identity than at KJCC. Our little shul is not one thing, or one idea, or one way. It's a bridge, and a mirror, and a smile. ♦

# Nosh

## **S'lichot – Pizza and a Movie**

The tradition continues... On Saturday evening, September 24th at 7:30, we will have S'lichot prayer, pizza and a movie to announce the beginning of the High Holidays. (Please see the house ad on page 12.) Prayers will be led by Bernie Ginsberg, the pizza will be sponsored by Linda Pollack and Steve Steinbock, and the movie is to be announced. To add a little thought-food to this item (actually, much more than a little), we thought you might like to see part of an e-mail exchange where the movie choice was discussed. Here's Rabbi Agler, discussing the S'lichot movie in context of the entire High Holidays: "As we know, S'lichot represents the beginning of the High Holidays, which focus on, among other things, the great themes of human shortcoming and repentance, moral imperatives and our undying hope for existential comfort. Any films that reflect such themes might be appropriate stage-setters for the holy season." We've never seen a better brief description of the whole complex period. You?

### **BOOK PLATE**

In Celebration and Honor  
of the 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
of KJCC Founder

**Pauline Roller**

*presented by Arthur and Ann Plutzer*

## **Torah Learning Services Begin**

Partly because the High Holidays begin late this year (not until October), and partly because our teacher has a generous nature, Rabbi Agler will begin our season of Torah learning services on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Be at KJCC by 10:00 a.m. for an uplifting, engaging, worthwhile experience. These services, warm, stimulating and informal, always start on time. You don't want to miss any of it.

## **Sunday School starts Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday School will begin on September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Randy Klein-Gross will be the teacher this year, and is already planning fun and educational activities for the children. They will learn about the holidays, Hebrew and prayers, and the background and explanations of the songs we sing. She is hoping to give lessons that will last a lifetime. There will be celebrations and holidays to honor throughout the year, so we hope to have the continued support of the congregants. If anybody is interested in helping out in a class, please email Randy at [razzklein@gmail.com](mailto:razzklein@gmail.com) or text 310-702-7276. Contact Susan Gordon at 305-766-3585 or [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com) if your child is not yet registered.

### **BOOK PLATE**

In Honor of

**Harry Friedman**

Earning the Eagle Scout Award  
Mazel Tov  
*from Muriel and George Swartz*  
5/14/2016

### **Yahrzeit Plaque**

*In Loving Memory*

**Ida Tallent**

Devoted Mother & Grandmother  
4/11/1970

## **Sisterhood Meeting Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Rather than meet over Labor Day weekend, Sisterhood will meet on Sunday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. We will be planning to provide the meals and snacks that feed our bodies so our souls can handle the prayers. Remember that Sisterhood membership is included in KJCC membership, so if you are a "sister" come to join the fellowship and help out your KJCC family.

### **Oneg Sponsors for September 2016**

September 9th - Steve and Barbara Smith in honor of their anniversary.  
September 23rd - Toby and Joel Bofshever to celebrate Joel's birthday.

### **BOOK PLATE**

*In Memory of*  
**Louis R. Coltman**  
*by Barnet Coltman*

### **BOOK PLATE**

*In Memory of*  
**Robert S. Coltman**  
*by Barnet Coltman*

### **A New Simcha Contact**

The new Contact Person For KJCC Onegs is Beth Hayden. Contact Beth via email at : [Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net](mailto:Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net) or by phone at 305-773-0067. Our onegs are legendary, and there is always so much to share.

### **A Note From Nyan Feder:**

Dear KJCC,

Thank you so much for giving me this endorsement for my future endeavors. It's going to help me so much, and I greatly appreciate it. I've been working a lot here in Tallahassee, and it's been extremely busy in these past couple of months, but ultimately enjoyable and very rewarding. I am currently performing, rehearsing, and recording in six different local bands that occupy a wide array of genres in town. In the course of a typical work week I will have played a mixture of funk, neo-soul, rock, rock/fusion, neo-jazz, alternative, blues, and straight ahead jazz (which is my current area of study). I don't usually go for longer than four days without a performance of some sort; be it a gig, a rehearsal, recording session, or compositional session. I tend to split my time equally between playing the guitar and playing the saxophone, which is comforting and will end up being a good thing for my future, as I will be able to market myself as an accomplished multi-instrumentalist.

There have been lots of exciting musical moments recently, including performances at large venues and huge festivals in Live Oak (the next of which will be Hulaween at the Spirit of Suwannee Park), but I think the most exciting moment so far has been the opportunity to play in a recording session with the musical legends George Clinton and Fred Wesley. I played the baritone saxophone part in a six-piece horn section for Mr. Clinton's next record, and Mr. Wesley wrote and performed the horn lines with us. It was surreal being with Mr. Clinton in his private studio (which is 15 minutes down the road from my apartment, by the way!), knowing that he was a huge part of the legendary funk groups: Parliament, Funkadelic, and (the merging of those two) P-Funk. On top of that, I got to work directly with Fred Wesley (dubbed the "funkiest trombonist of all time"), who gained most of his fame playing with James Brown, and with countless other music legends afterwards. They were both amazing people with great stories of the celebrities we only ever usually get to see through the dilution of the media. I will definitely be spending more time hanging out in that studio now that I've been introduced and the invitation to come back has been extended. Soon, I will be heading up to North Carolina to record and work on material with my band Leah & the Aviators. We've been pushing hard to grow our fan base in Tallahassee, and so far it's been fruitful. On top of all of that, classes are going great; I currently have a 3.8 GPA, and I'm on track to have a relatively easy-going final two semesters here at Florida State. So all is going extremely well, and it's going even better with the financial help I have received from you all. Once again, I am extremely grateful for all you do to help me out in this stressful-yet-exciting part of life!

With Much Love,  
Nyan

## September Birthdays

1st.....	Mildred Finkelstein
2nd.....	Lloyd Wruble
4th.....	Chase Barrett
4th.....	Debby C. Block
6th.....	Steven Greenbaum
7th.....	Morton Silverman
7th.....	Stellar Levy
7th.....	Mindy Agler
8th.....	Susan Horn
9th.....	Maria Botwin
9th.....	Jacob Klimpl
10th.....	Gerri Emkey
13th.....	Lisha Lane
13th.....	Andy Tobin
16th.....	Larry S. Schur
17th.....	Ellen Ecker
18th.....	Shirley Krissel
18th.....	Avery Haviv
19th.....	Barbara Bernstein
19th.....	Steven Schur
19th.....	Joel Bofshever
19th.....	Brenna Nobil
22nd.....	Fred Hudson
23rd.....	Lauren Schur
23rd.....	Maryon Gould
24th.....	Noah Bitton
25th.....	Michel Bitton
25th.....	Marla Berenson
26th.....	Joan Kay
28th.....	Jonathan Line

## Yartzeit Plaque

*In Loving Memory*  
**Morris I. Estrin**  
 Devoted Father & Grandfather  
 2/9/1968

## Radio Host Stu Sax

KJCC past-president Stu Sax is now a Texas radio personality. He hosts a weekly one-hour radio program called “Someone You Should Know,” interviewing local and even national per-

## September Anniversaries

	Years
7th Jay & Nancy Hershoff .....	17
9th Neal & Cathy Rakov.....	32
9th Steven & Barbara Smith.....	38
30th Ira & Anita Krieger.....	38
30th Marsha & Tom Garrettson.....	26

sonalities with interesting vocations and/or backgrounds. Some guests you may know, but most you will not know.

His station, KVGI Radio, is a digital radio facility and, as such, is available everywhere. You can tune in on your computer at [kvgiradio.com/](http://kvgiradio.com/) or download the KVGI Radio app and listen on your smart phone.

While the show airs live each Friday at 10 a.m. central time, it is re-broadcast each day of the week.; Saturdays at 8 a.m., Sundays at noon, Mondays at 11 p.m., Tuesdays at noon, Wednesdays at midnight and Thursdays at 5 a.m. Lauren wrote that the show is “Going great! Out of 12 shows KVGI broadcasts, Stu’s program is #1! In fact, Keys girl Kim Chesher from ‘Girls Nite Out’ will be on Oct 21st and I am going to co-host with Stu. It should be a blast!”

Stuart added: “This is a longtime dream coming to reality. Please let me know what you think and tell others about the show and the station. And don’t be surprised if one day you become a guest on ‘Someone You Should Know.’ ”



## BOOK PLATE

*In Memory of*  
**Bea Ginsberg**  
 Beloved mother of  
 Dr. Bernard Ginsberg  
*from Muriel and George Swartz*



## Yahrzeit Plaque

*In Loving Memory*  
**Samuel Tallent**  
Devoted Father & Grandfather  
11/11/1938

## Yahrzeit Plaque

*In Loving Memory*  
**Ida R. Estrin**  
Devoted Mother & Grandmother  
7/31/1980

### BOOK PLATE

*In Honor of*  
Grandpa's 90th  
Love, *Elliana and Aaron Willner*

### BOOK PLATE

*In Honor of*  
Mom & Dad's 50th  
Golden Anniversary  
Love, *David and Angela Willner*

## 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, 305-304-1810.

**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 Beth Hayden at 305-773-0067 or email her at [Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net](mailto:Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net).

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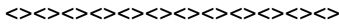
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# *In Memoriam September 2016*

In Memory Of

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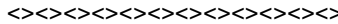
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In Memory Of

**Goldie Berman**

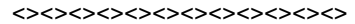
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Mae U. Stark**

By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark



In Memory Of

**Molly Feldblum**

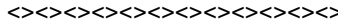
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In Memory Of

**Morris Abramson**

By Joel & Toby Bofshever



In Memory Of

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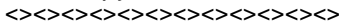
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In Memory Of

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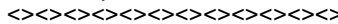
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In Memory Of

**Sydney Edelman**

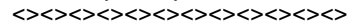
By Dale Chasteen



In Memory Of

**Ronald Repka**

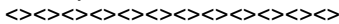
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Evelyn O. Coltman**

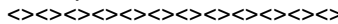
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

**Ida Hitzig**

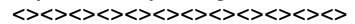
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**Leo Rosenberg**

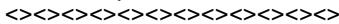
By Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea



In Memory Of

**Albert Improta**

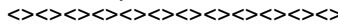
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

**Hannah Improta**

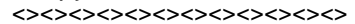
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

**H. Melvin Berkon**

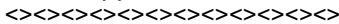
By Jamie & Laura Goodman



In Memory Of

**Nettie Gorson**

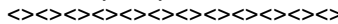
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Paul Gould**

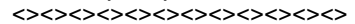
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

**H. Robert Walters**

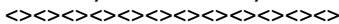
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

**Beverly Harvey**

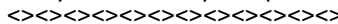
By Mitchell Harvey



In Memory Of

**Leonard Roberts**

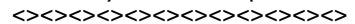
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

**Sadie Klimpl**

By Michael Klimpl



# In Memoriam September 2016

In Memory Of

**Anne Hendin Margulies**

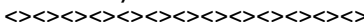
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

**Toby Mitchell**

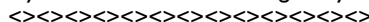
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Melvin Richardson**

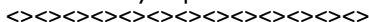
By Lori Richardson & George Smyth



In Memory Of

**Lorraine Martell**

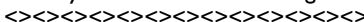
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

**David Gulkis**

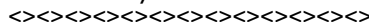
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**David Schur**

By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**Max Rosenfeld**

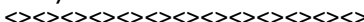
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Mollie Silverman**

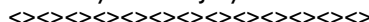
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Irving Kopecky**

By Adam & Judy Starr



In Memory Of

**Roger Starr**

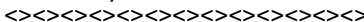
By Adam & Judy Starr



In Memory Of

**Charlie Temkin**

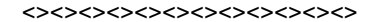
By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

**Jim Boruszak**

By Joan Boruszak



## ***MISHEBERACH – A PRAYER FOR HEALING***

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

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

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

If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's *Misheberach* list, please, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 305-852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).

## KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

We cordially invite you to our  
**Erev Rosh Hashanah  
Dinner**

On Sunday, October 2, 2016, 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 25th if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood. Mail to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Members - \$20

Member Children under 13 - no charge

Non-Members - \$25

Non-Member Children under 13 - \$10



RSVP: Erica

Lieberman-Garrett

hippiejap@hotmail.com

(305) 393-1162

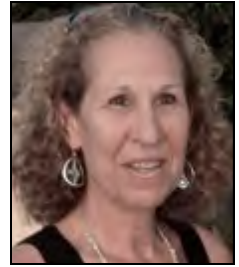




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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



Summer in the Keys gives us the time to regroup, recuperate, and reorganize. We take the opportunity to travel, spend time with family and friends, and get a fresh prospective on our upcoming New Year and High Holiday season. But even during the summer months Sisterhood remained active.

We held our first ever potluck dinner and clothing exchange. We gathered together on June 25<sup>th</sup>, after clearing out our closets and clutter. It didn't take too long to assemble tables and racks of clothing, purses and accessories, and then we spent some time trying on and modeling our new acquisitions. We enjoyed getting together, noshing, and spending some leisure time getting to know each other. It was a lot of fun, and a great success. (The extra items were donated to MARC.) We enjoyed it so much that we plan on doing it again during season so that more women will be able to join us.

We helped to celebrate Pauline Roller's 101st birthday at KJCC's annual Shabbabique, a lovely evening and dinner organized by Mitch Harvey. We also celebrated the Kaufman's *simcha* for Sean's third birthday and *upsherein* (ceremonial first haircut) at our August 5th Shabbat dinner, sponsored by the Kaufman family. Lorena went over the top with the most beautiful birthday cakes at both of these events. It makes our gatherings and dinners even more special when generous members like the Kaufmans go above and beyond just sponsoring. It is one more example of the support and love our members, their families and guests have for our KJCC.

I look forward to services each week, but if I am being honest, I especially look forward to the onegs. This summer we celebrated something almost every week: special birthdays (including one for a brave dog), anniversaries, graduations, a new home, new grandchildren, an *upsherein*, memories of loved

ones and just KJCC hospitality. Each oneg adds a sweet and delicious addition to our Shabbat services, and I look forward to seeing what delicious cake or treat is going to be enjoyed by all. During my presidency, I have seen great support and commitment to our weekly onegs from everyone who makes them happen. Joyce Peckman has kept track of the sponsors each week for the past 13 years. We thank her for her commitment and time and are grateful for the important job that she has done. We are excited that Beth Hayden has graciously volunteered to take the baton and will now be our oneg chairperson. She will be the contact person, as well as the Sisterhood treasurer, simplifying our future oneg organization. You will have seen this reflected in the recent letter from Sisterhood. Please share your *simchas* and special occasions with your KJCC *mishpocha* by sponsoring your special day. I also want to add a huge "Thank you!" to Jane Friedman, who shops for, grows, and brings delicious fresh food to our onegs each week. We thank all of you for your continued support of Sisterhood.

September 18th at 10 a.m. will be our next Sisterhood meeting. I hope to see all of our women joining the meeting, as we will be making our final plans for our High Holiday celebrations. We begin on Sunday, October 2nd at 6 p.m. with our traditional Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner, featuring scrumptious matza ball soup, brisket, chopped liver and knishes. Yummy! Such a great way to start our New Year together. And this is just the beginning! Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah events follow in October.

This is what Sisterhood and the KJCC is all about! Looking forward to a fantastic, delicious, healthy and happy 5777.  
*Shana tovah.* ◇

# 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.

## Bookplate

Peckman, Joyce  
Plutzer, Arthur

Celebration of 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of  
Pauline Roller

Schur, Lee Longtime Membership in KJCC  
Swartz, George & Muriel Harry Friedman earning  
Eagle Scout Award

## In Honor of

Grandchildren

## In Memory of

Coltman, Barney Louis R. Coltman  
Schur, Lee Bob Schur  
Swartz, George & Muriel Bea Ginsberg, beloved  
mother of Dr. Bernard Ginsberg

## Chai-Lights

Bofshever, Joel & Toby Aglers becoming grandparents  
Bofshever, Joel & Toby Susan Gordon becoming a  
grandparent  
Bofshever, Joel & Toby Harry Friedman making  
Eagle Scout

Pollack, Linda  
Roy, Medina  
Sheinker, Miltra

## General Fund

Agler, Richard & Mindy David Marmar – in gratitude  
Bofshever, Joel & Toby Wishing good health to  
Ellen Bloom  
Bofshever, Joel & Toby Wishing good health to  
Gene Silverman

Gilson, Michael & Suzanne  
Grant, Andrew & Randi Wishing a speedy recovery  
to Alan Schulberg

Hartz, Steve & Jan Jane Friedman and Joyce Peckman  
Kwalick, Teresa Pauline Roller's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday  
Peckman, Joyce birth of Jonah Agler  
Peckman, Joyce Sean's birthday  
Pollack, Linda bat mitzvah of Seraphina Atlas  
Pollack, Linda Michael & Lorena Kaufman and  
Sean's upsherin

Pratt, Bob for Painting  
Rose, Frank Sean's upsherin

## General Fund

Sachs, Joseph & Susan  
Salant, Renee & Weis, Sam  
Solas, Elaine

## General Fund

Altman, Patricia  
Goldman, Steven & Talia  
Goodfellow, John & Teresa  
Goodman, Dr. Jamie & Laura

Margulies, Stanley & Jenny  
Moskovits, Lewis & Miriam  
Peckman, Joyce  
Pollack, Linda  
Pollack, Linda  
Pollack, Linda  
Rothbaum, Brad & Linda  
Smith, Stuart & Geri  
Wasserberg, Gary & Mimi

## Holocaust Education Center

Roy, Medina  
Salant, Renee & Weis, Sam

## Meditation Garden

Gordon, Susan brick – welcome to the world  
Rhett William Casey  
Pollack, Linda brick-honor Maddy Pollack's  
bat mitzvah  
Roy, Medina  
Steinbock, Stephen Joshua Bernstein's graduation  
Steinbock, Stephen Sean's upsherin

## Meditation Garden

Faye-Davis, Sydney!  
Horn, Dorothy brick- Ronald Horn  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren Bea Ginsberg  
Sherman, Gary & Lyn brick-Nathan & Linda Dubowsky  
Steinbock, Steve Ron Horn  
Steinbock, Steve Ben Steinbock

## In Honor of (cont.)

## In Memory of

Ron Horn  
Ron Horn  
Ron Horn  
our friend,  
Ruth Lillian Taub  
Bea Ginsberg  
Ron Horn  
Ron Horn  
Patty Lawler  
Bea Ginsberg  
Ron Horn  
Ron Horn  
Yom HaShoah  
Ron Horn

## Contributions, continued:

### **Rabbi & Cantor Fund**

Peckman, Joyce  
Pollack, Linda  
Roy, Medina  
Sachs, Joe & Susan  
Salant, Renee & Weis, Sam

### **Scholarship Fund**

Roy, Medina  
Tallent, Lillian

### **Sisterhood General Fund**

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena  
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

### **Sisterhood Onegs**

Agler, Richard & Mindy  
Atlas, Ken  
Bloom, Marc & Ellen  
Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Hayden, Beth  
Itkin, Arthur  
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

### **Social Hall Chair Plates**

Schur, Lee 24 Years of KJCC Membership  
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy  
Horn, Dorothy Ron Horn

### **Sunshine Fund**

Sax, Stuart & Lauren Harry Friedman  
becoming an Eagle Scout

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

**Yahrzeit Plaques:** KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemaah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

**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 wonders 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, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

# S'lichot

Saturday, September 24, 2016

6:00 pm Pizza and Movie

followed by

Slichot Services

led by Steve Steinbock and Bernard Ginsberg

## **INFORMATION ABOUT MOVIE TO FOLLOW.**



## **WATCH YOUR EMAILS AND KJCC BULLETIN BOARDS.**



**RSVP TO  
LINDA POLLACK  
LINDAP4000@YMAIL.COM**

**SPONSORED EVENING.  
NO CHARGE.  
COME AND ENJOY!**



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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### *Ilomantis Ginsburgae*

Scientists at the *Cleveland Museum of Natural History* announced that they have identified a previously unknown species of praying mantis and named it *ilomantis ginsburgae*. If that name sounds vaguely familiar, it's to honor associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg because of the *jabot* (the ruffled lace collar) she often wears with her judicial robe. The insect has a neck plate that resembles Ginsburg's *jabot*. The honor was also given to Ginsburg for her "relentless fight for gender equality." (An interesting reference to "gender equality," since when mantises mate the female often snacks on her partner's head and then devours his corpse for nourishment.) It's not uncommon for a new species of animal to be named after a celebrity. Have you heard of *coloborhynchus spielbergi*? That's a pterosaur found in Brazil and named to honor you-know-who.

([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), 6-1-16 and [www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 6-7-16)

### Intelligent Socks

There are more than 130 million diabetic patients around the world, many of whom suffer diabetic neuropathy, a type of nerve damage associated with ulcers of the foot. These ulcers are a result of poor blood supply and oftentimes this condition leads to amputation. Now, an Israeli team of scientists and doctors at Jerusalem's *Hebrew University* and *Hadassah Medical Center* is working on a unique solution to help prevent the development of ulcers, thus lessening the possibility of amputation. *SenseGo* is a machine-washable sock that contains dozens of micro-fabricated pressure sensors. These sensors monitor changes in pressure due to incorrect posture, anatomical deformation or poorly-fitting shoes. Electrical signals are then re-

layed to a smartphone app, and the patient is informed of the developing risks. (*World Jewish Digest*, July 2016)

### Secret Tunnel Discovered

A 100-foot-long tunnel at the Ponar Forest massacre site in Lithuania has been uncovered by an international research team. Used by Jewish prisoners to escape the Nazis, it was revealed by electrical resistivity tomography, a relatively new technology that locates underground structures. The discovery was made by the combined efforts of several organizations, including the *Israel Antiquities Authority*, the *University of Hartford*, the *Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum* and "NOVA," the PBS series. Some 100,000 people – of whom 70,000 were Jews from Vilnius (a major Jewish cultural and scholarly center, Jews always referred to it as "Vilna") and the surrounding area – were shot and thrown into pits over a four-year period during World War II. When German forces on the eastern front retreated and the Red Army advanced, the remaining Nazi units forced prisoners to cover up the atrocities by digging up the bodies and burning them. The prisoners – about 40 of them – knew they would be killed once their job was completed, so they devised an escape plan. For three months they dug a tunnel using only their hands and spoons. Guards discovered them when they crawled through the tunnel. Most of the escapees were shot and killed, but some fifteen of them managed to cut through the camps' fence and escape into the forest. Eleven reached partisan forces and survived the war. Researchers have known about the existence of the tunnel for years but only recently has it been found. PBS's "NOVA" is working on a

documentary about the history of the Jews of Vilnius and the discovery of the tunnel. It's scheduled to air in 2017.  
([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 6-29-16)

### **They're Watching You...**

*EBay*, the giant online marketplace that allows users to sell and bid on products, recently announced that it has bought *SalesPredict*, an Israeli startup that predicts consumers' buying habits. Based in the coastal city of Netanya, *SalesPredict* was founded in 2012. The company's technology is a form of artificial intelligence that studies consumers' buying behavior through database analysis. It is said that *EBay* agreed to pay between \$30 and \$40 million, although neither company has released that information. Founded in 1995 and valued at about \$28.6 billion, *EBay* currently has over 900 million listings.  
([www.israelhayom.com](http://www.israelhayom.com), 7-12-16)

### **In Memoriam**

★ Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel, the soft-spoken, transformative figure whose eloquence spoke for those who had been silenced forever in the Holocaust and who dedicated his life to perpetuating the memory of the millions of Jews murdered by giving voice to the survivors, died on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was 87. Wiesel often said that to forget the victims means killing them a second time.

To list all of Wiesel's accomplishments, citations, commendations, and accolades would fill this entire issue of *Chai-Lights*.

Born in Sighet, Transylvania in 1928 (then Hungary, today Romania), he was deported to Auschwitz with his family when he was fifteen. His mother and one sister were murdered there; his father died of starvation in Buchenwald. Wiesel was liberated from Buchenwald in 1945. He and two of his sisters would survive the war. Wiesel studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and in the late 1950s moved to New York. He was a philosopher, a professor and prolific author, writing some 50 books. The 1955 publication of his seminal work "Night," seared his personal Holocaust memories into the public conscience.

The book, now standard reading in high schools across the country, helped create a global awareness and remembrance movement. (Interestingly, the first version of "Night" – originally titled "And the World Remained Silent" – was buried for decades and just recently discovered among more than a million of Wiesel's documents stored in 330 boxes. It was a "scathing indictment of G-d and anyone who believed in him during the Holocaust." It also harshly admonished Jews – and Jewish leadership – who shut their eyes to what was happening and remained silent.)

Wiesel was the recipient of over 100 honorary doctorates. The Nobel Prize Committee called him "a messenger to mankind" when they awarded him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986. He was fluent in five languages: Yiddish, Hungarian, French, Hebrew and English. While tirelessly educating the world about the atrocities of the Holocaust, he also spoke out against the massacres in Bosnia, Cambodia and Sudan, apartheid in South Africa and sought to fulfill the promise of "never again" for all future victims of genocide. To the very end of his days, he mourned that his message had "yet to inspire the action he envisioned." His life was dedicated to ridding the world of hate and intolerance. Wiesel is often quoted as saying "the opposite of love is not hate; it is indifference." ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 7-3-16, [www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 7-2,3-16, [www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 7-2-16, *et al.*)

★ Frank Towers, a U.S. Army officer who, in 1945, helped liberate some 2,500 Jews on a German train bound for Theresienstadt – the concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia where they would have been exterminated – died in July. He was 99. Towers participated in the invasion of Normandy and later fought in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. About a week before the liberation of *Bergen-Belsen* concentration camp, 2,500 Jewish prisoners were forced to march more than six miles to the town of Celle and were put on the train. After six days of traveling, the SS guards were ordered to destroy the train and drown the passengers in the Elbe River if they couldn't reach Theresienstadt. A regiment of the U.S. Army's 30<sup>th</sup>

Infantry Division knew of the Jewish prisoners on the train. As the Americans approached, the prisoners ran out of the train. Lt. Frank Towers, the division's liaison officer and a non-Jew, orchestrated the dramatic rescue, using ambulances, jeeps and trucks. Towers also helped liberate Jewish prisoners from the forced labor camp near Magdeburg. In 2011, he was invited to Israel, where he met 55 of the 700 children who had been on the train to Theresienstadt. Towers managed to contact 226 of the survivors from the train, either via e-mail, the telephone or meeting them in person. He spent his later years speaking at Holocaust programs around the United States. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 7-22-16)

★ Goldie Michelson, named the oldest living American just four months ago, has died. She was only one month away from her 114<sup>th</sup> birthday. The daughter of Russian Jewish parents, her family immigrated to Worcester, Massachusetts in 1904, when she was two. She earned a master's degree examining why many of Worcester's older Jewish-immigrant residents failed to seek American citizenship or learn English. After a wave of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union came to Worcester in 1989, Michelson – then in her late 80s – volunteered to help settle them into American society. She worked as a social worker, taught religious education, and was involved with the community group that helped found *Brandeis University*. She also acted and directed most of her life and was the director of a "Fiddler on the Roof" performance when she was almost 100. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 7-10-16)

### Did You Know...

★ This past June, a gift of \$400 million was given to Ben-Gurion University (BGU) of the Negev. The gift is thought to be the largest ever to an Israeli university. A substantial portion of the money is earmarked for BGU's water research. The gift comes from the estate of Dr. Howard and Lottie Marcus of San Diego, California. The Marcus family made its fortune by investing with Warren Buffett. Both Howard and Lottie began their involvement with BGU in 1997 because of the university's

work with desalination, sustainable water resources and desert farming. But they had other reasons to connect with Israel. Both of them fled Nazi Germany having lost the majority of their families. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 6-24-16)

★ The final round of the 2016 *Scripps National Spelling Bee*, the nation's most prestigious spelling competition, was won by Nihar Janga, 11 and Jairam Hathwar, 13. Hathwar was asked to spell "*chremslach*." *Chremslach* is the Yiddish word for small, flat fried matzah meal cakes traditionally eaten at Passover. For the third consecutive year and after 39 rounds, the contest ended in a tie. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 5-27-16)

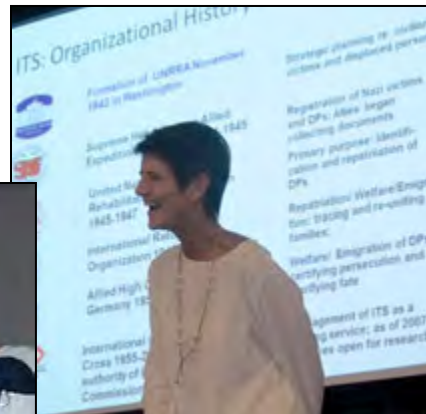
★ Mordechai Alvw is the hairstylist for both Melania and Ivanka Trump. Originally from Israel, Alvw now divides his time between New York City and Israel. He created an all-natural and organic hair-care line he named *Yarok* (the Hebrew word for "green") as a result of his allergic reactions to the hair-care products he was using. An all-organic color at Alvw's salon, *Yarok Beauty Kitchen* in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, will cost you \$300. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 6-29-16)

★ Daniel Berger, from Jupiter, Florida, became the first Jewish golfer in twelve years to win a *Professional Golf Association* (PGA) title when he won the *Fed Ex St. Jude Classic* in Memphis in June. (Jewish golfer Jonathan Kaye won it in 2004.) Berger, 23, was only in his third season as a pro golfer. In 2015, he won *PGA Rookie of the Year*. He started playing golf when he was 11 and turned pro in 2013 in his sophomore year at *Florida State University*. (There's also a KJCC connection: Daniel is the grandson of Dr. Paul Berger, Chai-Lights advertiser and periodontist whose office is in Key Largo's Pink Plaza at MM 103.) ([www.sun-sentinal.com](http://www.sun-sentinal.com), 6-12-16)

★ *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine recently named Tel Aviv-Jaffa as one of the five best culinary cities in the world. Cape Town, South Africa came in first, followed by Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Dubai, Hong Kong and Buenos Aires. There are some 3,400 restaurants and cafes in Tel Aviv. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 7-8-16) ◇

# Photo Gallery

On May 8th, KJCC member Professor Rebecca Boehling (at right) treated us to a fascinating talk about her three years in Germany as head of the International Tracing Service. Since the end of WW II, the ITS — a consortium of nine nations formed to preserve European Holocaust information — has helped thousands of people trace family members who survived the concentration camps, or perished in them. Some of the audience is shown below.



The photos at right and below are all from the Torah Learning Service on Saturday, May 28th. At bottom right, Rabbi Agler and George Swartz assist as Steve Hartzel reads from the Torah. It was to be Rabbi Agler's last service of the season until Sept. 10th.







Shyella sent Sam these photos of former KJCC President Bea Graham at the New Jersey beach near Nissan and Israel's house. (On the finally rebuilt boardwalk destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.) The first photo is Bea with Nissan and Israel. (The woman on the left is Bea's caregiver.) The photo of Bea on the scooter is...Bea on a scooter. (According to Shy, Bea said "why didn't they have these when I was growing up?") The three beach beauties are Bea at left, granddaughters Liati at top and Shyella at right.



At right, Lee Schur is all smiles at granddaughter Brittany's confirmation in San Antonio, Texas.

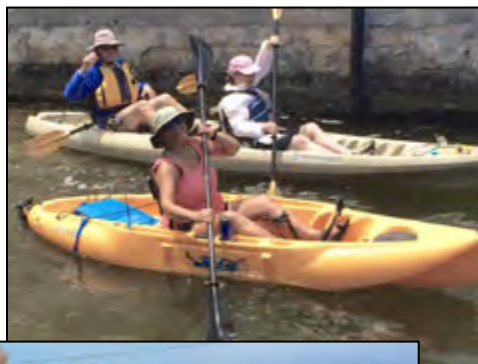


Above, Rick Wolfe traveled with his drum and his mom Dotty to Israel and the mystical city of Tzfat for Lag B'Omer. The celebration includes dancing a Torah through the Old Quarter and up to the main street, where shopkeepers put out food and (strong) drinks for the celebrants, while people toss candy from balconies.



A group of KJCC “chai-yakers” led by Dave Mont joyously headed out on one of the most gorgeous days of the year. A mix of sun and clouds and a light May breeze made for perfect kayak weather. We were joined by Gloria’s sister Rhona and family on our paddle through the mangroves. Many of us leave our kayaks in Dave’s yard, so he has plenty to lend out. Let him know if you are interested in any future trips, often planned at the spur of the moment. Reach him at [moogoodave@yahoo.com](mailto:moogoodave@yahoo.com) or by phone (305)393-9883.

At bottom right are our tired, happy paddlers, safely back ashore.







As is our promise, KJCC held Erev Shabbat services every Friday night throughout the summer. Even with snowbirds gone, we no longer have a problem making a *minyán*. At left, two Lindas light the Shabbat candles on June 3rd.

On June 10th, Shavuot was celebrated in the traditional way — with a dairy dinner, religious services including Yizkor, and after services Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a tradition begun by the mystics so that we might never again risk falling asleep and missing the gift of the Torah, as almost happened to those at Mt. Sinai. The tradition also includes telling the story of Ruth, which for us was narrated in fairy tale mode by Bernie Ginsberg, at bottom.



The Erev Shavuot service was capably led by Gloria Avner and Beth Hayden, shown at left lighting the candles to initiate Shabbat, just before all enjoyed the evening's dinner provided by Sisterhood.



# Shabbabaque

KJCC's Shabbabaque each year celebrates American Independence Day, but July 4th is also the birthday of now 101-year-old Pauline Roller. So each year we celebrate both. This year's bash was on Friday, July 1st. There were two birthday cakes (with not nearly enough candles, by order of the Fire Marshall) and lots of hot dogs and hamburgers. We also tell Pauline to invite whoever she likes, so as usual, since everyone knows Pauline, celebrants came from the entire Keys community.



*Our thanks to Gloria Avner and Erica Lieberman-Garrett for the photos on this page and the next.*

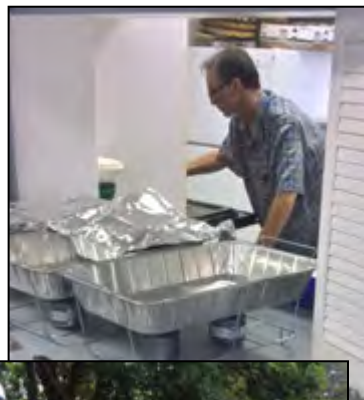




Susan Gordon, who did all the decorating for the Shabbabaque, stands with Sylvie Coeurjoly and daughter Mikhaela Bitton.



Shabbabaque cooking in the heat is quite a job. Below, Marc Bloom serves up the hot dogs (he'd pre-steamed them at home), while Joel Bofshever and Skip Rose man the barbecue. Thanks, guys!



At right, Dorothy Wolfe. Below, Toby Bofshever with Erica.



There is almost 100 years difference in age between Maddie Bloom and Pauline, but both love birthdays and hugs.



At right, Erica almost never sits at dinners. But here she is with Mitch Harvey.



Flanking Pauline, above are long-time Keys friends John Cooper and Sylvia Murphy, with twins Terri Weisberg and Gerri Emkey behind.

Below, some of KJCC's hardest-working ladies took time to celebrate Joyce's birthday on July 9th.



At right, the sweet one sponsored on July 8th by Terry Willner-Tainow and Jon Tainow in honor of the birthdays of their grandchildren Milo and Millie.

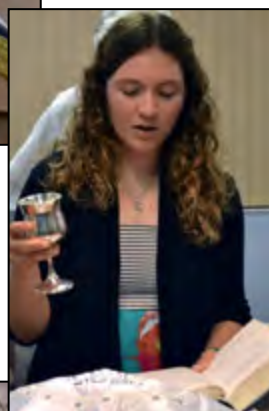


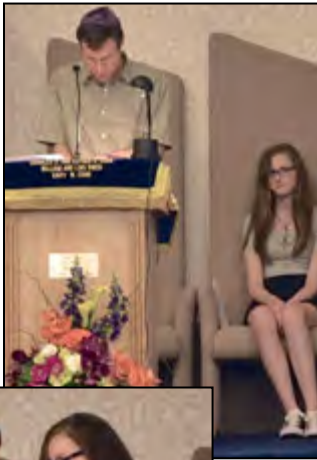
On July 20th we cruised into the sunset from Key Largo, relaxing with drinks, sandwiches and snacks. It was all organized by Mitch Harvey's Activities Committee.





With many members headed north for the summer, it is sometimes a challenge to find service leaders. This summer was made sunnier by the presence of a young visitor. Michelle Greenfield was here as a summer intern at Dolphins Plus. Originally from Arizona, she is an undergraduate at Princeton University, and is vice-president at the Hillel there. One Friday evening she just showed up for services, then became a regular. Gloria noticed how familiar Michelle was with all elements of the service, and so asked her to lead one before going back to school. A confident, personable young lady, she did a magnificent job. We hope that she keeps her promise to return.





On July 22nd, Ken Atlas and daughter Seraphina (Ken usually calls her Sera, pronounced as if spelled “Sarah”) led services, Sera after a three-year absence and about ten vertical inches. (She’s now 13 and had her Bat Mitzvah in May.) The other family members in attendance were Ken’s wife Nicole, at left below, who offered the *D’var Torah*, and Ken’s parents Bob and Shirley Atlas, at right.



Jonah Gross, our esteemed shofar blower (Bernie’s protégé) and trumpet player, graduated from Key Largo School, earning the John Philip Sousa Award as top musician, and the Silver Presidential Award. The photo was sent to us by proud mom Randy Klein-Gross.





On August 5th, Michael and Lorena Kaufman sponsored a KJCC Friday night dinner in honor of Sean's *upsherin* (the ceremonial first haircut given three-year-old boys), to take place the next day. At left, Joyce Peckman and Susan Gordon, who co-led that evening's Erev Shabbat service following dinner, light the candles

to get the festivities underway. Sean warily guards his birthday cake, at left.



At right, Erica ladles out her home-made vegetarian matzah-ball soup. It tasted just as delicious as it looked.



Sean looks less delighted with the gorgeous cake than his friend Maddie, far left, but we don't have a photo of his joyous face a few minutes later when they gave him a slice. At left with Michael and Lorena just before "happy birthday."



**As the dinner's sponsor, Michael Kaufman joins Susan, Bernie and Joyce in Kiddush and the blessing over challah just prior to the food being served.**



**Sean's birthday cake was truly something to behold. Lorena takes parties to a whole new level!**



**At left, Sean blowing out the candle, as Mad-die watches.**



**Members of Lorena's and Michael's families, seen at right, joined us for the dinner and festivities, and stayed for the Friday night service.**



# A Jewish Response to the Orlando Horror

By Rabbi Richard Agler

On June 13th a Community Memorial Service was held at Islamorada Hurricane Memorial in honor of all victims of the Orlando Pulse Nightclub mass murder. Rabbi Richard Agler was among the local clergy asked to speak. The event, organized overnight through social media by Mike Forster of Mangrove Mike's Restaurant and by the local Islamorada gay community, drew several hundred people. The service opened with the playing of Taps by a local trumpeter. We thought everyone would want to see Rabbi Agler's powerful remarks.

**S**havuot is the holiday that celebrates the giving, and receiving, of the Ten Commandments, the Jewish people's great gift to the world. One of those Commandments is *Lo Tirtzach* —You shall not murder.

The holiday began on Saturday evening. Later that same night, as we know, that commandment was horrifically violated. Whatever it is that separates us, on this we can agree: Murder is as foul a crime as we, created in God's image, can commit.

Actually there is a crime worse than murder — and that is mass murder. Last month, I served as a leader on an educational mission to a number of death camps in Eastern Europe. Those camps brought mass murder to a level not seen before or since. But the crimes of the Holocaust and the crime at Pulse, the Orlando nightclub, were brothers — each the offspring of twisted ideology and hate.

On the trip, walking through the former death camps, I asked our students, High School seniors, to contemplate three questions:

- 1) How could people do this?
- 2) How could people allow this to be done?
- 3) What does it all tell us about God?

I didn't expect complete answers. Frankly, I'm not sure that any exist. But we can search. And we can wrestle. Those questions are appropriate if we are studying the 1930s -



40s and they are appropriate today.

Tonight we'll set aside Questions 1 & 3. To understand how people could do this, we would have to live inside their heads; and that is something none of us want to do. To understand what it tells us about God would require a lifetime's worth of nights.

But "How can *people* allow this to be done?" THIS we can address. We know that we are deeply flawed vessels. We know that murder has plagued the human race since Cain and Abel. But we believe, nay we *insist*, that *we are better than this*. We *can* be better than this. We **MUST** be better than this. If we *cannot*, if we *are* not, then heaven help us.

And friends, "Heaven help us" is not an acceptable response to mass murder. "Heaven help us" is not what heaven needs to hear. "*How can we help heaven?*" is the question for the day.

I wish I could tell you I have the whole solution. I don't. But I do have faith that one is possible. We, too, can search and wrestle. We can find a better way. There is always a better way than hate.

My prayer is that this time our *actions* will be more than the sum of our "words, thoughts and prayers." For our own sake. For God's sake.

Thank you and *shalom*. ◇



# KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule

5777 (2016)

*Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin*

## **Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

Pizza/Movies/Slichot Service 6:00 p.m.

## **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 p.m.

## **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Rosh Hashanah, Day 1

Shacharit (Morning Service) 9:30 a.m.

Break after Shofar Sounding 12:00 noon

Musaf Service 12:15 p.m.

Kiddush lunch 1:30 p.m.

Taschlich at Ocean Pointe 4:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Rosh Hashanah, Day 2

Shacharit (Morning Service) 9:30 a.m.

Break after Shofar Sounding 12:00 noon

Musaf Service 12:15 p.m.

Kiddush lunch 1:30 p.m.

## **Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Erev Shabbat Service and Oneg 7:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

Shabbat Tshuvah led by Bernie Ginsberg 10:00 a.m.

Havdalah Service  
at Linda Pollack's home 7:45 p.m.

## **Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

Erev Yom Kippur,  
Kol Nidre Service 7:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**

Yom Kippur Service 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor (Memorial Service) 11:30 a.m.

Children's Service 11:30 a.m.

Break after morning service 12:15 p.m.

Musaf 12:30 p.m.

*Afternoon activity times are approximate:*

Informal "Fast" Talk with Rabbi Agler 2:30 p.m.

Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler 4:00 p.m.

Neillah (Story of Jonah)  
and Maariv Service 5:45 p.m.

Havdalah 7:30 p.m.

Break the Fast immediately following  
at sundown

## **Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

KJCC Sukkah Decoration 10:00 a.m.

## **Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Erev Shabbat Service/Sukkot celebration 7:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Havdalah Service and Sukkah at the Agler Home  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## **Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Shemini Atzeret observed (Yizkor 7:30 p.m.  
Service), plus Simchat Torah service and  
celebration (including Rabbi Agler's famous  
seven-minute Torah translation), followed by  
Chocolate Extravaganza Oneg in the Social Hall.



# High Holidays 5777

*It's that time of year again. Time to prepare for your journey through the Days of Awe. Here, a few thoughts from your guides Rabbi Richard Agler, Cantor Michael A. Dzubin and KJCC Head of Ritual Gloria Avner.*

## A Message From the Rabbi

*On the Upcoming High Holydays 5777*

*by Rabbi Richard Agler, DD*

It has been a disquieting year. As you don't need me to tell you, our nation's civic life has been turbulent. We have seen far too much violence, both around the world and here at home. In our personal and social lives, as ever, *simcha*, sadness and challenge mix in a combination that is difficult to sort.

Perhaps it has ever been thus, but technology has put the world's relentless onslaught in the palms of our hands and "in our

face" as never before. And William Wordsworth's 1807 maxim, "The World is Too Much With Us," resounds as never before. Thank goodness that a break, in the form of the High Holydays, will soon be upon us.

One of Wordsworth's contemporaries, Nachman of Braslav, taught that Rosh Hashanah provides an opportunity for *taharat ha-machshavot*. This phrase can be rendered in various ways. "Purifying our thoughts,"

"cleansing our mind" and "resetting our brain" are all valid in context.

In any case, it is clear that Nachman believed the High Holydays are the time to set life's ongoing noise aside and remind ourselves that despite the ever-present cacophony, we are higher creatures. The Days of Awe are the time to concentrate our thoughts at the highest possible point, with God.

This is of course a challenge. The questions are many and the answers are often elusive and partial. But this is why it is not a one-shot deal. We begin on *Slichot* night and continue through *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*. In less than a month's time there are four major holidays and several other opportunities for spirituality. When they do their job and we do ours, it is indeed a time of resetting and purification.

As I write middle of guess is that will be no us" in the ahead. Which more reason looking for-annual ce- eternal val- do indeed

power to renew us. I look forward to sharing them with you. Mindy joins me in extending, to all of our Keys family, wishes for a blessed and meaningful *shana tovah*. ♦



this, in the summer, my the world less "with weeks is all the to begin ward to our bration of ues. They have the

*All line art in this section courtesy of Gloria Avner.*

## On the Evolution of Cantorial Music

*First There was None, and Then Some,  
But It's Still All About the Prayers*

by Cantor Michael Dzubin

As most of you know, back in the time of the Temple the Kohanim conducted all services and rituals, assisted by the Levites. Since the printing press wasn't invented until the middle of the 15th century C.E., only the wealthy could afford to purchase a handwritten book/scroll. Further, according to some sources, there was a fundamental resistance to writing down Jewish prayers until around the 8th century C.E., just as there had once been a prohibition against writing down the Oral Torah. (Though it was still being edited, by the 8th century the Talmud, the codification of the Oral Law, was already hundreds of years old.) Therefore, a prayer book was very hard, if not virtually impossible, to come by. Congregations became reliant on the Kohanim and Levites to recite and/or chant the prayers of the service on their behalf. As long as the congregants were paying attention to what was being said, and responding appropriately – answering to the prayer-leader's "Barukh Atah Adonai" ("Blessed are You, My Lord") with "Bar'khu U-Varukh Sh'mo" ("Blessed is He, and Blessed is His Name"), and at the end of the blessing responding with "Amen" (basically, "yes, we agree with what is being said, and may it be so") – they received full credit, as if they had said the blessings themselves! The first formal siddur – the word for the Jewish prayer book is derived from the word seder ("order," familiar from Passover) and translates to mean "order of the service" – for year-round use was compiled by Rav Amram Gaon in the

9th century C.E. Before then, and even afterwards for those who could not afford to own a printed copy, people had to memorize the prayers.

However, the congregation did have someone knowledgeable in the structure of the services, someone learned who had memorized the prayers and was able to recite them aloud on behalf of all. This gave rise to the "Shaliakh Tsibbur" ("emissary of the congregation"), who, it is important to understand, is not the congregation's intermediary to God; congregants don't have to share their sins, concerns or needs to him (or, now, of course, her) and gain his acceptance or approval to pray on their behalf, as some other religions require. Instead, the emissary is simply their agent, offering the prayers on behalf of those not fluent enough in Hebrew to recite the prayers aloud themselves. While God does understand and accept prayers in any language, Hebrew is considered the Holy Language; as a result, to pray in Hebrew is considered a higher level of prayer.

In addition to praying on behalf of the congregation, the Shaliakh Tsibbur is at times counted on to elevate the souls and prayers of the congregation to greater heights, helping bringing everyone closer to God. In other parts of the service, his job is simply to set and keep the pace of the praying congregants by finishing the last one or two verses of each prayer, and perhaps starting the beginning of the next one, to keep everyone praying together even when everyone is praying silently. Since large parts of the service can therefore be just beginnings and endings, with silent reading in between, the Shaliakh Tsibbur has to notice whether he may be going too fast (possibly indicated by the congregants looking irritated and rapidly flipping pages to catch up, or going too slowly (indicated by finding everyone looking up at





him expectantly when he is nearing the end of a prominent paragraph!).

While the ancient rabbis banned the use of instrumental music during Shabbat and holiday services as a way of mourning the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. – not so much mourning the loss of the building as the loss of the close relationship and communication with God – vocal music remained an important part of the service. The Talmud even requires a prayer leader to be "skilled in chanting and having a pleasant voice." The vocal music that we hear in our synagogues today can be divided into three general types, two of which have roots extending back to the time of the Temple.

The first type is the cantillations, or chant assigned to the reading of scripture, which are guided by "trope" (the symbols above and below the words in the book version of the TaNaKh, the acronym for the name of our complete Bible, that specify the musical notes assigned to the words...no trope appears in the Torah itself).

The second type of vocal music in the synagogue is called Nusah, which is the musical motif (or "flavor") found throughout the different services. While Nusah can be assigned to specific prayers or parts of services on specific occasions, such as the special musical pattern for T'fillat Tal (the Prayer for Dew during Passover), or T'fillat Geshem (the Prayer for Rain on Sh'mini Atseret at the end of



Sukkot), each of which have their distinctive sounds, it is more generally known and recognized by providing a musical motif in order to distinguish one type of service from another, such as normal weekdays versus Kabbalat Shabbat (welcoming the Sabbath), or Shabbat morning services versus Rosh Hodesh (welcoming the New Month) or even the High Holidays. For example, the words of the Bar'khu, the official Call to Worship, are the same every time in every service. However, the Nusah, or tune for it, changes depending on whether it is a regular weekday, Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, the evening of a Festival, or even between the different High Holiday services!

Since not every prayer was subject to a Nusah tradition, the professional chazzan ("cantor") in European Ashkenazic communities,

starting in the Middle Ages, found opportunities to compose special tunes for parts of the services. This, of course, leads us to the third type of vocal music found in the synagogue: the melodies, or the "sing-along" parts. Religious authorities as early as the 12th century, however, condemned those who made the prayers secondary to the music, or music whose purpose was to frivolously entertain a congregation rather than to lead it in prayer. (Some had begun using melodies from popular folk songs, others unnecessarily and uncomfortably extending services by inserting lengthy "operatic" compositions.) As a result, for a long time, prayers were said with a minimum of joyous song, and without the aid of congregational singing, even on Shabbat and holidays! Thanks largely to the Chasidic movement arising in Poland over 200 years ago, congregations across many of the branches of Judaism have re-emphasized song and congregational singing as a way of serving God in joy, especially on Shabbat and festivals.



All singing, in fact every way we pray and worship, must be balanced with what is called "Kavannah," or "intent." As is written above the Ark in many congregations: one must "Know before Whom you stand." We should be aware of and reflect on the meaning of words we speak or sing, their history, the intentions of the composers of the liturgy, and what emotions they were meant to express – joy, sorrow, fear, awe or closeness. I am honored that you have invited me back to share these High Holidays with you, as your Shaliakh Tsibbur, and I pray that I am able to live up to this history and these traditions, by using the all the cantor's musical tools to help reflect and share awareness of the intended messages, to hopefully draw us together into the appropriate moods, and thereby bring us as one closer to God, particularly during these High Holydays, these Days of Awe.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu! (May you all be inscribed for a Good Year!) ◇

## We Enter Elul, The Month of Preparation

by Gloria Avner

We are lucky. It is September, many of our people are back from summer vacation, and we have a whole month before High Holidays arrive – or as we more respectfully name them, *Yamim Nora'im*, The Days of Awe. If you count the time from *Erev Rosh HaShanah* until the last blast of the *shofar* on *Yom Kippur*, you'd be tempted to say these *Yamim* encompass 10 days. But Judaism is anything but obvious or limited, and everything about cyclic continuity. We are actually riding toward the awesome days right now. Elul is the month the rabbis declared to be 29 days of preparation and introspection. This is the time, they said, when the King (meaning God) is most accessible, walking through fields,



approachable by human subjects who have the courage and intent to acknowledge past errors and commit to becoming their best selves. (It started when Moses went up the mountain for another 40 days, carrying a second set of tablets, after the debacle of the golden calf.) This is a time to be extra charitable. Remember, how we are judged in the Book of Life can be softened by three things, the three concept words we say loudly in unison after confessing to every imaginable shortcoming, as individuals and as a community: Prayer (*Tefillah*), turning towards God (*Tshuvah*), and, finally, charity (*Tzedakah*).

It seems like an accident (I just looked up the date) that I am writing this on August 13<sup>th</sup>, *Erev Tisha B'Av*, the heaviest Jewish fast day, second in seriousness only to *Yom Kippur*. But maybe it's *bashert*, all part of the intelligent process by which we move from sorrow to joy, how we improve ourselves and become worthy to be "a light unto the nations." From Saturday evening, September 3<sup>rd</sup> (*Elul Rosh Chodesh*) until Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and the celebration of *Simchat Torah*, we will be engaged for almost two whole months in cleansing and renewal of body, mind, and spirit.

We can't play the *shofar* and listen to its call to consciousness every day in Elul as the sages say we should – we are in synagogue only

on Shabbat and it is not allowed then. We will not walk into the *Yamim Nora'im* in fear of judgment, but we can and will honor the beginning of Elul's preparation month by singing a song about love, an acronym based on Elul's four letters: "*Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li*" - "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song of Solomon 6:3). We acknowledge God's good will towards us and ours towards God. Nothing is over until it's over, and then of course, we begin again. ◇

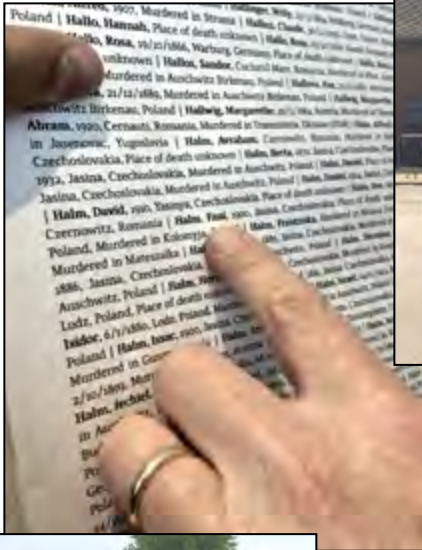


# MARCH OF THE LIVING 2016

These photos are all courtesy of Rabbi Agler. He and Bernie accompanied the Miami contingent of this year's March of the Living to Poland and Israel, Rabbi Agler as rabbi/educator and Bernie as group physician. This is a program where teens are taken to Poland to not only see but experience the Nazi death camps. Included are Auschwitz (and its partner camp where the killing was actually done, Birkenau), Majdanek, Chelmno and others. After the emotional power of actually being at the camps, the entire group goes to Israel for Yom Ha'Atzmaut, its Independence Day, to celebrate and feel personally connected to the survival of the Jewish people.



When showing his students the oldest shul in the Polish city of Krakow, who did Rabbi Agler see at the other end of the room but Professor Alan Dershowitz, top left. Above, Rabbi Agler talking to his students about the Jewish world in pre-war Krakow. At left, Bernie shows off his shirt listing the KJCC sponsors for his trip. At top, the infamous "Arbeit Macht Frei" gate that led into Auschwitz, which still stands for all to pass under.



All the photos on this page, in addition to two on the previous, were taken during the long visit to Auschwitz/Birkenau. The finger in the photo top left belongs to Rabbi Agler. He's pointing, in the thick reference book there that notes all who were processed through (the

Germans did not hesitate to keep meticulous records), to members of his family. Above, draped in Israeli flags for sustenance, part of the group prepares to enter for the full guided tour. At left, Julius, a survivor and one of the Jewish guides, walks toward the barracks on the arms of two Miami students. Below, a large contingent of the Miami group (there were about 100) poses in front of an actual railroad car that brought Jews to Birkenau for extermination. The flag defiantly proclaims that the Jewish people, unlike Nazism, survives.





The two top photos this page are two of the death camps the group visited after leaving Auschwitz. Top left shows the scope of a mass grave on the site of Chelmno, some 50 km north of the Polish city of Lodz. Here the first mass killings of the Final Solution took place, in large vans adapted as gas chambers; the agent was carbon monoxide. After the killings, the bodies were driven to these mass graves. At right is the gigantic memorial at Majdanek, just across a road (literally) from the eastern city of Lublin. There are (and were) no trees; everyone could see the brick chimney from the crematorium and the gas chamber building. The location was, and is, on the main road to Ukraine and Russia.



And, then, finally, on to Israel for celebration. The center photo is Bernie in front of the Kotel, the Wailing Wall, in Jerusalem. At left, on Friday evening, Rabbi Agler makes HaMotzi with the Jerusalem hills behind. At bottom, Rabbi Agler and Bernie float in the Dead Sea.



**Rabbi Agler and Bernie had promised to come to KJCC after their return to share photos, stories and reflections of their trip. It all happened on Sunday evening, July 3rd. As you saw on the previous pages, the trip began in sadness in the preserved remains of the Polish death camps and ended in joy in Israel for the celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day. The evening was moving and unforgettable.**





# HIAS – The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

## *A Long Tradition of Advocating for Refugees*

by Linda Kaplan, Esq.

There is so much that can be said about HIAS, and though it's a legend in the Jewish world, many people know nothing about it at all. It is the only Jewish organization whose mission is to assist refugees. It is the oldest resettlement organization in the world. It is also the only Jewish organization designated by the U.S. government to assist with refugee resettlement.

There is a good chance that some KJCC members have received assistance from HIAS in Manhattan and/or on Ellis Island. If you were not directly assisted by HIAS, it is likely that previous generations of your family received assistance from HIAS when they first came to this country. For those researching your family trees, HIAS archives dated from 1909 may be of interest to you if they were part of your family's history. They offer location and family history search, Immigrant Record Search, Location Service Search and Genealogy search. To access the HIAS archives you may go to *HIAS.org* for a records search.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) was founded in 1881, in a storefront on the Lower East Side of Manhattan by American Jews who organized to assist other Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and eastern Europe. At that time the world did not yet have a legal concept for people being killed in their homelands just because of who they were.

HIAS was established before the U.S. (or the world) even had a legal concept of the term "refugee." This lack of a definition or a legal right of asylum did not stop HIAS from assisting Jews and other groups of people whose lives were at risk. They were guided not by international law but by our Jewish values, our history and the Torah, which says 36 times in 36 different ways that we must "welcome the stranger." HIAS took our Torah

teachings to heart. From its early days it provided, in addition to legal aid, dormitory space, a soup kitchen, clothing, civics education, job training, and assistance with finding jobs. Here's a description, directly from the HIAS web site, discussing their work on Ellis Island:

"HIAS established a bureau on Ellis Island in 1904, providing translation services, guiding immigrants through medical screenings, arguing before the Boards of Special Enquiry to prevent deportations, and obtaining bonds to guarantee employable status. We lent some the \$25 landing fee and sold railroad tickets at reduced rates to those headed for other cities. We even installed a kosher kitchen, which provided more than half a million meals to new arrivals on Ellis Island.

HIAS also found relatives of detained immigrants. Six hundred immigrants were detained during just one month in 1917 because they had neither money nor friends to claim them. HIAS was able to locate relatives for the vast majority, who were then released from Ellis Island."

The work of HIAS in assisting Jews fleeing persecution in Europe was substantially hampered by xenophobic fears of many in the U.S. There were fears that foreigners migrating to the U.S. would undermine American values and take jobs from Americans. In 1909, Henry Cabot Lodge, then a Senator from Massachusetts, was the first to propose a limitation on immigration from southern and eastern Europe. The recession that followed World War I only heightened fears that immigrants from other countries would increase the unemployment rate among Americans.

The Immigration Act of 1924 specifically aimed to restrict migration of southern and eastern Europeans. Proponents of the act wanted to favor native-born Americans over Jews, Southern and Eastern Europeans (in order to "maintain the racial preponderance

of the basic strain of our people and thereby to stabilize the ethnic composition of the population.”

It was believed that southern/eastern Europeans and Jews arrived sick and starving and therefore were less capable of contributing to the American economy and unable to adapt to American culture. Using the 1890 census, The National Origins Act instituted admission quotas to determine the population of a particular nationality group and then only allowed two percent of that nationality into the U.S. Annual quotas of immigration were lowered and 86.5 percent of the visas were allocated to those from northwest Europe and Scandinavia, 11.2 percent to eastern and southern Europeans, and the remaining 2.3 percent were allocated to all other countries.

Even those aware of the refugee resettlement accomplishments of HIAS might not know its history of advocacy and role in promoting laws in the U.S and internationally that protect the human rights of refugees. Sixty-seven years after HIAS was formed, following Jewish law and traditional teachings, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights set out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees established the definition of a refugee as “an individual who is *outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence who is unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on his or her race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.*” (italics mine.) Due in part to the aggressive advocacy of HIAS, the National Origins Act quotas were replaced by a new law passed in 1965. This established our current regime of allocating immigrant visas to those sponsored by close family members or beneficiaries of employment-based petitions.

The U.S Refugee Act of 1980 amended

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*“We do not help them because they are Jewish, we help them because we are Jewish.”*

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this law by creating a procedure for the admission of refugees of humanitarian concern and provided for the resettlement of those refugees. At this time, we are seeing in the U.S. many of the same anti-refugee sentiments which resulted in the exclusion of Jews. A Twitter post on Nov. 19, 2015 by

Beenish Ahmed, titled “America Turned Away Jewish Refugees because some were feared to be Nazi Agents,” discusses this aspect of our current political climate. He discussed the work of American University professor Max Paul Freedman, who compared the concern of some that allowing Syrian refugees in to the U.S. would allow Isis fighters to slip in, to that fear of admitting Jewish refugees. Freedman said, “We have a very long tradition of exaggerating the threat that refugees might pose. Just as we didn’t have a single case of a Nazi posing as a Jew being admitted to the U.S., it would be very difficult

for a Syrian sleeper agent for Isis, making it through a two year process and being interviewed and having to explain themselves.”

I recently participated in a HIAS Briefing Teleconference on Refugee Resettlement. At the end of the teleconference they discussed ways to deal with community backlash against refugee resettlement, reminding us that we had once been the ones shunned and kept out. The first suggestion was to provide the facts. To this end HIAS has prepared an information sheet entitled “Myths and facts about Refugee Resettlement.” Anyone interested can download the HIAS report at: [http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/myths\\_and\\_facts\\_about\\_syrian\\_refugee\\_resettlement.pdf](http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/myths_and_facts_about_syrian_refugee_resettlement.pdf).

In the HIAS teleconference we were reminded that the Torah instructs us to “welcome the stranger,” not merely your friends or those who are like you. Prominently posted on the HIAS website are the words: “We do not help them because they are Jewish, we help them because we are Jewish.” ◇

# *My Medical Mission to Bhutan*

## *Teaching Med Students in a Buddhist Country on Top of The World*

by Neal Rakov  
(with an introduction by Gloria Avner)

**M**ost nations judge the state of their health and viability with economic indicators. They focus on Gross National Product, average income, level of debt. Most countries, but not all. Especially not Bhutan, that tiny monarchy in the Himalayas tucked precariously between China, India, Assam and Nepal. Ask KJCC's own Dr. Neal Rakkov, who recently volunteered to travel to Bhutan for a month's stay to train and mentor newly graduated physicians in gastroenterology in the country's largest hospital. Tourist visas are limited to ten days. Neal had three times that, enough to see firsthand how this nation's benevolent king monitors not his people's output but their input. For him and his subjects, the most important measure of success is the National Happiness Index. By law both men and women still wear their traditional national garb, the "gao," a beautiful hand-woven and embroidered long sarong, blouse and sash for the women, with long-sleeved, kilt-length jackets with sashes and knee socks for the men.

Cable television was not allowed until 1999. Though Nike footwear has definitely taken hold, alongside commitment to modern medical care, the same medieval masked dances and ceremonies central to Bhutanese survival (like the winter Yak Dance, in which the elderly are struck by a yak tail to "harden" them up for survival in winter's tough times), are still performed in small villages each year with gusto - and prolific amounts of alcohol). The country, because of its extreme, untrammled natural beauty and abundant, rare wildlife, is a natural tourist attraction, but only a limited number of visitor permits are issued each year. So the beauty persists, unspoiled. Hear

Neal tell of his experiences in the only country in the world where archery is the national sport and the Buddhist Lamas (respected spiritual teachers) reminded him of 19<sup>th</sup> century rebbes. (And, yes, I've been to Bhutan, too, years ago when I would regularly travel to Asia looking to buy worldwide native art for my Key Largo/Bar Harbor business. It truly is an amazing place.) - Gloria

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I spent the month of May, 2016, in Bhutan - a country perched on the roof of the world, adjacent to Nepal amid the peaks of the Himalayas, the world's tallest mountain range - through the auspices of Help Volunteers Overseas, an American NGO (non-governmental organization) whose mission is

**Below, the entrance to the medical facility where Neal worked and taught. Atop the graceful pagoda-like architecture, you can clearly read "National Referral Hospital."**





**The doctors and residents who taught and learned from Neal, taking a break from treating patients.**

one of the world's most basic and important: education. I try to go to Bhutan once a year. This was my second trip; the first was about two years ago, and I plan to return again in October of 2017.

Bhutan has a number of small medical facilities, but only one referral hospital, in the capital city of Thimphu, which has a population of 75,000. They only recently began an internship-residency program at the hospital, and I was asked to teach gastroenterology to residents and interns there. They furnished me with what turned out to be a cold-water flat, which was okay because I ended up deciding to take showers in the gym. Electricity is scary, and not consistent or reliable; there are lots of fires. One is well advised to unplug everything when you leave the house. I lived with the hope that the fridge wouldn't start a fire and burn my apartment (with me in it) during the night.

My advice to any visitors, to whoever might find themselves in this beautiful and fascinating country, is to speak to as many locals as possible. I very much enjoyed the daily interactions. There was one young man in traditional garb, on his way to work, who walked with me each day as I

**At right, a group of high school girls in Bhutanese garb, practicing for a traditional dance contest.**



made my way to the hospital. The people as a whole are friendly, yet shy, especially the young female interns. Co-workers whose homes I visited were always embarrassed by an economic status so clearly different from that of their American counterparts. Most call me "sir." (It's a traditional culture. Anyone a year older is "sir" or "ma'am.") I had a problem doing rounds with a group in the hospital for a while, because they would all politely wait for me to go through the doors first, which created a bottleneck until I could get there.

Regional hospitals do all types of health care. There are no clinics specializing in minor illnesses, so the doctors are swamped, with auto-immune diseases, a lot of liver disease caused by drinking, and hepatitis-B transmitted from mom to baby. As their diet becomes more western, there are additional problems. Diabetes has become epidemic over last 20 years. (Their bodies are not accustomed to processed food with a high glycemic index.) Bhutan grows red rice for export, and imports white rice from India. They eat ramen noodles. The only time I was able to partake of delicious red rice was when I biked out of the city and into the countryside.

Another issue is lung problems caused by



poor indoor ventilation. Though they have instituted one important health measure to address this: they don't use unventilated wood stoves anymore. (Imagine you and your lungs living with one of those.) Electric heaters have helped reduce the smoke from wood stoves, and there's now a regulation requiring a closed smoking room in restaurants. People are also not allowed to smoke on the street, just like we don't allow public drinking here.

Doctors are paid on a national service scale based on years of work - seniority rather than skill - so young doctors are paid less than older civil servants. People of wealth - there are some, as always - or high in government are not too concerned about the quality of local health facilities, because they go to Thailand, India and Singapore for health care. There is a facility for dialysis, but patients in need of kidney transplants are

sent to India. There is a nursing school and Masters in Public Health program in the country, but no medical school. Doctors are trained in India, Bangladesh and Sri-Lanka. If the government pays for their education, doctors owe three years of public service for each

year of training. Problems arise when students return home from schooling, because they often can't do back in Bhutan what they have been trained to do abroad. One young doctor who was trained as pulmonologist in India came back to find no facility in Bhutan where she could use her training, so she works as an internist. There is never enough equipment. We did thirty endoscopies per day using only two instruments, cleaned (carefully) between each procedure. Students

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*Nurses in Bhutan actually take care of patients, rather than doing mainly paperwork.*

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**A Buddhist temple decorated for one of the many local festival celebrations.**

from wealthy families who pay their own way, and therefore owe the country no term of service, have no incentive to come home after their medical training. While I was there, I got a liver biopsy team together, but after I left the team members who had no obligation to repay the government left for Australia, where salaries are higher.

Nurses in Bhutan actually take care of patients, rather than doing mainly paperwork. Medical records are the responsibility of the patients themselves, who hold on to the notes and x-rays that doctors give them. If a patient has a biopsy, he gets the results and brings it to the doctor.

Bhutan is a monarchy. Fortunately, the monarch is benevolent. (The previous king, the fourth, started the first health care system. When that king, His Majesty Jigme Singe Wanchuck, abdicated so that his son could become the monarch, Bhutan transitioned



**Neal, an avid biker, rode undaunted by Bhutan's high Himalayan altitudes.**

from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy, and held its first general election.) Because of its location between two large Asian powers, Bhutan fears both India and China. But they have decided that India will protect them from the Chinese. The whole region, especially the small states, fears China. China has an ancient treaty, which shows eighty percent of Bhutan as belonging to China (as it claims and has absorbed Tibet), but is leaving Bhutan alone for now.

The current monarch, King Jigme Kesar Namgyel, is far more than a figurehead. He must approve all laws passed by the legislature. Although polygamy is legal, he has said publicly that there will be only one wife for him. He is 35 years old, was educated at Oxford, and several months ago saw the birth of his first child. The new crown prince is the first royal child to be born in Bhutan. Previously all royal babies were born in Singapore. A Japanese neonatologist, married to a native of Bhutan, was brought to the palace to officiate at the royal birth. She is

**At right is the National Stupa (sacred Buddhist shrine). The Buddha is holding healing medicine in his hand.**

still living there, without permission to go home, and is the only neonatologist in the country!

Bhutan is the prettiest country I've ever seen. There is not a kid who isn't cute. The way the crops are cultivated, farms are like artwork. The National Stupa (sacred Buddhist shrine) is right across from the hospital where I spent most of my time, and like every other Buddhist shrine I've ever seen its architecture is beautiful. Festivals are held there all the time. So the highest elements of local culture were often just outside my window. I liked to hear the Buddhist chanting; it sounds somehow familiar, like Orthodox Jewish chanting. There is a huge Buddha – actually the largest in the world – built into a hill. Rivers are pristine, filled with huge trout. For religious reasons, locals are not allowed to hunt or fish. (Perhaps that's one reason the rivers are filled with huge trout.) Only the king fishes and hunts. All others eat domesticated animals. Tibetan Buddhists, the type practiced in Bhutan, are not vegetarians. The food looks like New Mexican fare – spicy, fresh food with chilies. Near the hospital there is a weekend market. On the top floor is local produce, featuring Bhutan's famous apples and peaches. Downstairs is imported produce, mostly tropical fruit and produce from India, but to my initial surprise I also found Washington State apples. (Apparently



they're not just famous and considered a delicacy only in our country.)

School kids speak perfect English and are very helpful. When I wanted to walk to Buddha Point, three young schoolgirls eagerly helped me find the trail. Then one of them declared, "You are my responsibility. It is too far for you to walk." So she hailed a cab, and then expertly arranged the price. They love tourists, and believe it is good when people from other countries meet each other. The king and his father were known to go mountain biking alone, wearing traditional clothes, on roads built for donkeys. Taxi drivers, school kids, and people in the tourist industry all wear traditional clothing.

There are no stoplights anywhere in the whole country. (I'd guess that might have something to do with erratic supplies of electricity. It also wouldn't do to have fires breaking out in the middle of intersections.) Traffic, where it is regulated, is moved along by police hand signals. Dogs are everywhere, all over the country. They bark all night long, roaming and looking for food, even those with homes. There are very few cats. In some housing there is a rat problem, but mousetraps are not allowed.

Things are changing a bit since Bhutan first allowed television and the Internet in 1999. As it has in our country, it has begun to cause a loss of traditional dialect. There is, interestingly, universal education for up to 20-25 year olds. School is taught in English, five and a half days each week. Students take a placement test, with the most intelligent being sent to engineering and science, and the second tier to medicine. Economics and traditional social patterns also play a role – more men do engineering and business, while more women go to medicine. Kids from wealthy families go into tourism or the hydroelectric industry and do well.

Bhutan clearly has a wealth disparity, with some people very wealthy, but everyone is

fed. Although the people are friendly and terrific, they drink way too much. They make their own beer, whiskey, and peach and apple wine. All socio-economic levels drink. There is a substantial Bhutanese unemployment rate because Indians are imported to do the heavy labor. Though employed, the Indian construction workers live in horrible conditions. This class of workers lives better than they do in India, but their section is still like a shantytown. Many of them were booted out when the government decided that they wanted a maximum of 20 percent Indians in the country. The only other religion one can legally and openly practice is Hinduism. Evangelical Christians are expelled.

Anyone who comes to Bhutan on a tourist visa must sign up for a special tour and spend a minimum of \$250 per day, including the guide, hotel bills, food, etc. There is no Chabad presence like there is in Nepal. (So those who claim that Jews are everywhere are not exactly correct.) Bhutan imposes high-dollar requirements for tourists for a simple reason: they want to limit tourism, not deal with the hordes of back-packers who visit Nepal. I was not on a

tourist visa. Even so, I was not allowed to go beyond my area without a special form, and could remain in the country for only six days after my work was over, if I wanted to take limited tours. I did do a bike trip 120 kilometers to the town of Hah, where I stayed in a farmhouse with a guide. I also hiked to Tiger's Nest (a monastery), and to another monastery 13,000 feet up (only in the Himalayas), where eighty boys lived with four teachers and I slept in a classroom.

In the end, I learned more from the Bhutanese than I taught them. When I left, the hospital staff gave me artwork, and baskets. I was tempted to warn them not to join the modern western world, but it's not fair. We have benefits that they don't have. But I loved it there, and, as I said, I will be going back. ◊

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*"In the end,  
I learned more  
from the  
Bhutanese than  
I taught them."*

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# Remembering Elie Wiesel

*The world recently lost one of its most passionate voices on the subjects of human rights and our responsibility to help each other toward a more decent world, a lifetime of study having convinced him that God has instructed us to build such a world. Two KJCC members not only knew the great man, they knew him well. Both, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal and Stan Margulies, agreed to share some precious memories with us.*

## **Elie Wiesel's Secret Refuge**

*by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal*

I'll never forget the moment. There I was, sitting in a small, book-lined office on the campus of a school I had never heard of just four months before. Seated next to me was the greatest moral voice of our time, and one of the most respected human beings on the planet: Elie Wiesel. As the new campus rabbi at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, I was amazed to learn that Prof. Wiesel had a long-standing relationship with the school, and had been teaching during Eckerd's Winter Term every year since 1989.

As the two of us sat in his office, my heart pounded in my chest and my stomach



**Rabbi Ed in the Eckerd College lounge with Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel.**

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*Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, a KJCC member along with wife Mindy, is campus rabbi of Eckerd College and Executive Director of Hillels of the Florida Suncoast.*

climbed to my throat. Introductions were made, and I said: "I have only one question for you. What are you doing here?" He leaned toward me in his chair, smiled and said: "Oh, I love the weather."

I immediately recalled those scenes in the Talmud in which a heathen asks a question of a great rabbi. The rabbi gives a simplistic answer and the heathen leaves feeling as if he has gained the world. However, the disciples of the rabbi always say: "That's good enough for him, but now tell us the real answer." At which point the rabbi delves into profound teachings.

I looked at Prof. Wiesel and said: "Of course, we all love the weather, but what are you *really* doing here?"

He paused, and looked at me with his knowing eyes, leaned back in his chair and said, almost in a whisper: "I have taught everywhere in the world. And I've found that the best students at Eckerd College are as good

as the best students anywhere. And that's why I keep coming back." I knew at that moment that I, like the great man sitting before me, had found a hidden treasure on the shores of Tampa Bay.

For the past seven years, I have eagerly awaited Winter Term at Eckerd College and the return of Elie Wiesel to our campus. Everyone

knows about his long-standing position at Boston University, but Eckerd College was his secret, his refuge. In his 2012 book "Open Heart," Wiesel wrote, "For several years I have been teaching a class in philosophy, history and literature at a small, prestigious college." A small college that few people have ever heard of, which allowed him peace and quiet for three months out of the year to read, to write, to think and to teach.



His class was not even listed in the course catalogue. Students had to apply to be accepted, and it was limited to a maximum of 20 students. Imagine sitting in a small room, just 20 students and Elie Wiesel, for two hours every day for a month. In his classes, everything he said was like gold, but four simple words from the mouth of Elie Wiesel have become almost a mantra for students at Eckerd College. "In everything you do, *think higher and feel deeper.*"

While Elie Wiesel spoke at Hillels and other venues around the world to packed auditoriums, for the past seven years his fireside chats with our student leaders were unparalleled. During these chats, Prof. Wiesel would sit in the Faculty Lounge with our students, and for two hours or more, they could ask him anything.

And they did.

The conversations ranged from the current state of the world, to what made him happy, and everything in between. "The mission of the Jewish people," he told them, "is not to make the world more Jewish. The mission of the Jewish people is to make the world more human."

And while Prof. Wiesel's speaking honorariums could run into the tens of thousands of dollars, our fireside chats cost our Hillel just a small plate of apricot *rugelach*.

His last fireside chat with our students was last March. He seemed tired, but his mind was as keen as ever. For all these years he has carried the weight of the Shoah and the responsibility to bear witness to it on his shoulders. It was an impossible burden to bear, but he did it with strength, courage and dignity.

**Elie Wiesel with the student board of Eckerd College's Hillel. He would often sit and welcome their questions.**



With the passing of Elie Wiesel, the world has lost its conscience, and its strongest advocate for human rights. The Jewish people have lost our towering figure of compassion, memory and hope. My students and I have lost our greatest teacher and our friend.

May his memory be a blessing. ♦

## Elie Wiesel and Me

by Stan Margulies

It was recently written about Elie Wiesel: "Throughout his adult life as perhaps the best known survivor of the Holocaust...served as the moral conscience of a generation simply by being who he was: speaking his mind, reminding us of our obligation to always remember the darkness - and to bring more light into the world."

I could easily write a book about my twenty-plus-year relationship with Elie Wiesel, but I shall mention just a few of our many interactions - experiences that for me praise his achievements and mourn his passing.

I first met Elie in Congressman Jack Kemp's office in Washington. It was 1979 and the Soviets were getting ready to finally release records from one of the Nazi concentration camps that they had "liberated" in 1945. Kemp had obtained these records prior to their release and asked Elie and me to go over them with him. The three of us then reviewed many of these soon-to-be-made-public Death Camp records. Elie's evaluation of them was for me an epiphany - a real awakening as to what he and others had "lived" through in those terrible death camps.

Another interaction with Elie occurred after the 1980 elections. During the election campaign, I had been active in the Reagan Campaign as a vice-chair of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush (which after President's Reagan's election became what is now the Republican Jewish Coalition). In 1981,

soon after Reagan's inauguration, I was asked by Michael Gale (head of the White House "Jewish Desk") to serve on the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which was charged with forming the U.S. Holocaust Museum. I was honored and ready to accept when I asked Michael if Elie, who chaired the Holocaust Council, had agreed to my appointment. Michael replied that, since President Reagan would be making the appointment, Elie was not in the loop. I was astonished! Michael then said that he would speak to Elie and get his agreement. I hesitated and said that Elie's not being in the loop was, for me, unacceptable and therefore I could not accept the appointment. Later that day, Elie called and strongly urged me to accept, but I told him the same thing. In retrospect, it was a bad decision for me not to accept such an honor – an appointment to a position charged with such an important task – a decision that I have regretted ever since.

Then, in 1981, around the same time, Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin was to have his first meeting with newly elected President Ronald Reagan. Elie Wiesel had been asked to set up a briefing for the Prime Minister regarding President Reagan and his Israel policies. There were about a dozen of us who met with the Prime Minister in Elie's New York apartment. We had all been active in the Reagan campaign, most of us as Jewish leaders of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush. The briefing went well and we were all gratified that Begin's meetings with the President were overwhelming successes. As an aside, we all anticipated that the meetings would be successful, since we all knew that Reagan was a very strong supporter of the State of Israel.

In 1985, when Elie was chair of the Holocaust Memorial Council, he was scheduled to meet in the White House with President Reagan to receive the Congressional Gold Medal of Achievement (the civilian equivalent of the military Congressional Medal of Honor). Because of its importance, the ceremony was to be televised. Coincidentally, the ceremony was to be held a few days before the President was to leave for a European trip. As part of the trip, Reagan was scheduled to

meet with the German Prime Minister at the Bitburg cemetery – a German military cemetery that housed the graves of some Nazi SS soldiers. A few days before he was to receive the Medal of Achievement at the White House, Elie asked me to meet with him to discuss what, if anything, he should say about Reagan's upcoming visit to Bitburg. I did give Elie my thoughts about what he might say in his acceptance speech, including a reference to that scheduled visit to Bitburg. What Elie did say at the Gold Metal acceptance ceremony – "That place, Mr. President, is not your place...Your place is with the victims of the SS" – drew national attention. Because of Elie's remarks, Reagan added a visit to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp to demonstrate his concern for Jews and the Holocaust.

Another important event occurred in 1986, when Elie was to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Sweden. A friend of mine was flying Elie to Stockholm for the ceremony; I was invited to join them on the flight but did not do so because of a time conflict – something else I have since regretted.

The last get-together that I shall mention was a cruise on the same friend's yacht in the late 1990s. There were only four couples aboard, including Elie and Marian Wiesel and Jenny and me. As this was a vacation cruise, all of us spent most of our time chatting, sightseeing and swimming in the Caribbean – except for Elie, who spent much of his time in his cabin finishing another of his many books. (We did manage to convince Elie to get on a jet ski – which he did for about 20 minutes. Seeing him smile as he was cruising along the water was quite a sight – one that I shall never forget.)

I believe that I have covered a few of my many interactions with my friend, the late Elie Wiesel – a hero who had lived through the worst of times and then the best of times – a man who had helped the world not only to remember the Holocaust and its Nazi perpetrators but also to "never forgive and never forget" those who committed those horrible atrocities – so that atrocities such as these will never happen again. ◇



# KJCC Meditation Garden


**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](http://keysjewishcenter.com).







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# Chai~Lights



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October 2016

28 Elul - 29 Tishrei 5776 – 5777

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**Dragon Boat Racing and Breast Cancer - page 33**

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# October 2016

28 Elul - 29 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 6:00 p.m. Service 7:30 p.m.	3 Rosh Hashanah Day One 9:30 a.m. Tashlich 4:00 p.m.	4 Rosh Hashanah Day Two 9:30 a.m.	5	6	7 Ken Atlas <i>Mitch Harvey</i>	8 Shabbat Tshuvah 10:00 a.m. Havdalah 7:00 p.m.
9	10	11 Erev Yom Kippur  Kol Nidre 7:30 p.m.	12 Yom Kippur Service 9:30 a.m. Yizkor	13	14 Joyce Peckman	15
16 KJCC Sukkah Decoration 10:00 a.m.	17	18	19	20	21 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Bernie Ginsberg</i>  Sukkot celebrated	22 Havdalah 7:00–9:00 pm, Agler Home
23  30	24 Shemini Atzeret Yizkor Simchat Torah 7:30 31 Boo	25	26	27	28 Beth Hayden	29

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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



For the last five or six High Holidays, I'd guess — time blurs, since president's years are like dog years — Gloria has assigned me to read aloud, in English translation, the *Haftarah* portion the rabbis allotted to Rosh Hashanah Day One. Initially, I'm convinced, it was because she derived a minim (or more) of mirth by having me read passages from the Book of Samuel. Since then it has been, I suspect — any who have arranged major events will understand — one less thing for her to fret about each year.

I've learned that the Book of Samuel is part of what Hebrew Bible scholars now call the Deuteronomistic history — comprised of the Books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings. (I have also come to dislike the term "Old Testament," which by the laws of language and logic clearly implies that something "new and improved" is available to render it quaint and fusty and dispensable.) This group of books describes the history of ancient Israel during the crucial period of the last Judge (Samuel), the prophets and the early kings, especially Saul and David. They chronicle the period when casual governance by the tribes (and then Judges) gave way to the more centralized system of a monarchy.

The Day One *Haftarah* (I like the older translation, which I think is richer and more expressive) is at the beginning of the Book of Samuel. It tells the story of how Hannah (whose name means "woman of grace"), a beloved yet childless wife, goes against all tradition and, in the Temple in Shiloh (where the Ark then resided), petitions God directly to give her a son. Should that solemn wish be granted, she vows to give the precious child to the priests to live a life of service to God. From this prayer came Samuel, the last Judge, who God later chose to anoint both Saul and David as kings.

Why is this story repeated on Rosh Hashanah? Hannah's prayers were the first instance of silent, personal prayer to God. Before then all prayer had been aloud. Hannah was said to have "spoken from her heart." And this, the rabbis say, is the perfect example of our task on Rosh Hashanah, to not merely recite but to "speak from the heart." Hannah is offered as our paragon of prayer.

I've become very fond of Hannah. The High Holidays are here, and I look forward to sharing them with all of KJCC. Perhaps this year, if I tell her story well, you'll join me in my admiration for this complex and determined woman.



# Nosh

## Activities Committee Corner

We had a very active and successful summer, with events that included the annual Shabbabaque, a bus trip to Miami Marlins Jewish Heritage Day, and a sunset cruise bayside in Key Largo. After a hiatus for the High Holidays, we are taking suggestions for the upcoming season. Thoughts include movie nights, a sporting event such as the Dolphins, Panthers or Heat, another sunset cruise, an overnight cruise, a music event. (Last year we attended an Itzak Perlman concert), and a Miami Jewish Museum tour. Please email any suggestions to me, Mitch Harvey at [harveyaicp@yahoo.com](mailto:harveyaicp@yahoo.com). I look forward to a having a fun new year. Shana Tovah!

## Yahrzeit Plaque

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*by Patricia Isenberg*

## Invitation to "Sit in a Succah"

We have again been graciously invited to the bayside home of Rabbi Richard and Mindy Agler for a pot-luck Sukkot meal and Havdalah ceremony. For many of us, a succah was a large structure attached to a synagogue, where people pushed through the crowd to grab a piece of pound cake. How fortunate we are to be invited to an intimate, personal space, where we can truly appreciate the mitzvah of "sitting (dwelling) in a succah." There will be challah, wine and food in the house, olives in the succah, and *etrog* and *lulav* to shake. Come at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 168 Sunset Gardens Drive, Tavernier. Please RSVP and coordinate your dish with Erica Lieberman-Garrett at [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com).

4 Chai-Lights October 2016

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October 7th - Mitch Harvey to mark his birthday.  
October 21st - Bernie Ginsberg in memory of his mother Bea.

## Havdalah at Linda Pollack's

A new tradition is born. After years of celebrating the end of Shabbat *Shuvah* (the Shabbat in between *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*) at Ocean Pointe, we accepted Linda Pollack's gracious invitation to hold our short, sweet *Havdalah* service at her house in Pirate's Cove, at 107 Long Ben Drive. On Saturday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m., halfway between the Days of Awe, we will enjoy sunset, watch for three medium stars, share food, sing our blessings over candle, spices, and wine, and return from the sacred to the secular world. Contact Erica Lieberman Garrett ([hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)) to RSVP and arrange to bring a dish.

## Rabbi Agler's Shabbat Service Schedule:

Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss a minute of Rabbi Agler's stimulating series of monthly Torah learning services. Rabbi Agler's warm, informal and engaging services will resume on Shabbat morning, November 19<sup>th</sup> and continue on the mornings of Dec. 10 and January 21. Services begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. As always, refreshments will be served afterwards. You'll be glad you came.

## Yahrzeit Plaque

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*by Randi Grant*

## Shanah Tovah to All

Special KJCC wishes for a safe and healthy new year go to all our members who won't be here for Rosh Hashanah. You'll be in our thoughts.

## Honoring *B'reishit* with Art

*Rosh HaShanah*, the traditional Jewish New Year, is upon us. Change is in the air. Soon we, together with every other shul worldwide, will roll our Torah back to the beginning of our story so we can tell it to ourselves again, one chapter at a time. Form will once again emerge from formlessness, light from dark, sky from sea, all one breathless moment (or eon) at a time. The original Artist, Creator of All That Is, G-d, is brilliantly at work.

KJCC is getting creative, too. Does anyone remember the last time our synagogue walls were painted? The answer used to be “no,” but now we can say “last month.” And here is another beginning that is really new: a rotating exhibit of artwork on those fresh clean walls by KJCC’s own member artists. The theme is *B'reishit* as we honor in color and myriad media the creative acts of the first six days. Wander the hall and rooms, look at the walls. We are grateful to the participating artists, most of whom have loaned us their work for the seasonal duration of the exhibit. Some may be for sale. Many thanks for their generosity go to Marcia Kreitman, John Hawver, Jan Hartz, Geri Felder Smith, Medina Roy, Sam Weis, Beth Kaminstein, Barbara Bernstein, Gloria Avner, Natalie Dorf and the late but not forgotten Rosie Biskar. Artists may be contacted directly if you wish to share feedback.

*L'Shanah Tovah*. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good, healthy and creative year.

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22nd.....	Joseph Shabathai
22nd.....	Susan Roberts
24th.....	Stacy Temkin
25th.....	Richard Wolfe
25th.....	Landon Strasser
29th.....	Shyella Mayk
29th.....	Patricia Schocket
29th.....	Adriana Sherman
30th.....	Katie J. Schur

## October Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Jonathan & Arlene Line.....40
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein.....22
6th	Suzanne Sigel & William Pomenti.....26
<b>15th</b>	<b>David &amp; Toby Goldfinger.....57</b>
16th	Jerry & Barbara Herson.....17
22nd	Scott & Mary Anne Pearl.....28
25th	Todd & Maria Botwin.....24
28th	Michael & Suzanne Gilson.....15
<b>31st</b>	<b>Harvey &amp; Judith Klein.....62</b>

## High Holidays Feasting and Fasting

We feast and celebrate auspicious beginnings with auspicious foods. All over the world fellow Jews dip apples in honey in hopes of a sweet new year. We share a scrumptious Erev Rosh Hashanah "family" dinner in our Social Hall. Sisterhood provides a sustaining Kiddush-lunch for those who stay for Days One and Two Rosh HaShanah services. On Yom Kippur, of course, we eat nothing, as our prayers, contrition, and commitments to better ourselves nourish our souls. At its end, the final blast of the shofar and the dousing of the Havdalah candle in wine signal our return to secular life. Be part of the grand conclusion to the Days of Awe. Contact Erica Lieberman Garrett ([hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)) to reserve your place at the Rosh Hashanah dinner and to state what you will be bringing to the joyous dairy meal following the Yom Kippur fast. Please see the ad on page 10.

### Leaf on the Tree of Life

In honor of 10th Wedding Anniversary  
David & Angela Willner  
by Johanna and Arthur Lee Willner



### Social Hall Chair Plate

IN MEMORY OF RON HORN  
by DOROTHY HORN

## A Note from the Saxes in Texas

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly three years since we left the Keys and our beloved KJCC. It also took us that long to find a local congregation here that comes anywhere near to the *mishpocha* we share in Tavernier. We found congregation *Shir Tikvah* here to have the same openness and warmth as the KJCC, and Rabbi Heidi Barron Coretz was inspired to become a rabbi when she was a student and congregant of Rabbi Richard Agler in Boca Raton. What goes around comes around!

While we have joined *Shir Tikvah* here, we cannot completely let go of our ties to the KJCC. Enclosed is our payment to remain members for the current year. We do hope to see all of you again in the not too distant future.

With love and *Shalom*,

—Stuart and Lauren Sax

## A Note from Freshman Joshua Bernstein

Thank you very much for the scholarship you awarded me. I can't tell you how much I appreciated it! It is the biggest scholarship I received, and definitely the most meaningful. I intend to use it for a laptop, because they're **REALLY**

expensive. I mean, you should see the requirements they have for the engineering program!

I will never forget the experiences I've had with the KJCC, and I will be back for a visit. Thank you again!

—Joshua Bernstein



## Cole's Bar Mitzvah—November 5th

*Jane Silverman, Dr. Michael Berman, Westley Silverman and Peter Silverman are delighted that Cole Meurig Silverman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 5th at 10 a.m. Cole moved to Key Largo from London in 2012 and has loved being a part of the KJCC family. He has worked hard with Gloria to be ready for his big day. Over the summer, he went to Friday night services at the Westminster Synagogue in London, home of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Museum and Trust ([www.memorialscrollstrust.org](http://www.memorialscrollstrust.org)) and source of the beloved KJCC Holocaust Torah.*

*Cole is an avid sportsman and loves fishing and competing in soccer and lacrosse. He enjoys math (!) and has been accepted into a national STEM program called Program Lead the Way. His Mitzvah Project is fundraising for the American Cancer Society with a GoFundMe website ([www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) [ColeCancerCampaign](http://ColeCancerCampaign)) and a Donuts4Donations initiative selling donuts wherever people have a sweet tooth.*

*He is delighted that friends and family will be converging on the KJCC from London, New York, New Jersey, Colorado, California, Michigan, Georgia, Massachusetts, Virginia and Florida to join us in the celebration! Rabbi Agler will be officiating at the service and the Silvermans look forward to sharing this special day with our KJCC family.*



**Cole**



### **BOOK PLATE**

TO HONOR MY PARENTS  
JOEL & SARA COHEN  
BY LYNN NOBIL



### **Social Hall Chair Plate**

JOE & KATHY  
SHABATHAI



### **Social Hall Chair Plate**

IN HONOR OF  
MORT & GENE SILVERMAN

### **BOOK PLATE**

ADAM AND JUDY STARR

## **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, 305-304-1810.

**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 Beth Hayden at 305-773-0067 or email her at [Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net](mailto:Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net).

**KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT 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, idedices, 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.

### **Meditation Garden Brick**

MADelyn RUBY POLLACK  
BAT MITZVAH HONORS  
WITH LOVE FROM  
GRANDMA BUBBE LINDA



### **Social Hall Chair Plate**

IN HONOR OF 24 YEARS AS  
KJCC MEMBER -- LEE SCHUR

### **BOOK PLATE**

IN MEMORY OF BOB SCHUR  
AND LONG TIME  
KJCC MEMBERSHIP

BY LEE SCHUR

### **BOOK PLATE**

IN HONOR OF  
SEAN KAUFMAN  
AND HIS UPSHERIN

8/8/2016  
BY PAULINE ROLLER



### **Social Hall Chair Plate**

IN MEMORY OF ROGER STARR  
by ADAM AND JUDY STARR

### **Meditation Garden Brick**

FOR KIM KOCH  
A SPECIAL PLACE  
FOR REFLECTION AND REMEMBRANCE

## ***MISHEBERACH – A PRAYER FOR HEALING***

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

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

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

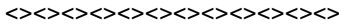
If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's *Misheberach* list, please, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 305-852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).

# *In Memoriam October 2016*

In Memory Of

**Perren Gerber**

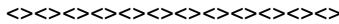
By Gloria Avner



In Memory Of

**Stephen Berman**

By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Fanny Grossman Bernard**

By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark



In Memory Of

**Gertrude Widlan**

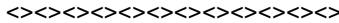
By Norbert Birnbaum



In Memory Of

**Audrey Bloom**

By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

**Steven V. Calev**

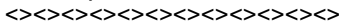
By Barbara A. Calev



In Memory Of

**Arnold Tomor**

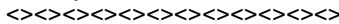
By Barbara A. Calev



In Memory Of

**Abraham Kanowsky**

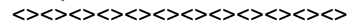
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**Harriet Feder**

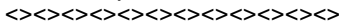
By David & Suzi-Sara Feder



In Memory Of

**Natalie Field**

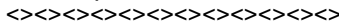
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

**Nettie Fishman**

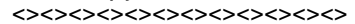
By Eina G. Fishman



In Memory Of

**Muriel Catanese**

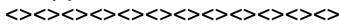
By Jane Friedman



In Memory Of

**Stanley J. Goodman**

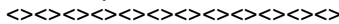
By Jamie & Laura Goodman



In Memory Of

**Simon Skolnick**

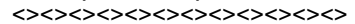
By Susan Gordon



In Memory Of

**Joseph Elson**

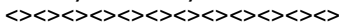
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Fanny Elson**

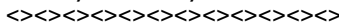
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Lilian Goldenberg**

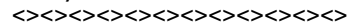
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Leonard Weiser**

By Andrew & Randi Grant



In Memory Of

**Henry W. Isenberg**

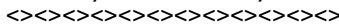
By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

**Leah Kamely**

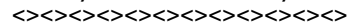
By Yardena Kamely



In Memory Of

**Michal Kamely**

By Uri & Liliam Kamely

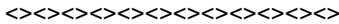


# *In Memoriam October 2016*

In Memory Of

**Michal Kamely**

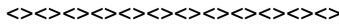
By Yardena Kamely



In Memory Of

**Rebekah Levy**

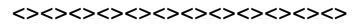
By Yardena Kamely



In Memory Of

**Ron Levy**

By Beth Kaminstein



In Memory Of

**Esther M. Klein**

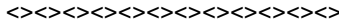
By Harvey & Judith Klein



In Memory Of

**Eliza Christensen**

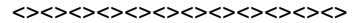
By Nancy Kluger



In Memory Of

**Jose (Pepe) Cohen Charaf**

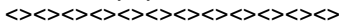
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

**Joel S. Cohen**

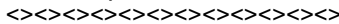
By Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

**David Frank**

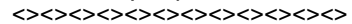
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Rosalyn Rose**

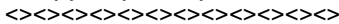
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

**Bradley Schocket**

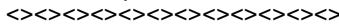
By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket



In Memory Of

**Maurice Singer**

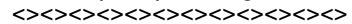
By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**Jon R. Singer**

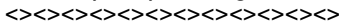
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

**Morton I. Singer**

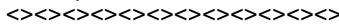
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

**Solomon Felder**

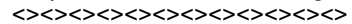
By Stuart & Geri Smith



In Memory Of

**Joel S. Cohen**

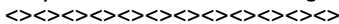
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Saunders G. Cohen**

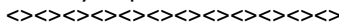
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Carol Steinbock**

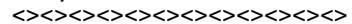
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Herbert S. Weihl**

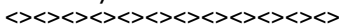
By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl



In Memory Of

**Sarah Wernicoff**

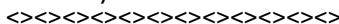
By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

**Doran David Zinner**

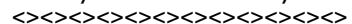
By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

**Michal Kamely**

By Uri & Liliam Kamely







Keys Jewish Community Center

**Yom Kippur**  
**Break Fast**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

**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](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)  
(305) 393-1162  
to coordinate your dish and to reserve your  
space

**RSVP: by October 7th**  
**Sponsored by the KJCC**  
**No Charge**

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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



Happy 5777. After a long hot Keys summer, our New Year goes into full swing with our now annual Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner. I love beginning our New Year together, sitting down to a traditional matza ball soup and brisket dinner. Here in the Keys, many of us are far from our families, but we are not alone at the start of the New Year. We will gather collectively at KJCC, enjoying our scrumptious knishes, tsimmis, chicken, and of course honey cake. (You should have already contacted me to RSVP.) I would like to thank all the people of our KJCC Sisterhood who work very hard to prepare this special dinner for all our mishpocha, as well as all of the donors and sponsors. It gives us all the opportunity to enjoy, without having everyone slave over hot stoves!

As our High Holy Days begin, we all look forward to the lunches following our daily Rosh Hashanah services. This too, allows us to be together as family, and adds a wonderful touch to our services. Again, a lot of work and preparation go into these lunches, and I thank everyone for their efforts and their support. We all benefit.

As we delve into the heart of our services and holiday celebrations, we look forward to Shabbat Tshuvah, October 8<sup>th</sup>, the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I want to thank Linda Pollack as she will again host a wonderful Havdalah service at 7:00 p.m. that evening at her beautiful bay front home. Contact me [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com) to RSVP and coordinate your potluck donation.

So after we have prayed, atoned, and fasted, we will have earned one of my favorite dinners, the Yom Kippur break-the-fast. Every year it seems to get better and yummiier. We will have whole table for just fish! Oy! Our break-the-fast will feature whitefish salad, Marc Bloom's special herring, tuna salad, lox.... And of course there will be a smorgasbord of traditional Jewish dairy delicacies,

with special bagels brought all the way from the mainland by Joel and Toby Bofshever. Again, a lot of work by Sisterhood, contributions of cooked food, schlepping, along with special donations from many of our KJCC members, make this a wonderful evening to end the long day of fasting.

This year we are doing something special for Simchat Torah. After the service we will have a chocolate oneg extravaganza. Just because we need to eat a few more calories!

Then after our holidays end, we can begin our health kick and get back on track! We will always have healthy foods at our onegs and dinners, although it's hard to resist all the special yummy treats. But this will be the start to our year, and thanks to Jane Friedman who always brings us fresh fruit and vegetables, you can balance your treats with some salads.

Sisterhood continues to thrive thanks to your support and oneg sponsorships. We have received many responses to our oneg letters and encourage you to continue to sponsor your simchas and special events. We do have a new oneg chairperson, so please remember to contact Beth Hayden at [hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net](mailto:hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net) for any future onegs or dinner sponsorships.

Please think about joining us for our monthly Sisterhood meetings. We love fresh input and new ideas. We look forward to this New Year, and all our special events that will be held, not just food related, although I do like those, but also other special activities that will allow us to spend quality time together.

I hope that this year will bring you, and your family good health, many simchas, and special memories. ◇

---

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## **Bookplates**

Nobil, Lynn My parents, Joel & Sara Cohen  
Roller, Pauline Sean Kaufman – Upsherin  
Starr, Adam & Judy

## **In Honor of**

## **General Fund**

Carmody, Beverly  
Hanley, Chris & Joanne

## **In Memory of**

Ronald Lewis Horn  
Ronald Lewis Horn,  
dearest of friends  
Robert W. Singer,  
Jon R. Singer

Singer, Mary Lee

## **Chai-Lights**

Conklin, Wes & Rita  
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica  
Nobil, Lynn  
Rose, Frank  
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna  
Wohl, Joan P.

## **Holocaust Education Center**

Dieckhaus, Roger  
Isenberg, Patricia  
Starr, Adam & Judy

## **General Fund**

Bolton, William & Donna  
Conklin, Wes & Rita  
Cooper, Alan  
Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Herson, Jerry & Barbara  
Kaufman, Richard  
Margulies, Stanley & Jenny  
Margulies, Stanley & Jenny  
Nobil, Lynn  
Pollack, Roy  
Robins, Harvey & Beverly  
Ruthen, Melvin & Joyce

## **In Honor of**

Sean's Upsherin  
Aunt Pauline's 101<sup>st</sup>  
birthday

## **Library Fund**

Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Kasinof, Steve & Amelia  
Steinbock, Stephen

## **Meditation Garden**

Faye-Davis, Sydney!

## **In Honor of**

Linda Pollack

## **Meditation Garden**

Feinberg, Arthur double brick  
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

## **In Memory of**

– Bill &  
Honey Feinberg  
double brick – Les  
Reitman

### **Rabbi & Cantor Fund**

Bofshever, Joel & Toby  
Bolton, William & Donna  
Davidson, Foster  
Gould, Joe & Marla Berenson  
Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Kasinof, Steve & Amelia  
Rose, Frank  
Shabathai, Joseph & Kathy  
Silverman, Mort & Gene  
Smith, Stuart & Geri  
Steinbock, Stephen

### **Scholarship Fund**

Conklin, Wes & Rita  
Rose, Frank  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Tallent, Claire  
Wohl, Joan P.

### **Sisterhood General Fund**

Kasinof, Steve & Amelia

### **Sisterhood Onegs**

Bofshever, Joel & Toby  
Gordon, Susan  
Hayden, Beth  
Knowles, Richard & Barbara  
Pollack, Linda      Hannukah Shabbat Dinner  
Pollack, Roy Will & Maddy Pollack Birthdays

### **Social Hall Chair Plates**

Horn, Susan  
Isenberg, Patricia  
Silverman, Mort & Gene  
Starr, Adam & Judy

**Tree of Life - Leaves**      **In Honor of**  
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna      honor 10<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of David & Angela Willner

### **Yahrzeit Plaques**

Grant, Andrew & Randi      Lillian Adler Grant  
Isenberg, Patricia      Henry Walter Isenberg

### **Yahrzeits**

Boruszak, Joan      Jim Boruszak  
Cooper, Claire      Sarah Sandberg  
Dorf, Barry & Natalie      Dorothy Schafer  
Grossman, Stuart      Margaux Grossman  
Harvey, Mitchell      Beverly Harvey  
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra      Len Roberts  
Marmar, David & Pamela      Dorothy Marmar  
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine      Martha Schulberg,  
Harvey Kelman, Richard Schulberg

### **Yizkor Book 5777**

Agler, Richard & Mindy  
Berk-Moshe, Zoe  
Berman, Sylvia  
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark  
Bofshever, Joel & Toby  
Bolton, William & Donna  
Brodie, Thomas & Renee  
Cline, Meredith  
Conklin, Wes & Rita  
Emkey, Frank & Gerri  
Feinberg, Arthur  
Goldfinger, David & Toby  
Gould, Joel & Marla Berenson  
Grant, Andrew & Randi  
Greenbaum, Marilyn  
Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Harvey, Mitchell  
Horn, Susan  
Isenberg, Patricia



**(Yizkor Book 5777 cont.)**

Itkin, Arthur  
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra  
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica  
Marmar, David & Pamela  
Riley, Michele  
Rose, Frank  
Shabathai, Joseph & Kathy

Silverman, Mort & Gene  
Singer, Mary Lee  
Smith, Stuart & Geri  
Starr, Adam & Judy  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Swartz, George & Muriel  
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna  
Wohl, Joan P.

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

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*Yahrzeit Plaques:* KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemaah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

*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 wonders 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, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### “Thou Shalt Take Out the Trash”

Israeli archaeologists recently came across a massive landfill consisting of layer upon layer of waste that was efficiently collected, piled up and buried some 2,000 years ago, what one team member said “may have been the result of the most sophisticated trash collection system in antiquity.” The find was discovered on the slopes of the Kidron valley, just outside the Roman-era walls of Jerusalem. Yuval Gadot, the Tel Aviv University archaeologist who led the dig, said that coins and fragments of pottery indicate that the landfill was in use for about 70 years, beginning in the first century CE until the period of the Great Jewish Revolt against the Romans, which ended with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE. Gadot indicated that the size of the landfill – it rose to close to 230 feet high – was unusual for the time. Large-scale collection and long-term storage of trash in a landfill was scarce. This ancient landfill is not just impressive because of its size; apparently there was a deliberate attempt to systematically cover the trash to prevent smells and deter scavengers by alternating layers of trash and soil. Researchers speculate that this alternating procedure may have developed out of a combination of Roman knowhow and the fact that Jews of early Roman Jerusalem followed strict guidelines when it came to purity. *Mikvahs* (ritual baths) proliferated at the time, and the Jews frequently used stone vessels which were believed to be impervious to impurity. Gadot said that “...it became a norm in Jerusalem that you have to take out the garbage, because it’s impure ...It’s not the municipality saying so: G-d says so...” ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 6-29-16)

### A New Ben-Gurion Film

A six-hour 1968 interview with David Ben-Gurion has recently been rediscovered. The footage shows that Israel’s first prime minis-

ter opposed West Bank settlement and favored the immediate return of most of the land that Israel had captured a year earlier in the Six-Day War. At the time of the interview, Ben-Gurion had left politics and was living on *Kibbutz Sde Boker* in the Negev. (Segments of the interview appear in a new film called *Ben-Gurion Epilogue*.) “If I could choose between peace and all the territories which we conquered last year, I would prefer peace,” he said. (He did firmly believe, however, that Israel should hold on to East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.) Ben-Gurion criticized the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, saying Jews should instead settle the unpopulated areas of the Negev. Ben-Gurion served as prime minister from Israel’s founding in 1948 until 1953 and then again from 1955 to 1963. He died in 1973 when he was 87. (Interestingly, in 1973, when he was 86, he changed his mind about returning the land in exchange for peace. “... peace has not come to this day. They don’t want to make peace with us,” he said. He came to favor modified Jewish settlement on the West Bank, saying “Israelis should settle on every part of the land but not by displacing Arabs.” ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 7-25-16)

### Closure for the Wallenberg Mystery

According to the diaries of Ivan Serov, a former director of the KGB - the Soviet spy agency - Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from being deported to the German death camps toward the end of World War II, was executed in a Soviet prison. The diaries – published this past summer – were found inside the walls of Serov’s home in northwestern Moscow. They were discovered by his granddaughter during renovation of the house. Wallenberg was a diplomat to Nazi-

occupied Hungary during World War II. Using that position, he issued protective passports to Jews in the final months of the Holocaust. Wallenberg disappeared in 1945 during the Siege of Budapest by the Red Army, when he was detained on suspicion of espionage. The Soviets later claimed Wallenberg had died of heart failure while imprisoned at the KGB headquarters prison in Moscow. In despair over his disappearance, both of Wallenberg's parents reportedly committed suicide in 1979; in November 2015, family members asked Swedish authorities to declare him officially dead. Serov died in 1990 when he was 84. It is believed that he hid the diaries around 1971. A 1991 joint Russian-Swedish effort (which ended in 2000) to discover what happened to Wallenberg ended with no definitive conclusion. (Surprise.) Because of his courageous acts on behalf of Hungarian Jews, Wallenberg has received numerous humanitarian honors. In 1981, the late United States Congressman Tom Lantos, himself one of those saved by Wallenberg, sponsored a bill making the Swedish diplomat an honorary citizen of the United States. Israel has designated Wallenberg one of the *Righteous Among the Nations*, and in 2012 he was awarded a *Congressional Gold Medal* by the United States Congress.

([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 8-6-16)

### Res-Q-Cell

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, a multi-level underground parking garage under construction in Tel Aviv's *Ramat Hachayal* neighborhood collapsed. The Israeli rescue teams working at the site used a variety of technologies to track movement and sounds coming from under the rubble, including fiber optic cables, seismic sound technologies and cameras with voice and visual capabilities. But they also used a system called the *Res-Q-Cell*, first introduced in June and still in its final stages of development. It was created by *Israel Aerospace Industries* (IAI). *Res-Q-Cell* locates victims' cell phones by using signals that activate and detect the phones and can do so even if cellular networks collapse. The system then provides a highly accurate, 3-D mapping

of the location of the victims. It can precisely pinpoint a phone within a radius of less than three feet, better than cellular locators used in the civilian population. It also allows operators to scan much larger areas - about 1076 square feet at a time. (As of 9/12, six individuals were found dead, at least 23 injured and one still missing.)

([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 9-6-16)

### Before Aly, There Was Agnes

If you watched the recent Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, you might have paid close attention to Jewish gymnast Aly Raisman (who also competed in the 2012 games in London). Raisman, 22, served as captain of the U.S. women's gymnastics team. At the 2012 Olympics in London, she won three medals (two gold, one bronze) making her the most decorated American gymnast at those games. (By the way, she performed her 2012 floor exercise to the tune of "*Hava Nagila*" and dedicated the routine to the 11 Israeli Olympians who were murdered by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.) At the recent Olympics in Rio, she won one gold and two silvers. Raisman is the second-most decorated American female gymnast of all time.

Well, way before Aly Raisman, there was Hungarian Agnes Keleti. Keleti, born in 1921, began gymnastics at age four in her native Hungary. Her training came to a halt when Germany invaded Hungary in 1944. She was scheduled to compete in the 1940 and 1944 Olympics, but because of World War II, the games were cancelled and she went into hiding. Her mother and sister were saved by Raoul Wallenberg, but her father and the rest of her family perished in Auschwitz. Keleti didn't compete again until 1952, representing Hungary and winning four medals. At the 1956 games, at age 35, she became the oldest female gymnast ever to take home the gold. She won a total of ten Olympic medals - five of which were gold - making her the most decorated Jewish female Olympian of all time. Today, at age 95, she lives in Israel and still practices gymnastics.

([www.kveller.com](http://www.kveller.com), 8-19-16)

## “A Victory of the Spirit”

A synagogue destroyed by the Nazis in Jaslo, a town in southeastern Poland, has been accurately reconstructed down to the very last detail at the Forest Hill Jewish Center in Toronto, Canada. Jaslo was once the heart of a small Jewish community and was totally destroyed by the Nazis 77 years ago. The Nazis occupied Jaslo in 1939 and set fire to the synagogue on Yom Kippur of that year. In 1945, the town was liberated by the Russian Army. After the war, the few dozen survivors scattered all over the world, some of them settling in Toronto. There they decided to reconstruct the synagogue – including the ornate Torah ark, hand-gilded with magnificent artistry – of their childhood. They commissioned *Lavi Furniture Industries*, an Israeli company located on *Kibbutz Lavi* in the Lower Galilee, to do the reconstruction. According to Micha Oberman, *Lavi's* CEO, the original Jaslo ark was dedicated in 1905. It was 38 feet high, 20 feet wide and “was one of the largest and most magnificent Torah arks ever built in any synagogue, anywhere in the world.” (It can hold up to fifteen Torah scrolls.) Oberman said that “the precise reconstruction of the original Torah ark was completed with the help of ... Tel Aviv’s *Beit Hatfutsot Museum of the Jewish People*.” The reconstruction is an exact replica except for a few minor changes to enable wheelchair access to the ark and the altar. Shalom Ashkenazi, *Lavi's* marketing vice president said, “... The synagogue restoration in Forest Hill represents a victory of the spirit over those who wanted to destroy the Jewish people. ([www.israelhayom.com](http://www.israelhayom.com), 7-12-16)

## In Memoriam

★ Philip “Fyvush” Finkel, the Emmy Award-winning actor whose career began in the Yiddish theater when he was nine years old, has died. He was 93. Born in Brooklyn, his father was a tailor who emigrated from Warsaw and his mother a homemaker who came from Minsk (now in Belarus). Finkel spent most of his early career on the Lower East Side of New York City performing in the Yiddish theater.

He became known to the broader public beginning in the mid-60s with the national production of “Fiddler on the Roof.” During the run of “Fiddler,” Finkel would end up playing several roles, that of Mordcha the innkeeper, Lazar Wolf, the butcher, and, often, Tevya himself. During his extraordinary 85-year career, he often crossed over into television. Finkel was nominated twice for an Emmy Award (he won best supporting actor in 1994) for his role as a public defender in the CBS series “Picket Fences,” which ran during the 1990s. He also had a role as an eccentric high school teacher in another television series, “Boston Public.” Finkel appeared in a variety of films, among them Sidney Lumet’s “Q&A,” where he played a corrupt attorney, Neil Simon’s “Brighton Beach Memoirs” and “Nixon.” ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 8-16-16)

★ Gene Wilder, one of America’s favorite comedic actors, best known for playing charming neurotic characters in three films directed by Mel Brooks, died at the end of August. He was 83. Born Jerome Silberman, Wilder adopted his stage name saying he “couldn’t imagine a marquee reading Jerome Silberman as Hamlet.” He was an accomplished stage actor as well as screenwriter, novelist and director. He made his movie debut in 1967 in “Bonnie and Clyde,” where he played an undertaker kidnapped by the infamous bank robbers. But it was teaming up with comic lunatic Mel Brooks that brought him fame and acclamation. He starred in Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein” (which he cowrote with Brooks), “The Producers” (earning him an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor, playing opposite Zero Mostel), and “Blazing Saddles.” Among his other notable films are “The Frisco Kid,” “Stir Crazy,” and “Silver Streak.” He was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance as the title character in “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.” Wilder was married four times, one of those to Gilda Radner, the Jewish comedian and *Saturday Night Live* original who died of ovarian cancer in 1989. Following her death, Wilder co-founded “Gilda’s Club,” a network of nonprofit support centers for people with cancer. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 8-29-16) ◇





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# YEDA VE'TORASHA

## Yardena Kamely



## Home To Israel

*An Overdue Re-connection With My People*

**M**y August trip to Israel was not an ordinary trip, not just a regular visit, but a true reunion with relatives and old friends, people dear to me whom I haven't seen for a long time, in the special category of people one has known from childhood, children of my parents' lifelong friends or friends I met in Chile who had made *aliya* (immigration to Israel) many years ago. Yes, when you are in Israel you want to visit places, go sightseeing in this wonderful country. But for me, seeing my people was the important part of the trip. Seeing how their life in Israel is today. Seeing and understanding how Israeli society is coping with the challenging times in the Middle East.

Everywhere the reception was so warmhearted. Everyone wanted me to stay at their house. Every day they made plans to go to places they knew I would like to visit. Among the special qualities of Israelis is that they are great friends. You can live apart in distant parts of the world, not see each other for a long time, but when you come together, it's like you just saw each other yesterday. They invite you to their homes, prepare Turkish coffee and have your favorite pastries. There is so much to talk about. Conversations are long and profound; they are real friends

who are interested in your life, what you have gone through all these past years, and how you are doing.

On this trip, even Israelis I'd just met seemed more welcoming and eager for you to have a good time there. Israelis live an intense life; they love to go out, make trips, hike in natural parks and archaeological sites, visit historic settlements, see exhibits in museums, and walk in old neighborhoods in the cities. Perhaps they enjoyed me enjoying my

visit so much because it was an opportunity for them to get distracted from the struggles and harshness that infuse their everyday lives.

Friends and relatives could hardly wait to show me around. We went on a "nostalgic tour" to Haifa, my hometown; to Hedera, my grandmother's village; to old neighborhoods in Tel Aviv where my cousin Yael (whom you met at the KJCC) grew up; to Zikhron Yaakov and Binyamina, old settlements founded by the first Zionist immigrants, where our parents had worked in the vineyards and the train station. And we traveled to Jerusalem, my mother's home since the age of six after her family tricked the Persian government into letting them leave.

Jerusalem was the first



**Yardena stands before the Kotel, the Western Wall of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem.**

**Again in the plaza before the Kotel, this time with Tzipi, her childhood friend from Haifa.**



time feelings of insecurity arose. Threats of terrorist attacks always loom. But we were not deterred; I traveled with Tzipi, my best friend from childhood, and we had another “nostalgic tour” all over Jerusalem. Once we stepped out of the heavily guarded bus station and saw the mass of people in the streets, all concerns dissipated. We felt secure, safeguarded, fearless, experiencing the normal life of a city bustling with activity and a special energy. We went to *Machaneh Yehuda*, the beautiful *shuk* (market), where my daughter and I had escaped a terror attack during the Intifada. And we went into the Old City, to the *Kotel* (Western Wall) to squeeze our little notes of prayers between the big stones of the old wall. It was a good feeling, a very good feeling.

Another trip we made was to the Galilee and the North Coast together with my old friends from Chile. We visited *Beit She'arim* ("House of the Gates"). It is the currently used name for the ancient Jewish town of *Bet She'arayim* ("House of Two Gates"). The partially excavated archaeological site consists mainly of an extensive necropolis (or cemetery) of rock-cut tombs and some remains of the town itself. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> century C.E. the Jews were expelled from Jerusalem and established several communities in the north, including *Beit She'arim*. The city was the site of the best-known Jewish burial ground at the time, as the Romans would no longer allow Jews to be buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

We continued south to Tzippori, in the

Tzippori National Park, another site that provides a glimpse into hundreds of years of ancient history. The Talmud said the city had 18 synagogues. Only one, built at the beginning of the fifth century C.E., has so far been discovered. Its prayer hall features a spectacular mosaic replete with Bible stories and Jewish symbols. Explanatory panels and drawings bring the synagogue alive. I got goose bumps while watching a video produced by the archaeologists of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who discovered the site.

On this trip I noticed the growing number of French immigrants; as with the Russian immigrants speaking Russian, now you can hear French wafting through the streets, restaurants and shops. The melting pot (an American concept?) is most obvious in Jerusalem. While strolling in the newly built Mamila neighborhood at the outskirts of the Old City, I saw Orthodox Jews, Conservative Jews, secular Jews, Ethiopian Jews, Israeli Arabs, Muslims, Arab Christians, Russian Orthodox Christians, and various other groups, all enjoying a beautiful sunset and a lovely evening.

No matter how much time you spend in Israel, it is not enough and you wish you could stay longer. It is such a dynamic country and filled with a wonderful quilt of dynamic people.

Shalom and Shanah Tovah. ◇

**The entrance to the excavated catacombs in the northern city of Beit She'arim. Rabbi Judah Hanasi, who compiled the Mishnah, is believed to be buried here.**



# *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 5777 to all.*

**To My Family  
At the KJCC  
We Wish a  
Healthy 5777.  
The Bofshevers.**

**Wishing a  
Happy and Peaceful  
Year to All.  
Linda Pollack**

**Gene & Mort Silverman  
Wish All Our  
Mischpocha  
A Happy and Healthy  
New Year**

**Wishing You  
And your Loved Ones  
Health, Prosperity,  
Peace in 5777.  
Joyce Peckman**

**L'Shana Tova  
To All Our Friends  
in the Keys.  
Joe & Kathy Shabathai**

**To My Dear  
KJCC Friends  
A Happy and Healthy  
5777.  
Joan P. Wohl**

**Best Wishes  
To All of the  
KJCC Family  
From Dot Horn**

**Alan & Elaine Schulberg  
Wish Everyone a  
Happy and Healthy  
New Year**

**May You Be Inscribed  
For Good Health and Joy  
In 5777.  
Adam and Judy Starr**

**Erica Lieberman-Garrett  
Wishes our  
KJCC Mischpocha  
A Shana Tova 5777**

**A Healthy  
Happy New Year  
To All.  
Steve Steinbock**

**Shalom  
To All From  
Roger Dieckhaus**

**Happy and Healthy  
New Year  
To My  
Extended Family.  
Lee Schur**

**L'Shana Tova  
From Libby Shapiro**

**Shana Tova to  
Our parents  
Toby & Joel Bofshever.  
With Love,  
Dorie & Gena**



# KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule

5777 (2016)

*Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin*

## **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 6:00 p.m.  
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 p.m.

## **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Rosh Hashanah, Day I  
Shacharit (Morning Service) 9:30 a.m.  
Break after Shofar Sounding 12:00 noon  
Musaf Service 12:15 p.m.  
Kiddush lunch 1:30 p.m.  
Taschlich at Ocean Pointe 4:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Rosh Hashanah, Day 2  
Shacharit (Morning Service) 9:30 a.m.  
Break after Shofar Sounding 12:00 noon  
Musaf Service 12:15 p.m.  
Kiddush lunch 1:30 p.m.

## **Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Erev Shabbat Service and Oneg 7:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

Shabbat Tshuvah led by Bernie Ginsberg 10:00 a.m.  
Havdalah Service  
at Linda Pollack's home 7:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

Erev Yom Kippur,  
Kol Nidre Service 7:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**

Yom Kippur Service 9:30 a.m.  
Yizkor (Memorial Service) 11:30 a.m.  
Children's Service 11:30 a.m.  
Break after morning service 12:15 p.m.  
Musaf 12:30 p.m.

*Afternoon activity times are approximate:*

Informal "Fast" Talk with Rabbi Agler 2:30 p.m.  
Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler 4:00 p.m.  
Neillah (Story of Jonah)  
and Maariv Service 5:45 p.m.  
Havdalah 7:30 p.m.  
Break the Fast immediately following  
at sundown

## **Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

KJCC Sukkah Decoration 10:00 a.m.

## **Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Erev Shabbat Service/Sukkot celebration 7:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Havdalah Service and Sukkah at the Agler Home  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## **Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

Shemini Atzeret observed (Yizkor 7:30 p.m.  
Service), plus Simchat Torah service and  
celebration (including Rabbi Agler's famous  
seven-minute Torah translation), followed by  
Chocolate Extravaganza Oneg in the Social Hall.

# High Holiday Coming Attractions

**A** big part of what we look forward during High Holidays is listening to Rabbi Richard Agler's profound but accessible and engaging sermons and teachings. Below are the themes and topics that Rabbi Agler has chosen to address this year and the days on which he will be sharing his thoughts. The titles are short and stimulating. The talks will be deep and will resonate within us long after the Yamim Nora'im, the ten Days of Awe, are complete. If you have attended High Holidays with us before over the last three years or have participated in Rabbi Agler's monthly Torah Learning Shabbat morning services, you are nodding your head in agreement. We will be stimulated and uplifted, perhaps even challenged to rethink a long-held belief or two.

## 5777 Pulpit and Discussion Themes by Rabbi Richard Agler, DD:

- On Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Erev Rosh HaShanah*, a teaching titled "On the Use and Misuse of Power: A Lesson from the Talmud";
- On Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Rosh HaShanah Day 1*, a sermon on "How Could People Do This?"
- On Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, *Rosh HaShanah Day 2*, a teaching about how "Judaism Says, "Love Life!"
- On Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, *Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidrei)*, a sermon on "How Could People Let This Be Done?"
- On Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, *Yom Kippur*, a sermon on "What Does it All Teach Us About God?"
- On *Yom Kippur* afternoon, teachings (in the classroom) on:
  - "Elie Wiesel: What You May Not Know but Should Remember."
  - "How to Walk the Path" (A one-person skit from the Traveling Jewish Theater).

Time permitting (either in the sanctuary or the classroom), Rabbi Agler will lead a discussion of this year's High Holiday themes and guide us in meditation.

*If anyone needs extra motivation to attend all services, anticipation of these talks could well be a deciding factor. Informal, warm, and often interactive, Rabbi Agler's teachings make our High Holiday services personal, offering a highly meaningful way to begin the year 5777 with serious intention (kavanah) to become our better selves, leaving us with a feeling of spiritual renewal. L'Shanah Tovah.*

—Gloria



# KJCC Gift Shop



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



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

# Photo Gallery



Gloria had promoted summer as the ideal time for new service leaders to ascend the bemah, since the crowds at KJCC are smaller and more intimate. On August

26th long-time member and KJCC benefactor Donna Bolton took the plunge, paired with performing pro, Hebrew speaker and musician Beth Hayden. As you see from the three photos at top, it all worked out beautifully.



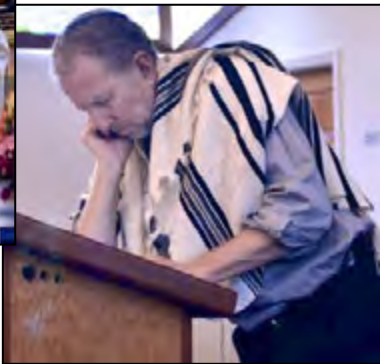
Cole Silverman is in final preparation for his November Bar Mitzvah. Here, in the three bottom photos, he helps Beth Hayden with the Kiddush and HaMotzi after services on September 2nd. (If you haven't already, see this issue's Nosh for detailed info about Cole's Bar Mitzvah.)





Behold, the many faces of a Rabbi Agler Saturday morning Torah service. These photos are from his first service of the new season, on September 10th. (Yes, even before High Holidays this year, an early New Year's gift to us.)

Skip Rose and Bernie attend the Torah reading, while Foster helps with hagbah.



Religious school (below right) has officially started for the 2016-2017 school year. I hope to stir up the minds of our kids. They have learned a lot over the past few years about the holidays, Hebrew and prayers. This year we will continue the lessons and add some background and explanations of the songs/prayers we sing and why. If the meanings and time frame are understood then those lessons may sink in and last a lifetime.

This first week started with relearning the first part of the Hebrew alphabet and the prayer "Barchu," which each kid practiced leading and responding to.

We also talked about Rosh Hashanah and the importance and meaning of this time in the year. Apologies were heard, discussed and accepted. *Leshanah Tovah Tekatavu!*



# Double the Pleasure: *Why Two Days of Rosh Hashanah?*

by Joyce Peckman

We Jews certainly celebrate a lot of holidays, and unlike Independence Day or Thanksgiving, most of ours last for two days (or even eight). Outside of Israel, the Biblical holidays Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot are celebrated for an extra day at the beginning or end of the holiday. Leviticus, chapter 23, describes Rosh Hashanah: "In the seventh month, the first day of the month shall be a solemn rest to you...proclaimed with the blast of *truah*." So why celebrate two days, instead of just the one commanded?

In ancient times, the beginning of each month was determined through eyewitness testimony. Witnesses would testify before the *Beit Din* (the Rabbinic Court in Jerusalem) that they had seen the new moon. The Court would then publicly announce that a new month had begun. Unfortunately, without Twitter, communications were much slower back then. (Bonfires were lit on the Mount of Olives and onward to subsequent mountain



tops throughout the land.) News of the Rabbinic Court's announcement could not reach far-away communities, such as Egypt or Persia, prior to the onset of that month's festivals (and that was even before the discovery of the New World). Sukkot, for example, begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23:34). If distant communities did not know the date of *Rosh Chodesh* (the beginning of the month), how could they count the fifteen days to know the proper date of the festival? So in the Diaspora, an extra day was tagged on as a safeguard.

Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot are now one-day festivals in Israel, but there are still two days of Rosh Hashanah. The historical reason for the doubling up of Rosh



Hashanah is that this is the only *yom-tov* (holiday) that occurs on the first of a Hebrew month, and even in ancient Israel, before the establishment of a fixed calendar, the rabbis were not always certain that the new moon had emerged until eyewitness testimony was brought. So a second day was, as with other Torah-mandated holidays, a good safeguard. A later rationalization of the second day links Rosh Hashanah – *yom ha-din*, the day of Divine Judgment – with the Talmudic rule that in legal cases involving life and death, a Jewish court should not complete the proceedings in one day, to allow for the possibility of overnight – in essence forcing justice to take a breath, considering the seriousness of such a decision – finding an argument in the accused’s favor.

([ohrSameach.edu](http://ohrSameach.edu))

The Reform Movement, from its beginnings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, reinstated the Biblical standard of observing each festival day, including Rosh Hashanah, according to the calendar described in the Torah. Since relying upon the eyewitness

system for determining the calendar had long since given way to science, the reasons given for maintaining the “second festival day” called for in the Talmud (*Beitzah* 4b) seemed no longer compelling. ([ReformJudaism.org](http://ReformJudaism.org))

Sukkot, which follows Yom Kippur by five

---

*In ancient times,  
the beginning of  
each month  
was determined  
through  
eyewitness  
testimony.*

days, is another elongated holiday. In the Diaspora, the first two days are considered full days of rest, with five intermediate days when work is allowed. At

Sukkot’s end come both Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. In Hebrew, *Shemini Atzeret* means “eighth-day convocation,” deriving its name from Leviticus

23:36, which proclaims: “On

the eighth day you shall observe a holy convocation.” In Biblical times, Shemini Atzeret was a day for Jews to reflect on the just-

---

*So a second day  
was, as  
with other  
Torah-mandated  
holidays,  
a good  
safeguard.*

---

ended holiday of Sukkot before returning to their regular routine. Sukkot is an agricultural holiday, and over the years Shemini Atzeret became a day on which we recite a special prayer for rain. (In our KJCC Siddur, there is a note in the Amidah to add a special prayer for rain between Shemini

Atzeret and Pesach.) The second *Yizkor* memorial service of the year is also held on Shemini Atzeret. Simchat Torah (“the joy of the Torah”) celebrates the end and immediate restart of the cycle of Torah readings. In Orthodox and Conservative communities outside Israel, Shemini Atzeret is a two-day holiday, with the Simchat Torah festivities observed on the second day. In Reform communities and in Israel, which generally observe one day of holidays rather than two, Shemini Atzeret is celebrated concurrently with Simchat Torah. ([ohrSameach.edu](http://ohrSameach.edu))

At KJCC, we will celebrate the two ending holidays together on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., with both a Yizkor Service and a joyous Torah celebration that includes Rabbi Agler’s famous seven-minute Torah translation. We hope to see you there. ◇



# Sukkot: Success, Joy, and Fragility

by Gloria Avner

Sometimes *Sukkot* seems to come too soon. We are wrung out with *Yamim Nora'im*, the final days of prayer, atonement and fasting, ripe with good intentions, and then, just five days after *Yom Kippur*, we are told to get out of our comfort zone: it is time to celebrate again, but in the most humble of ways.

Remember, in our earliest days, Sukkot was known as THE holiday, not just the most joyous but also the most important. The hard work of crop-rearing had literally just paid off. The harvest was in and for seven days (in Israel) or eight days (here), the festival of *Sukkot* celebrated success, the time of year when Jews experienced the most abundance and were at their wealthiest – time to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and share the wealth.

What better way to gain perspective, not get puffed up, and remember our desert-dwelling roots, than to share our produce with G-d and neighbors while living directly on the earth in a humble hut where the sky shows through chinks in the *schach* (Rabbi Agler's favorite word), a slatted roof made of palm fronds. We not only accept our fragility and dependence on nature. We revel in it. The roof that does not separate us from sky lets in not only light and

weather but also divine presence, *Shechina*. (I am reminded of Leonard Cohen lyrics: "There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.")

Guests, historical and spiritual as well as friends and neighbors, are invited to eat with us in our rickety but beautifully decorated temporary dwelling places. The historical guests, called by the Aramaic word, *Ush-pizim*, are our forefathers, the souls of the seven great leaders of Israel – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph, and King David. The Zohar says they deliberately leave *Gan* (the garden of) *Eden* to partake in the divine light of the earthly Sukkot. Let's imagine them sharing wisdom with us as we sit together. All of us need to be reminded in the midst of our over-busy, technologically oriented lives that we are

not only connected to nature, her whims and her bounty, but we are also responsible for her continuity of care. As one of our prayers in the *siddur* says, should this earth be destroyed, there is no one to come after us to repair it.

Here in our temporary KJCC "booth" or *sukkah*, we engage all our senses, making the space visually beautiful by decorating colorfully with our children. (Thank you again, Alan Beth and Candy Stan-





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Monday October 24, 2016 7:30 p.m.



Followed by  
Chocolate Extravaganza Oneg

lake, for the living memorial you created in honor and memory of your parents in our living KJCC Meditation Garden.) The aroma and sight of the *etrog* intensifies our prayers as we bless the “four species” (*lulav* or date palm, *etrog* or citron, willow and myrtle), shake the *lulav* (all the species held together as one) in all sacred directions, listening to its *shh shh shhh*, the symbolic sound of gentle rain we will be praying for once *Sukkot* is over. (Our service leaders will remind us during *Amidah*, in which, between *Shemini Atzeret* and *Pesach*, a seasonal prayer for rain is added.) And we will taste, eating the fruits as we bless them.

Whether one’s *Sukkah* blows over, as the Aglers’ did during that heavy storm surge last year, or remains steadfast throughout *Chag Simchateinu* (holiday of our great joyousness), doesn’t matter. The holiday is literally “all good,” full to the brim with lessons and *mitzvot*. Let’s eat our olives, blessing and remembering the produce of the ancient land we are intimately connected to even if we’ve never set foot upon it. Join us in our KJCC *Sukkah* on Friday night, October 21<sup>st</sup>, as we celebrate after Erev Shabbat services. Then join Rabbi and Mindy Agler at their home and *sukkah* for a *Sukkot* celebration, potluck dinner and *Havdalah* service the next evening, on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Happy times for our *mishpocha* continue unabated two days later when we unroll our Torah and begin the ceremonial cycle all over again.

And for those who sometimes question whether the rabbis understood the lives of all Jews or were merely concerned with concept and principle, consider this: If it starts to rain while you’re sitting in your *Sukkah* and your cereal gets soggy, *halacha* (Jewish law) says go indoors. G-d wants us to enjoy. ◇

## Four Species of Lulav for Four Types of Jews...

According to Rabbi Shraga Simmons, the Kabbalists say that the four species of the Lulav represent four different types of Jews:

1) The *Eetrog* has a good taste and a good fragrance. It represents a person with both wisdom (Torah learning) and good deeds.

2) The *Hadas* (myrtle) has a good fragrance, but is inedible. It represents a person who has good deeds, but lacks wisdom.

3) The *Lulav* (date palm) is edible, but has no smell. This represents the person with wisdom, but without good deeds.

4) The *Aravah* (willow) has neither taste nor smell. It represents a person with neither good deeds nor Torah learning.

Rabbi Simmons also adds a corollary: “there may be people we don’t like, but we still have to deal with. We cannot simply say that certain people are not part of our world, or that they do not belong to us. On the contrary, humanity is one indivisible unit. This recognition is basic to happiness because when we realize that we are all interconnected, we can be more patient and tolerant of others.”





# KJCC Meditation Garden

**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](http://keysjewishcenter.com).





# Dragons Against Breast Cancer

*As most of you know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We know that this disease has been a part of the lives of many KJCC members, for themselves or for loved ones, and that a predisposition for the disease occurs in certain families. As she notes in this upbeat article (not in the beginning, but much later), Gerry Emkey was diagnosed with the dread disease in 2009. She doesn't dwell on the dark and fearful moments here, though they were certainly part of her story. But as a teacher, Gerry had good insurance, and enjoyed unwavering and strong family support. She reports here on an organization that helped her back to vibrant health and that also exists to help other women who might not have the help and support that Gerri had. We think you'll all be inspired.*

*by Gerri Emkey*

**T**here was a time, not too long ago, when upper body exercise was discouraged for breast cancer survivors, the conventional wisdom being that exercise caused lymphedema, a swelling of limbs caused by removal of lymph glands, something often done as part of the treatment for breast cancer.



**Gerri (right) with twin sister Terri at a race.**

In 1996 Dr. Don McKenzie, a sports medicine physician at the University of British Columbia, recruited 24 breast cancer patients to participate in dragon boat racing, a sport similar to crew but where paddles are used instead of oars. His goal was to prove that upper body exercise was actually beneficial, not harmful, to cancer patients, and in fact would reduce lymphedema, not cause it. He was right on both counts, and this has caused a monumental change in the lives and activities of breast cancer survivors over the past twenty years.

As you might guess from its name, dragon boat racing originated in China. What surprises a lot of people, some who perhaps don't know how far back Chinese culture goes, is that the earliest racing dragon boats are believed to have appeared in south central China some 2,500 years ago, around the same time that the popularity of the ancient Greek sporting games held at Olympia was at its peak.

In Chinese culture, the dragon sym-

**The SOS dragon team finishing a race. Note the monogrammed paddles. (In color they're pink.)**



bolized strength, prosperity, and blessings. It has traditionally also been the symbol of water, dominating the rivers and seas.

**It isn't only about the healthy competition. Gerri and Terri make these beautiful baskets to sell at events, all the money going to the cause.**



Since it was believed to control the clouds and rain, it was not a surprise that a primarily agricultural people, wholly dependent on rain, would worship its source. Veneration of dragons was also believed to avert misfortune and calamity, which to an agricultural society were closely tied to whether there was enough rain for their crops.

Dragon boat racing has been a staple of their culture ever since, the ritual becoming a regular part of annual water festivals. Summer, the time for the festivals, was also the time for annual rice plantings. So it fits that the earliest dragon boat races took place in China's south-central rice bowl. Wherever there were rice paddies, there were also dragon boats.

But the racing

was also fun, and so the sport began to spread. The original dragon boats were made of teak imported from Indonesia. But today they tend to be of lightweight fibers and synthetics.

Once Dr. McKenzie proved that dragon boat racing was actually beneficial to the bodies of breast cancer survivors, the sport began to spread rapidly among these women. Today dragon boat racing is the fastest-growing aquatic sport in the world. Each team consists of ten or twenty paddlers, one drummer and one steerperson.

My entire life changed after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009. I was fortunate, because they caught my cancer early. After a double mastectomy in 2010, I have been cancer-free. The following year I joined a Miami-based dragon racing team called



**Winning is nice, too. And Gerri's team wins a lot of trophies, ergo the big smile.**

*Save Our Sisters*, made up entirely of breast cancer survivors. There are currently a hundred breast cancer teams throughout the world. Our team, which trains in Biscayne Bay, is ten years old. We usually train twice a week.



**A panoramic shot of all the competing teams just before the start of a race. Note the huge cheering section.**

We are the number one team in Florida and are ranked number thirteen in the world.

We travel to racing competitions often, to other states and to countries around the world. Because of the Chai-Lights deadlines, I'm writing this from Toronto, where *Save Our Sisters* is one of ten teams competing.

I could go on and on about the benefits to each participant in this program, both in fitness and in the benefits of surging energetically back into life with so

many fellow cancer survivors. But we also never forget that other women continue to face what we faced. Our team is very involved in seminars and makes sure to provide resource tables at events. A major focus is educating everyone about breast cancer, and funding mammo-

grams for those who can't afford them. We're like a support group on the water. *Save Our Sisters* is a non-profit organization. Our members are from all walks of life and range in age from 30s to 70s; like any other group, we have varied fitness levels and interests. But

we do focus strongly on the issue of breast cancer. (The reason why we feature the color pink.) Our goals are to educate the public,

serve as role models, mentor those newly diagnosed with breast cancer, assist those without access to breast cancer screenings or treatment, and raising funds for breast cancer-affiliated women's services.

Please see our website, [teamsosmiami.org](http://teamsosmiami.org), where there is lots of additional information. *Save Our Sisters* will also be participating in the (Susan) Komen

Walkathon at Bayfront Park in Miami on October 15<sup>th</sup>. If you like, you can register to join us at the Komen website.

Some good things came out of my breast cancer. I now live every day to the fullest. I

will also say that, during that very difficult period of my life, there were women from KJCC who helped me get through it. (The first in line has always been my twin, Terri, who has given me her love and sup-

port every step of the way.) I now appreciate and am very grateful for everything. I love my work with *Save Our Sisters*, I love participating in dragon boat racing, and together with hundreds of other survivors I love being a role model for all those looking to make the idea of tomorrow one of joy instead of fear and dread. ♦



**The photo at top shows the entire crew, including drummer and steerperson (scull crews call them coxswains). Above, our Gerri getting that healing upper-body exercise. At right, ending a long race.**





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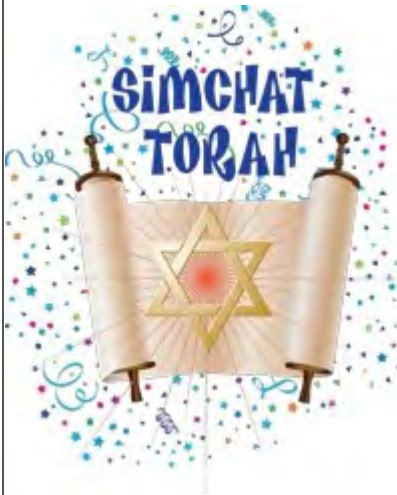
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# Chai~Lights



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November 2016

30 Tishrei - 29 Cheshvan 5777

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**On the Hallel Prayer - page 21**

**High Holiday Recap - page 26**

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

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# November 2016 30 Tishrei - 29 Cheshvan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Cole Silverman & Gloria Avner <i>Jane Silverman</i>	5 Cole Silverman's Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m.
6	7	8	9	10 Challah-Making at KJCC 6:00 p.m.	11 Gary Margolis <i>Lorena &amp; Michael Kaufman Dorothy &amp; Larry Wolfe</i>  KJCC Dinner 6 p.m.	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Art Itkin <i>Gloria Avner</i>	19 Rabbi Agler Service 10 a.m.
20	21	22	23	24 Thanks-giving	25 Medina Roy & Art Itkin  <i>Art Itkin &amp; Roy Pollack</i>	26
27	28	29	30			

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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



I hope you'll take some time to carefully peruse this issue. Most of it is dedicated to a report on the recent High Holidays at KJCC. It might sound immodest, but I think we have a wonderful story to tell here. I try to give you snippets and texture and tone each week in my e-mails, but I can't include photos there. (I could, I suppose, but it's not the right medium.) Gloria has written a graceful and enthusiastic report on the entire High Holiday period, and I urge you to read it both for what it says and also how beautifully she says it. But we also have lots (lots) of photos in this issue. Even without captions, they, too, radiate with the KJCC vibe. Look at the faces, the joy, the quiet pleasure, the ease, the sense of community.

I spend a lot of time telling you about the big picture, and the ever-developing story here. That's my job. (I never exaggerate, by the way. I just reflect.) But behind every big story there's also a small story (or three). So far, all Gloria and I have heard about this High Holidays was how great it was, the best ever, so smooth and well-organized. That's terrific. Your happy experiences are the reason for all the work.

Still, anyone who's ever put on a conference, or been

part of an opening night, knows that outward calm is often built on backstage chaos and angst. So I thought it might amuse you to hear some of what went on behind the scenes.

About a month out the sewer system back-up alarm broke. Bathroom problems during High Holidays wouldn't do at all, so that was hurriedly fixed. Replacement of half our air-conditioning systems actually went smoothly. Not so for finding out why I kept getting late-night calls from the alarm company about fire sensor signals; I had visions of alarms going off randomly during Yom Kippur. Until two days before Rosh Hashanah we had a big pile of mulch outside that needed to be spread. I'd bought special two-sided tape to affix labels for our new paintings on the walls, yet just before Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner found labels strewn all over the floor. (Thanks, 3M.) And where, oh where was the cantor thirty minutes before showtime? Happily (gratefully), the new a/c worked perfectly. But then, after each service someone would tell me the sanctuary was too hot and then another would grab me and complain that it was freezing in there.

And so it goes...

# Nosh

## Torah Learning Service Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>

If you were present for High Holidays and Rabbi Agler's talks, you know how warm and engaging his Torah Learning Services are. Don't miss this one on Saturday morning, November 19<sup>th</sup>, as his monthly in-season services resume. The dress code is informal, the service uplifting, the conversation stimulating, and there will be refreshments afterwards. Services begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.

## Bar Mitzvah Coming Soon

Come celebrate a special rite of passage with the Silverman family on the weekend of November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. On Friday night, Cole will lead services with his tutor, Gloria Avner, and on



**Cole and mom Jane**

Saturday morning, Rabbi Agler will lead the Shabbat morning service in which Cole will be called up to the Torah and become *Bar Mitzvah*. (Friends and family of the Silverman and

Blumenfeld sides will be joining us from England and from throughout all of the United States.) The Saturday service begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. Our KJCC *mishpocha* joins Cole's friends, family and visitors from afar in wishing him "*mazel tov*."

## Hebrew Classes Begin

Yardena Kamely is pleased to announce that her Hebrew reading classes will resume this month on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Yardena's goal



### Social Hall Chair Plate

In Memory of  
**Louis Smith**  
By Steven and Barbara Smith

is to develop her continuing students' skills to the point where they can follow along in the *Sid-dur* and find increased meaning in the prayers. This level 2 class will meet on Saturday mornings from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Beginners are also welcome to join this class.) There will also be an advanced class that engages in contemporary Hebrew conversation. This level 3 conversational class will meet on Friday mornings from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00. New students are welcome, beginner or advanced. Whatever your level, contact Yardena directly with any questions: phone 305-393-1768 or e-mail at [yardena@morah-yardena.com](mailto:yardena@morah-yardena.com). All classes will be held in the David Kamely Classroom at KJCC.



### Social Hall Chair Plate

In Memory of  
**Margrit Davis**  
By Steven and Barbara Smith



### Social Hall Chair Plate

In Memory of  
**Thomas Davis**  
By Steven and Barbara Smith



### Scrabble Anyone?

There seems to be a spontaneous bubbling-up of interest in games of Scrabble among assorted new and long-time members. Yes, we could of course play in our own homes, but wouldn't it be fun to have a mini-tournament in our own KJCC Social Hall? If you're interested, please jot a note to [president@keysjewishcenter.com](mailto:president@keysjewishcenter.com). Let us know whether you'd prefer afternoon or evening. We'll make sure there are good snacks (some even healthy) and plenty of coffee.



**Social Hall Chair Plate**

In Memory of  
**Selma Smith**  
*By Steven and Barbara Smith*

### Shabbos Project Time Again


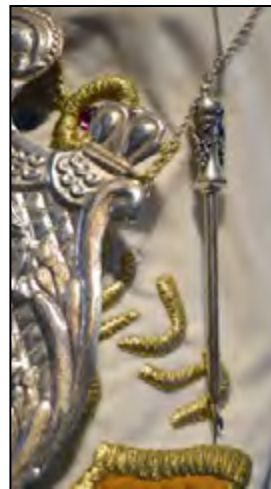
You know what they say. Follow the dough! No, it's not about money. It's about challah, and once more, KJCC and Sisterhood will participate in a worldwide project to raise Shabbat consciousness and deepen observance. We have just come through what most Jewish people consider the most important Jewish Holiday of the Year – Yom Kippur, and all the multiple *chags* associated with it. November was coming up as a rare month, one with not a single Jewish holiday. Ah, but that was not to be. Despite Yom Kippur having the reputation as most important holiday, there is another, even more significant, Jewish Holiday, and we observe it 52 times a year. Yes? You in the back row? You are right. It's Shabbat.

Save the date: Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, for getting your hands well-coated with flour. We'll be making our own challah from scratch. Suggested donation is \$10 for supplies. All materials and instruction will be provided, even wine and a nosh. (We also did this last year, and everyone had a wonderful time.) And on the following night, the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, there will be a de-

lightful Shabbat dinner sponsored by Sisterhood (also in honor of the worldwide Shabbos Project) with dozens of handcrafted challahs in attendance, eager to be enjoyed. Please see the ad on page 10 for RSVP details.


### Three Torahs, Three Yads at Last

For as long as anyone can remember, one of our Torahs has been missing a yad. (That's Hebrew for "hand," of course, the word also used to describe the pointing device — there's actually a little hand on the end — that's used, since we're not supposed to touch the Torah's parchment with fingers, as an aid to reading and chanting.) But now we at KJCC are yad-deficient no longer. Rabbi Agler has donated one. (Can you see the little clusters of grapes in the photo?) Our sincere thanks for this kind rabbinic gesture.



**Social Hall Chair Plate**

In Memory of  
**Steven Feldman**  
*By Barney O. Coltman*



**Social Hall Chair Plate**

In Memory of  
**Kim Peck**  
*By Judy and Frank Greenman*

## November Birthdays

2nd.....	Madalyn F. Tobias
2nd.....	Brian Boruszak
2nd.....	Jeremy M. Schur
2nd.....	Matt Temkin
3rd.....	Katherine Shabathai
4th.....	Herbert Grossman
4th.....	Zoey Barrett
7th.....	Michele Lindenbaum
7th.....	Joel Stein
8th.....	Nico Wilbur
11th.....	Cathy Dutton
13th.....	Tami Antelman
13th.....	Marilyn Greenbaum
13th.....	Linda Kaplan
14th.....	Rae Wruble
14th.....	Larry Wolfe
16th.....	Lorelei Alexander
17th.....	Jason Orans
18th.....	Ross Alexander
19th.....	Georgia Landau
19th.....	Michael E. Schur
22nd.....	Gloria Avner
22nd.....	Christopher Gould
22nd.....	John Luis Greenbaum
24th.....	Will Travis Pollack
24th.....	Arthur Lee Willner
25th.....	Nancy L. Cohn
26th.....	John Douglas Greenbaum
26th.....	Sam Vinicur
28th.....	Nicole Hudson
29th.....	Benjamin Rakov
30th.....	Steven Horowitz

### BOOK PLATE

#### FOR RABBI AGLER

THANK YOU FOR RECOGNIZING  
THE INDIVIDUAL IN EACH OF US

*by Linda Pollack*

## November Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Jeffrey & Patty Schocket..... 13
6th	Thomas & Renee Brodie..... 23
8th	Joseph & Gail Moss..... 35
14th	Donald & Nancy Zinner..... 29
23rd	Marcia Kreitman & John Hawver..... 2
26th	Roger & Danna Levy..... 49
27th	Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea..... 13
27th	Stanley & Jenny Margulies
28th	Joseph & Leslie Reamer..... 23
28th	Sam & Leslie Janowitz..... 19
29th	Louis and Linda Ulman..... 35

### BOOK PLATE

IN MEMORY OF OUR  
DEAR FRIEND  
**MARYON GOULD**

*by Skip Rose and Linda Pollack*

### Oneg Sponsors for November 2016

*November 4th* - Jane Silverman to celebrate Cole's Bar Mitzvah.

*November 11th* - Michael and Lorena Kaufman to honor Michael's brother's birthday; Larry and Dorothy Wolfe in honor of Larry's Birthday.

*November 18th* - Gloria Avner to commemorate her birthday.

*November 25th* - Art Itkin in honor of Sasha's birthday, and Roy Pollack for son Will Pollack's birthday.



### **Social Hall Chair Plate**

In Honor of  
**Barbara Knowles**  
By *Michael, Lorena & Sean Kaufman*



### **Social Hall Chair Plate**

In Memory of  
**Orit Rouache**  
By *Judy and Frank Greenman*

## **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.

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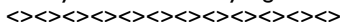
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# *In Memoriam November 2016*

In Memory Of

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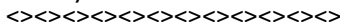
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In Memory Of

**Loretta Messer**

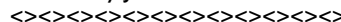
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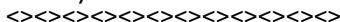
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In Memory Of

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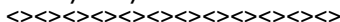
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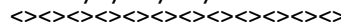
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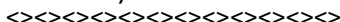
By Sydney! Faye-Davis



In Memory Of

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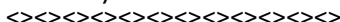
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In Memory Of

**Lillian Skolnick**

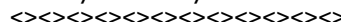
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In Memory Of

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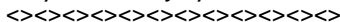
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In Memory Of

**Susan Ban**

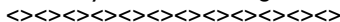
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In Memory Of

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By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

**David Jacobs**

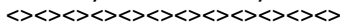
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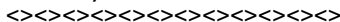
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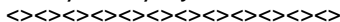
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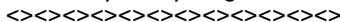
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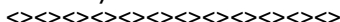
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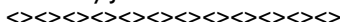
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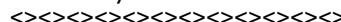
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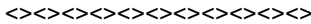


*In Memoriam November 2016*

In Memory Of

**Tillie Pollack**

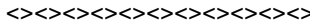
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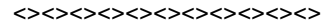
By Michele Riley



In Memory Of

**Harry Brownstein**

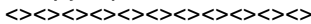
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

**Selma Moore Sachs**

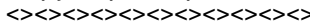
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

**Seymour Schocket**

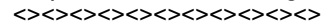
By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket



In Memory Of

**Shirley Schulberg**

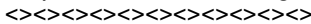
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Albert Kaminsky**

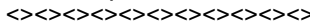
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Shirley Singer**

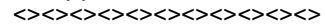
By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**Florence Cohen**

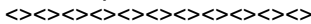
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

**Martin Lewis**

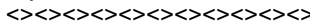
By Robert Silk



In Memory Of

**Albert Silverman**

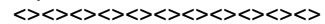
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Phillip Silverman**

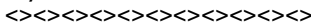
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Ida Cohen Sachs**

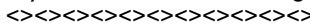
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Rose T. Steinberg**

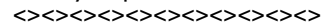
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Marianne Cimkowski**

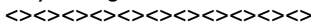
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Bertha Swartz**

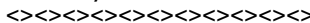
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Samuel Tallent**

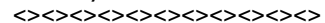
By Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

**Kenny Temkin**

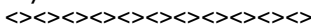
By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

**Dick Jacob**

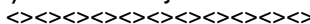
By David & Pat VanArtsdalen



In Memory Of

**Esther Gold Willner**

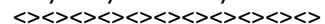
By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner



In Memory Of

**Diana Wolfe**

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



## *In Memoriam November 2016*

In Memory Of

**Morris Mazur**

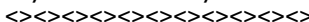
By Sanford & Nancy Yankow



In Memory Of

**Katy Kram**

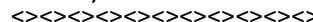
By Sanford & Nancy Yankow



In Memory Of

**Eve W. Zinner**

By Donald Zinner



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

*Yahrzeit Plaques:* KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400 for each engraved plaque, with memorial text selected by the donor.

*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 wonders that lie between these covers."

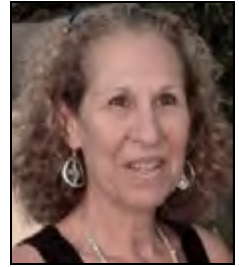
*Tree of Life Leaves:* We have three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$75 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May 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, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



October was a busy month. We began with our Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner. Almost seventy of our KJCC mishpocha attended to feast on a delicious traditional meat dinner that featured my matza ball soup, briskets prepared by Gloria, Susan and Beth, potato knishes, kasha varnishkes prepared by Bernie, turkey and green beans with almonds prepared by Jane, chopped liver prepared by Roberta, Linda Perloff's famous cucumber salad and even vegetarian chopped liver prepared by Gene. We ended the yummy dinner with Jane's sensational apple honey cake. We filled our plates and our tummies, and our New Year 5777 began. I would like to thank Sydney! and Donna for their help getting everything set up and ready.

Following our Rosh Hashanah services, Sisterhood prepared a fantastic lunch of bagels, lox, cream cheese, Marc Bloom's herring, salads from Gene, Geri Smith, Linda Kaplan, and Randy Gross, and finishing with Linda Perloff's homemade rugalabs, Beth's apple dish and Donna's honey spice cake. Special thanks goes to Richard Knowles for rolling all of the lox.

I would like to personally thank Toby and Joel Bofshever for their generosity in donating all our bagels and cream cheeses, as well as their help in the transport of all the special order items not available in the Keys. We fed more than sixty-five people the first day, and about forty the second day.

After a long 25 hours of Yom Kippur atoning and reflecting, we fed a dairy feast to a large and hungry crowd. We enjoyed scrumptious fish dishes thanks Suzi and Beth, hot kugels from Sydney! and Terri, Linda Pollack's yummy corn soufflé, and Muriel's delicious blintz soufflé, Susan's egg salad, Gloria's caprese salad, Jane's egg rolls and so much more. Once again Barb Bernstein amazed us with her Yom Kippur fruit salad creation. So

much goes into making all of this happen, and I want to thank everyone who prepared and donated the food, as well as those who helped underwrite the cost with their generous donations. Andy Tobin's donation of the whitefish salad, as well as the donations of Steve Steinbock, Laurie Blum, Terri Tainow, Gerri Emkey, Renee Salant, Sam Weis and Sheree Savar allowed us to enjoy these fine meals.

We held a special Shabbat Tshuvah Havdalah at Linda Pollack's home. The beautiful sunset felt like a blessing after our good fortune that Hurricane Matthew had stayed away from the Keys. It brought a sense of calm and hope, and this is the feeling that I wish for you and your family as we move forward into our year.

Our Sukkot oneg and Simchat Torah Chocolate Extravaganza were two more of our October celebrations. Thank you to Barb Knowles who provided our chocolate fountain for that fun night.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., when will introduce next year's proposed slate of officers. We are going strong. All women are welcome; there is no membership fee. We are thrilled to have Geri Smith as our new recording secretary. Beth Hayden continues to handle our finances and the oneg coordination.

This month we will join the worldwide celebration of The Shabbos Project. We will hold our Challah Bake on Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. and a Shabbat meat dinner on Friday November 11, where we will present our challah creations. Please let me know if you will be joining us. RSVP to me at [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com).

We thank you for your oneg sponsorships ♡

# **KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

## **The Shabbos Project**

### **KJCC Sisterhood Challah Making**

**Thursday November 10, 2016 6 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 for the low cost to each attendee of \$10.

Bring some wine and cheese and crackers and we will enjoy a happy hour challah bake.

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 Shabbos Project Dinner on Friday, November 11th, we will eat and enjoy the fruits of our learning.

Please rsvp by Monday, November 7th,  
to Erica Lieberman-Garrett  
[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com).  
For more information visit  
[theshabbosproject.org](http://theshabbosproject.org)





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## YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



### Descendants Of The *Conversos* And Crypto-Jews

**L**ast year, in our Lecture Series on Sephardic Jews, we learned about their fate during the centuries-long Spanish Inquisition. Ultimately, in 1492, the Castilian Alhambra Decree outlawed the practice of Judaism in Spain, requiring all remaining Jews to convert or leave. We discussed *Anusim*, *Marranos*, *Conversos*, and Crypto Jews. *Marranos* became a term used for Jews living in Iberia (Spain and Portugal) who converted or were forced to convert to Christianity yet continued to practice Judaism in secret. (It was not a gentle term, meaning "swine" in Spanish.) The wider term for converts was *Cristianos Nuevos*, meaning "New Christians" (referring to both converts from Islam and Judaism – Muslims had been driven from Spain in that same year, 1492), or *Conversos* (referring specifically to converts from Judaism). *Conversos* numbered in the hundreds of thousands in Spain after 1492. In Hebrew the term *Anusim* ("forced ones") is used; we refer to them as *Anusei Sfarad* and *B'nei Anusim* (sons of *Anusim*). Jews who secretly continued to observe Judaism while publicly professing to be of another faith (the ticket to remaining in a home and culture they'd enjoyed for many hundreds of years) are also referred to as "Crypto-Jews" (from the Greek *kryptos* – "hidden").

After 1492, anyone wishing to openly remain Jewish had to leave. A small number fled to Italy, Amsterdam, and the Americas, but most went to neighboring Portugal. When the Inquisition came to Portugal in 1496, the Jews once again faced a choice: leave, convert, or die. By 1500, some 40,000 and per-

haps more than 200,000 Jews were forced to leave the Iberian Peninsula. Exact numbers are not available because, fearing the gathering storm of persecution, many of the Crypto Jewish family names had been changed as early as the 1300s.

The Spanish and Portuguese Inquisition (official name: Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition) continued for over three hundred years. (It was not officially abolished until 1808, during the brief reign of Joseph Bonaparte.) The officers of the Inquisition kept accurate records of names, numbers, dates and punishments meted out; anyone today who cares to learn about the horrors may read them in documents.

Some had to leave quickly, purchasing documentation for "temporary" (which frequently became permanent) business trips to Italy or Germany. Poorer people fled to the north through the mountains and into France. Entire communities of "Portuguese Christians" were documented in southern France, while others continued northward to Amsterdam, England, Scandinavia, and eastward to the German provinces plus Austria, Hungary and Poland. In most of these European destinations, these "Portuguese Christians" eventually revealed their true identity as Jews, and then subsequently blended into the established Jewish communities; thus, we do not find long histories of Crypto Judaism throughout Europe.

Many Jews and Crypto Jews immigrated to the New World. (It is known that Jews were among the crews of Christopher Columbus, who first sailed toward the Americas mere

# **KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016**

**6:00 P.M.**

## **The Shabbos Project Shabbat Dinner COVERED DISH ~FLEISHADICH~**

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett to reserve  
your spot and coordinate your covered dish.  
Please reserve by November 7th.  
[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com), 305-393-1162



no charge

months after the Jewish expulsion.) Their choices were limited to the colonies of Spain and Portugal, so that when the Inquisition came to Peru in 1570, to Mexico in 1571, and to Cartagena (today's Colombia) in 1610, these same people were forced again to convert or flee. The Inquisition spread throughout what is now the southern United States, Mexico, Central and South America, the islands of the Caribbean, and Cuba. No Jew or "Converso" was safe from suspicion, accusation and persecution, thus the numbers of Crypto Jews grew among almost all people of Jewish descent. The experience of the Crypto Jews in the Western Hemisphere was a repeat of the same tragic story: suffering, continual fear, social, political, professional, and religious suppression and occasional murder.

It has been approximately fifteen hundred years since the emergence of Crypto-Jews in the Iberian Peninsula, and five hundred years since Crypto-Judaism moved to the Americas. Today we find a large Crypto-Jewish presence throughout the Western Hemisphere. No one knows for sure how many there really are. In Brazil alone, however, some estimates claim that 10 to 25 percent of the total population are (or are descended from) Crypto Jews; this translates to 15 to almost 40 million people.

Last month members and friends of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami were invited to a presentation titled "Descendants of the *Conversos* and Crypto-Jews," by guest speaker Douglas Kaplan, a retired attorney and past-president of Temple Bet Shalom (now Temple Sinai) in Hollywood, Florida. According to Mr. Kaplan, "buried under 500 years of concealment are the identities of millions of living descendants of the forced converts of the Spanish inquisition."

Mr. Kaplan also spoke about the fascinating history of crypto-Jews in the Southwest of

the U.S. Those who claim to be descendants of crypto-Jews believe that *Conversos* sought refuge in what is now the border region between Texas and the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon. Arizona and New Mexico are also mentioned. The "crypto-Jewish" identity in the Southwest has been the subject of controversy. In 1981, New Mexico's newly appointed state historian, Dr. Stanley Hordes, began work in Santa Fe and immediately began receiving visitors in

search of family records, believing themselves to be the descendants of *Conversos*. He began researching in the state's archives and Inquisition records. He discovered genealogical links between families in the Southwest with Jewish traditions and victims of the Inquisition in Mexico, Portugal and Spain. "The biggest challenge in completing a study of this kind was determining the history of a group of people who for centuries tried desperately to cover their tracks..." Hordes writes in the introduction to his book, *To the*



**At Douglas Kaplan's presentation to Miami's Jewish Genealogical Society (l-r): Janice McKay, Society president; Prof. Chaim Alhadeff; Yardena; Olga Campillo, descendant of Crypto Jews.**

*End of the Earth.*

At the presentation we met a woman from Cuba, Olga Campillo, who is the descendant of Crypto Jews. Her story about finding her Jewish roots shows many similarities to other stories. In the Southwest there were the grandfathers who refused to eat pork and wore hats at Saturday church services, the grandmothers who lit candles on Friday nights. Plus the sheep and cattle ranchers who slit the throats of their animals, drained the blood, removed the sciatic nerve and salted the meat. At a bedside altar facing the room's eastern wall, one grandmother, a devout Catholic, would pray three times daily with a shawl over her head. Living in Texas in a small town isolated in the high desert, she taught her family to routinely check their hens' eggs for spots of blood. Her last request before she died was that she be buried with her feet facing the East. ♦

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## **Bookplates**

Pollack, Linda      **In Honor of**  
Rabbi Agler, thank you for recognizing  
the individual in each of us

Pollack, Linda  
Rose, Frank

**In Memory of**  
Maryon Gould  
Maryon Gould

## **Chai-Lights**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine

## **General Fund**

Avner, Gloria

**In Honor of**  
Pauline Roller's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday;  
new grandchildren

Brush, James  
Calev, Barbara  
Greenman, Frank & Judy  
Gross, David & Patti  
Kreitman, Marcia

## **Holocaust Education Center**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Swartz, George & Muriel

## **Library Fund**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara

## **Meditation Garden**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Gorson, Janice

Horn, Susan & Dot Brooking      brick - Ronald Horn  
Mahj Girls                              brick - Maryon Gould  
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine      tree - Jacob Menahem  
Shabathai

## **Rabbi & Cantor Fund**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Coltman, Barney  
Davidson, Foster  
Gross, David & Patti  
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

## **Rabbi & Cantor Fund cont.**

Kreitman, Marcia  
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine  
Smith, Steven & Barbara  
Temkin, Robert

## **Scholarship Fund**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Kaminstein, Beth

## **Sisterhood General Fund**

Bofshever, Joel & Toby

**In Honor of**  
Good health of  
Gene Silverman & Ellen Bloom

Coltman, Barney  
Horn, Susan & Dot Brooking  
Margolis, Gary & Laurie Blum  
Margulies, Stan & Jenny  
Savar, Sheree  
Steinbock, Steve  
Tainow, Terry & Jon  
Weis, Sam & Renee Salant

## **Sisterhood Onegs**

Donna Bolton, Joyce Peckman, Geri Smith      **In Honor of**  
Mah Jongg  
Mentors  
Coltman, Barney                              Good fellowship  
Harvey, Mitch                                      Birthday

Ginsberg, Bernard

**In Memory of**  
mother Bea Ginsberg

## **Social Hall Chair Plates**

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena  
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine

**In Honor of**  
Barbara Knowles

Coltman, Barney  
Greenman, Frank & Judy  
Smith, Steven & Barbara

**In Memory of**  
Stephen Feldman  
Kim Peck; Orit Roache  
Selma Smith, Louis Smith,  
Thomas Davis, Margrit Davis

## **Yahrzeits**

Temkin, Robert

Charlie Temkin



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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### Membership at KJCC...It's a Real Steal!

*Temple Emanu-El*, the posh Fifth Avenue synagogue in Manhattan founded in 1845, is the place of worship for some of New York's most prominent Jewish figures, including former mayor Michael Bloomberg, CNN President Jeff Zucker and the late comedian Joan Rivers. Over 2,500 seats were available for High Holy Day services this year. The price for a ticket? For the privilege of sitting in any of the first ten rows, \$3,275 - well above the cost of a ticket to the Broadway musical "Hamilton" (a mere \$1,502). For the "less financially endowed congregants" (their words, not mine), tickets went for \$875. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 10-4-16)

### Prince Charles' Secret Visit

Prince Charles, representing his mother Queen Elizabeth, attended the funeral in Jerusalem of former Israeli president Shimon Peres, who died at the end of September. But did you know that after the funeral, the prince secretly went to the Mount of Olives Cemetery, also in Jerusalem, to visit his paternal grandmother's grave? Princess Alice of Battenburg is buried at Jerusalem's *Convent of Saint Mary Magdalene* in accordance with her wishes. She died in 1969 in London and her remains were placed in a crypt at Windsor Castle. In 1988 she was transferred to a crypt at the convent. During World War II, Princess Alice lived in Nazi-occupied Athens, where she hid a Greek Jewish family for thirteen months until the Nazis withdrew in October 1944. (She spent much of her life in Greece after marrying Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark.) The story was not known until the early 1990s when Michael Cohen, 78, told officials at *Yad Vashem*, Israel's Holocaust memorial, of how he, his mother and sister were saved by the princess. In 1994, *Yad*

*Vashem* recognized Princess Alice posthumously as "Righteous Among the Nations." The British royal family generally avoids visiting the cemetery because it is located in the eastern part of Jerusalem, an area they do not recognize as being part of Israel. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 10-5-16)

### "Poetry for the Ear"

Bob Dylan, singer-songwriter of some of the most influential songs of the 1960s ("Blowing in the Wind," "The Times They Are a-Changin'," etc.), has received the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature - the first American to win the prize since Toni Morrison in 1993. Dylan, 75 (born Robert Allen Zimmerman and raised Jewish in Minnesota), was awarded the prize by the Swedish Academy for "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition." His selection as literature laureate is a groundbreaking choice by the Nobel committee because his career has been primarily as a musician. ([www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org), 10-13-16)

### "A More Peaceful and Humane World"

Benjamin Ferencz, 96, the last surviving prosecutor from the Nuremberg War Crimes trials, has donated \$1 million to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's *Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide* in Washington, D.C. His motivation is to promote world peace. The donation will be renewed annually and total up to \$10 million. He said he wanted to do something to deter future genocides. Ferencz served as chief prosecutor for the United States Army at the *Einsatzgruppen* (extermination squads) trials of former Nazi leaders in 1947-48. It was his first criminal trial and he successfully prose-

cuted twenty-two SS members for their involvement in murdering over one million Jews and other minorities. He was only 27 at the time. Following the trials, he worked to secure restitution for thousands of Holocaust survivors. He wrote books on international law and became a vocal advocate for the establishment of the *International Criminal Court* (which was officially founded in Rome in 1998 and now sits in The Hague in the Netherlands). Ferencz participated in the first case before the new court at age 91, giving a closing statement in the prosecution of warlord Thomas Lubanga Dyilo of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (Dyilo was judged guilty of war crimes for using children under the age of 15 as soldiers.) Ferencz was born in Romania; his family moved to the United States when he was 10 months old, fleeing anti-Semitic persecution. He was a sergeant in General Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, arriving just days after the liberation of several concentration camps, where he saw conditions that were unforgettable, calling it "the worst of humanity." He is disappointed that current despots and terrorists are killed instead of tried in criminal courts. (He would have preferred to have seen Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden brought to trial in the international court.) Ferencz was awarded five battle stars, though not, he argues, for bravery. "I was hiding under whatever truck or tank I could get under," he said. "My weapon was a typewriter." He has been a long-time supporter of the D.C. museum, where in 2015 he was given the *Elie Wiesel Award*, the Holocaust museum's highest honor. Ferencz currently lives in Delray Beach, FL.  
([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), 8-31-16)

### **Bernie's Brother...From Brooklyn to Britain**

Larry Sanders, 81-year-old older brother of Vermont Senator and former Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, is running for a seat in Parliament in Britain, the seat being vacated by former Prime Minister David Cameron. (Cameron resigned as prime minister in July 2016.) Like his younger brother, Sanders was born in Brooklyn but has lived in Oxford, England since 1969. He

taught at Oxford University in the *Social Administration Department*. He currently serves as health spokesman for Britain's Green Party. The elder Sanders was a delegate at this past summer's Democratic National Convention representing *Democrats Abroad* and was given the honor of casting their vote for his baby brother. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 9-25-16)

### **Nobel Theory Explained...by a Bagel**

British Jewish professor Michael Kosterlitz, along with two colleagues, were the winners of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics for their pioneering work in topology, a branch of mathematics that shows the physical properties of matter and space that remain unchanged under pressure or stretching. The discovery leads to advances in electronics that could help researchers in developing quantum computers. The discovery "involved certain materials that go through step changes that affect their electrical properties." The changes are similar to the holes in baked goods, which can have no intermediate steps between one hole or two. A bagel and two pastries were used by Nobel physics committee member Thors Hans Hansson to explain the scientists' theory: "I have a cinnamon bun, I have a bagel and a Swedish pretzel with two holes," Hansson said. "Now for us these things are different. One is sweet, one is salty; they are different shapes. But if you are a topologist there is only one thing that is really interesting with these things. This thing [the cinnamon bun] has no holes, the bagel has one hole, the pretzel has two holes...you cannot have half a hole or 2-2/3 holes." "Thanks to their pioneering work, the hunt is now on for new and exotic phases of matter," the *Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences* said. Kosterlitz is the son of German biochemist Hans Walter Kosterlitz, who fled from Berlin to safety in Scotland in 1934.  
([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 10-4-16)

### **In Memoriam**

★ Shimon Peres, who served as both Israeli president and prime minister and was the last of Israel's "founding fathers," died at the end of September. He was 93. As the country

changed, so did Peres. He began his career in the Defense Ministry and designed Israel's (hypothetical) nuclear program. In his later years, he evolved and worked toward achieving peace with the Palestinians, hoping it would become a reality in his lifetime. Peres was instrumental in negotiating the *Oslo Accords*, the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement in 1993. After that, he became Israel's ambassador for peace, predicting a "new Middle East" where conflict would be replaced by shared prosperity between Israelis and Palestinians. "Shimon Peres...knew that Israel would not be saved by military force, by diplomacy or by economic strength alone, but only by the combination of all three," said Ronald S. Lauder, *World Jewish Congress* president, calling Peres "the embodiment of the Zionist dream." Peres served as prime minister three times and was elected president in 2007. He shared the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. In 2012, Peres was given the inaugural *Theodor Herzl Award* of the *World Jewish Congress* for his services to Israel and to the Jewish people. That same year, President Obama awarded him the *Presidential Medal of Freedom*, the United States' highest civilian honor. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 9-27-16 and [www.worldjewishcongress.org](http://www.worldjewishcongress.org), 9-28-16)

★ Joseph Harmatz, a Holocaust survivor who was the leader of *HaNokmim* ("avengers" in Hebrew), a group of some fifty Holocaust survivors whose goal was to kill Germans to avenge the Holocaust, has died. He was 91. *HaNokmim* was founded by Abba Kovner, the Israeli poet and leader of Jewish resistance against the Nazis in both the Vilna Ghetto and then later in the Rudnikai Forest, who survived World War II. Born in Lithuania, Harmatz was one of the last surviving group members. *HaNokmim* attempted to poison Nazi SS officers in an American prisoner-of-war camp in 1946. More than 2,200 Nazis became ill, but no one is believed to have died from the poisoning. Harmatz lost most of his family in the Holocaust. After the war Harmatz immigrated to Israel, where he worked for the *Jewish Agency for Israel* and served as director general of *World ORT*, the

network of Jewish-sponsored vocational institutions. ([www.forwardandjta.org](http://www.forwardandjta.org), 9-27-16)

★ Greta Zimmer Friedman, the Jewish refugee whose Times Square kiss from a sailor on the day when Japan's surrender marked the end of World War II became one of the most famous photographs of all time, died recently. She was 92. Born Greta Zimmer in Austria, she and her sisters were sent abroad by their parents in 1939, after the Nazi takeover of Austria. Greta was then 15. It was six years later, wearing her dental assistant's uniform in Times Square, when a drunken sailor grabbed her to celebrate the end of the war. (At that moment in time, she had no idea where her parents were or whether they were alive. She later learned that they had both died in the camps.) The photograph was taken by *Life Magazine* photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt, a Jewish refugee himself, who was already very well known. The photo was a visual symbol of victory and became Eisenstaedt's most iconic photo. For years, the identities of the two people in the photo were unknown. In 1980, *Life Magazine* attempted to identify both. "The Kissing Sailor: The Mystery Behind the Photo That Ended World War II," a book published in 2012, used forensic analysis and was able to confirm that George Mendonsa, a sailor returning from the Pacific, and Greta Zimmer were the two in the photo. Mendonsa saw Zimmer's dental assistant uniform, and, mistaking her for a nurse, grabbed her and planted that famous kiss on her. (Mendonsa held nurses in high esteem, because when kamikaze planes hit his aircraft carrier he watched nurses care for the wounded.) Mendonsa and Zimmer were reunited in 2012 for a CBS news story. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 9-11-16)

### Did You Know...

★ Theodore Bikel, the 91-year-old actor who died in July 2015, holds the record for performing the lead role of "Fiddler on the Roof." He played Tevya more than 2,000 times, both on- and off-Broadway. Whether or not he ended up a rich man, he certainly enriched the rest of us. ([www.thejewniverse.com](http://www.thejewniverse.com), 9-23-16) ◇

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# KJCC Graduate Goes on Birthright Trip to Israel

by Rita Bromwich

What do Hillel, The University of Central Florida and Israel all have in common? The answer: approximately fifty college students who were given a fantastic ten-day trip to Israel courtesy of The Birthright Israel Foundation. Maxwell Schrader-Grace, a student who possesses a strong sense of community, a desire to learn and explore the world (plus a former graduate of the KJCC Religious School), received that opportunity.

The experience taught him that camels are not the cleanest animals alive, but they photograph very well.

Max's journey began at the kibbutz at the most northern part of Israel. He said, "the most memorable part was the visit to the Israel-Syria border."

His tour guide explained the conflict between Israel and Syria and how Israel helps the wounded in Syria, despite knowing that when their civil war ends their guns might well turn toward Israel. He visited the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem and said that after being to the one in Washington D.C., the one in Jerusalem had a greater impact on his emotions due to its design and portrayals.

Climbing Masada required

getting up at 4 a.m. and is, according to Max, by far the coolest hike a person could ever experience. He spent that morning learning about those who chose to die on top of Masada

instead of being taken as slaves by the Romans. What an amazing sunrise!

Then came a visit to the Dead Sea to enjoy some play-time in the

mud. Then they were off to various other places, including the Western Wall. There was a lot of discussion about the conflict between Jews and Muslims. Among his strongest memories?

Max had the opportunity to hang out with some amazing Israeli soldiers and truly get an up-close view of what life in Israel is really like.

For Max, like most young Jews, it will be an experience to last a lifetime. ♦



**The photos, from top: Max (the one not in uniform) with a group of Israeli soldiers; with his U.C.F. group on a hike (center, holding the Israeli flag); at the Western Wall with its regular worshippers; aboard (atop?) a camel, hoping the caravan ropes were strong.**

**KJCC**

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or just bring to the KJCC.**



# The Hallel Prayer

by Steve Hartz

In Judaism the ancient prayer known as *Hallel* (“Praise”) is a prayer of thanksgiving and praise that consists of Psalms 113-118 in their entirety. Its origins are not known for certain. Some date *Hallel* to the time of the prophets. Others believe that *Hallel* was first sung by Moses in joy after the crossing of the Sea of Reeds. And a review of the text is certainly consistent with this latter theory. For example, the line in Psalm 118: “In my distress I called to the Lord; He answered by setting me free” recalls several episodes in the Book of Exodus where Moses cried out to G-d and found a divine and saving response.

Often people think that *Hallel* is only recited on Pesach (where it occupies a time-honored place in the Haggadah). However, *Hallel* is supposed to be recited on most festival occasions, including *Pesach*, *Shavuot*, *Sukkot*, and *Hanukah*. It is also recited often on *Yom Ha’atzmaut* (the day commemorating modern Israeli independence), and *Yom Yerushalayim* (commemorating the unification of Jerusalem in 1967). *Hallel* is also recited in a slightly more condensed form (“*Hatzi Hallel*”) on every *Rosh Chodesh* (new month).

*Hallel* is not recited on the High Holidays because it is felt to be unseemly for the people of Israel to be praising G-d joyously when G-d is deciding their fate for the coming year. It is also not recited on *Purim*, among other things, because the reading of *Megilla* is a substitute. And, the themes of Exodus contained in *Hallel* are not resonant with the story of Esther, which took place while the Jews were subjects of Persia. We can also add that it is not generally easy or dignified to recite *Hallel* if you are tipsy.

*Hallel* is a powerful prayer, so joyous and significant that the ancient rabbis elevated its recitation to the level of a *mitzvah*. It begins

with the traditional benediction that we recite before fulfilling a commandment. The congregation typically stands for the recitation. Parts of it are read responsively and/or repetitively in ways that lend even more drama to the prayer.

The themes of *Hallel* are among the greatest in the Jewish liturgy: raising up the poor from the rubbish heap, the exodus from Egypt, the love of G-d who remembers us and listens to our supplications, and the opening of the gates of triumph to the righteous. Interwoven throughout is the unrelenting theme of praise and thanksgiving. In a climatic portion of *Hallel*, the faithful recite repeatedly with conviction that G-d’s love endures forever (“*Ki l’olam hasdo*”).

Unlike many pieces of the Jewish liturgy, the theme of death is not the most prominent feature of *Hallel*. And the concept of the return of the Messiah and the ultimate resurrection of the dead, so common to other parts of our service, is not expressed directly in *Hallel*. In fact, Psalm 115 bluntly

states that “[the] dead cannot praise God...But as for us we shall praise the Lord.” And Psalm 118 says that “[t]hough the Lord did indeed chastise me, God did not hand me over to death.” *Hallel* is recited by the living to give thanks for the gift of life. Nevertheless, it should be noted that many commentators have expansively construed various parts of the *Hallel* prayer to support messianic beliefs.

The melodies of *Hallel* are many. Different communities have different chants, and within the chants there are contrasting moods and rhythms. Some of the moods are bright; some are more reflective. But what is common to all of the melodies of *Hallel* is spirited thanks for the good that G-d has brought us and a powerful supplication that G-d will continue to save us and give us success. It is a prayer that is virtually unrivaled in its joy and passion in all of Jewish liturgy. ◊

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*The themes  
of Hallel  
are among  
the greatest  
in the  
Jewish  
liturgy.*

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# Photo Gallery



At left, the KJCC students created a diorama of Jerusalem's Western Wall. Those here for High Holidays could actually put prayers into the "brick." At right, the new sanctuary plaque honoring those who donated to our Torah Restoration Project.



The oneg on September 23rd was sponsored by Joel and Toby Bofshever, above, in celebration of Joel's birthday. At right, Harry Friedman begins the process of bringing his Eagle Scout Vegetable Garden back to life for the fall planting. The bounty this past year was amazing and was donated to local food banks.





# KJCC Meditation Garden

**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](http://keysjewishcenter.com).





Scenes from the September 24th pizza/movie/service for S'l'ichot, our beginning of the High Holidays. Bernie Ginsberg and Steve Steinbock led the service, with an able assist from Rabbi Rich Agler.





# High Holidays 5777

*We came, we ate, we prayed, we learned — together*

*First came the singing, a sweet “Mah Tov” led by Cantor Michael Dzubin. Then came the big question: “So how is your relationship with God going?” Rabbi Richard Agler, our guide and leader through the Yamim Nora’im, the 10 Days of Awe, set our intent to go deeply from the very start of Erev Rosh HaShanah. He posed other questions too, all serious, all multi-layered. We would return to them throughout our days of introspection, prayers for forgiveness and fresh starts.*

**W**e had a full house for Erev Rosh Hashanah. It is a tribute to Rabbi Agler that many of our guests came from as far away as Boca Raton, home of his former congregation. Close to 100 people filled our newly refreshed Sanctuary, three quarters of whom had just enjoyed Sisterhood’s bounteous brisket-fest overflowing with traditional Jewish treats – from the symbolic pomegranate full of seeds (representing the 613 mitzvot) to the delicious matzoh ball soup at the beginning of the meal to apple cake and cinnamon babka at the end. Kudos to Erica Garrett and the women of Sisterhood. They outdid themselves, raising the bar to new heights for quality, quantity, and thoughtfulness through

all the holiday luncheons and onegs. Chanting blessings over candles, wine and our special round challah (the prescribed shape for Rosh Hashanah), we joined with Jews around the world to dip apples in honey with hopes of a good, sweet year.

All New Year’s celebrations steer us towards fresh starts. One fresh start began extra early this year, with clear *kavanah*, intent and commitment to refresh our physical house – the *Beit HaMikdosh* where we gather to pray, form friendships, educate ourselves, and, yes, to share good meals. The initial intent was to make our spaces more visually appealing and reflective of us. But the goal was also to create a comfort level that would inspire and enhance the experience that was



taking place not only within our walls but also within ourselves.



The entire synagogue was repainted with dramatic yet peaceful colors. A new carpet with flowing patterns of God’s flora now grounds our Social Hall. The wealth of talented artists among our members brought us unexpected treasures when we asked for works on the theme of *B’reishit*, in keeping with this special time of year. (The time when our Torah cycle reaches its seamless end and we turn once again to studying the beginning, the creation story.) Each painting, each piece of ceramic sculpture, relates to the work of creation, the seven days of creative handiwork, order com-



ing out of chaos, light separating from dark, spirit moving on the water, the populating our planet with living things of all description. Our “new” house made an uplifting and supportive environment for our days of reflection.

The harmonious interaction between our leaders, Rabbi

Agler’s challenging discussions about how God could have let the Shoah happen – and how people could have stood by while it happened – brought us to the edge of discomfort and back again. It also inspired many to want to “do some-



thing.” The give and take with Rabbi Agler, the repeated “al chet” confessions and

fists gently softening our hearts, hearing the penetrating calls of the shofar, tossing bread in lieu of our sins into the ocean at *tashlich*, all made for a very full first day. We were grateful for Sisterhood’s delicious luncheon. (Rumor has it that anticipation of Marc Bloom’s herring and sour cream may have added to the wonderful attendance at the pre-lunch *Musaf* service.)

Our second day in shul for Rosh Hashanah

was easily as powerful and uplifting as the first, but with a different feeling. There was intimacy in this smaller group, sincere participation, and everyone stayed for *musaf* (and lunch). If you miss the *musaf*, you don’t just miss lunch. You miss the plaintive prayer of *Hineni*, the “I am here” prayer, expressing fearful unworthiness to pray on the congregation’s behalf, beautifully and humbly chanted

by Cantor Dzubin. You also miss the priestly blessing given by the eerily haunting voice chanting after the cantor from underneath the tallit by a *Koheyn*, channeling God’s prayer for us.

And then came *Yom Kippur* and the evening of *Kol Nidre*. With ex-presidents and other

officers taking turns holding our precious Torahs, the sanctuary reached its High Holiday peak of fullness. Our inner selves vibrated with anticipation of a full day of fasting, ex-

traordinary services and a full afternoon of exciting supplementary activities, where we spoke about how the fasting affected us, how deprivation with a purpose brought us to a deeper place, free of distraction. We discussed the big questions, argued and meditated, ever guided and challenged by Rabbi Richard Agler, our resident scholar as well as our High Holiday leader.

And then we listened to the piercing, deeply spiritual music of



Leonard Cohen's newest album, "You want it Darker." Released on his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday, the title song paints a scornful, sorrowful, deeply disappointed picture of life on today's planet, and it is rife with Hebraic references and echoes a line from the poem of Wordsworth that Rabbi Agler often quotes: "the world is too much with us. Getting and spending we lay waste our powers." But do we wallow in misery and depression? No!! Maybe Leonard does, in his own elegant, compas-

sionate way, but we go on to the delightful surprise of Rabbi Agler's own version of Cohen's song, "Hallelujah," accompanied by none other than our

own David Feder. "Be a *B'racha*" ("Be a Blessing") replaces Hallelujah as refrain. We sing it over and over, smiling at the new lyrics and the zest with which Rabbi Agler stands before us and performs them.

There is more to come, of course. The Yom Kippur *Mincha* (or afternoon) service,

the *Ma'ariv* and *Neilah* evening service, with three *aliyot*/*Torah* readings, followed by Susan Gordon's delightful rendition of the *Haftorah* story of Jonah. We

are transfixed and fatigued but firmly ensconced in a rhythm that is reaching toward climax and crescendo. More prayers of confession and appeals to "Avinu Malkeinu, our Father, our King" fill the air and radiate



through the sanctuary, in total harmony with the paintings on the walls and the elevated souls of the people praying.

The final blast of the three shofars is electrifying. There is a new face on the *bi-mah*; one

of our newest members, professional musician Sam Weis, whose strong and beautiful abstract paintings adorn our hallway, blows her *shofar* with grace and strength. Deep gratitude also goes to our returning *shofar* blowers.

Both Zach Schrader-Grace and Jonah Gross have been *Bar Mitzvah* here, and though years have passed since they attended our school, their pride in holding that last note for us fills us with nothing less than the awe

we've been seeking.

*Yom Kippur* is over. We dim the sanctuary and light the many-wicked Havdalah candle that

represents the many disparate strands of our scattered people, which then burns as a single flame, a "light unto the nations." Blessings duly chanted, we return from the sacred to the secular. Smiles and expressions of gratitude are expressed to our rabbi and cantor. They, too smile and shake hands with us as we leave the sanctuary. The line to the break-the-fast buffet nearly meets the reception line leaving the sanctuary.

We are content, but energized. An unexpected question comes to mind: Is it here-  
sy to emerge from the rich experience of High Holy Days and particularly *Yom Kippur*, feeling happy? It has been a good time. There is a sense of enjoyment in the air, of satisfaction, and of something ineffable. Perhaps it is pride in our leaders and the experience we have just undergone with their guidance. It most certainly is gratitude.

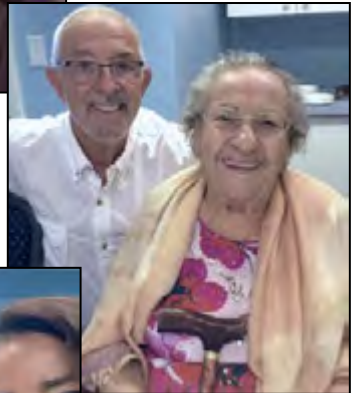
May we all be sealed in the book of life for a good year, a healthy year, a year of commitment to *Tikkun Olam*, a year of peace.

— Gloria Avner





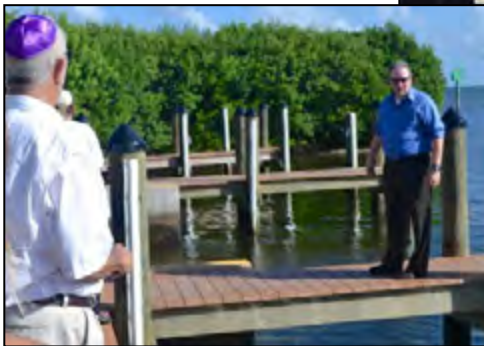
**Photos taken at lunch  
after Rosh Hashanah Day  
One services on  
September 3rd,  
2016. Year 5777  
was underway.**





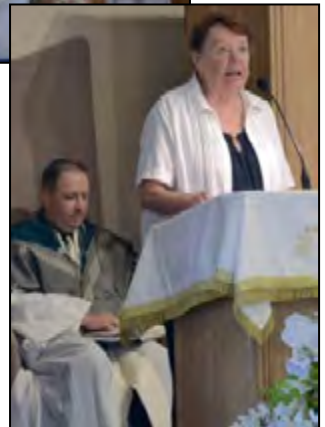


**Tashlich, the casting of sins into the sea, took place at 4:00 at Ocean Pointe on Rosh Hashanah Day One, led by Cantor Michael Dzubin. (There's lots of water there, and the birds love the bread we cast away.)**





**Scenes from Rosh Hashanah Day Two, on September 4th. It's a slightly more relaxed day.**



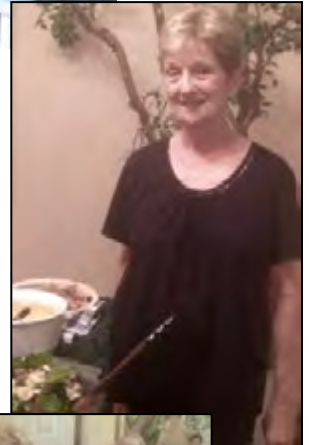




The photo top left is of Mitch Harvey blowing out his birthday candles at the Erev Shabbat Shuvah oneg on September 7th. The next day's full Shabbat Shuvah service was led by Bernie Ginsberg.



**Linda Pollack started a new tradition on Saturday evening, September 8th, hosting a Havdalah at her lovely bayside home. These are all scenes from the pre-service meal provided by Sisterhood.**







The actual Havdalah service on Saturday, September 8th, led by KJCC Ritual Chair Gloria Avner. A full house showed up for what Gloria likes to call our “short and sweet” transition from the sacred back to the secular. It was the middle of High Holidays, of course, so the secular only lasted until Kol Nidre filled our sanctuary three evenings later.



# Yom Kippur









Scenes from Rabbi Richard Agler's "fast talk" on Yom Kippur afternoon after Musaf. Word spreads about how appealing these informal gatherings are, and more stay every year. Yom Kippur offers lots of topics and questions, and nothing is off the table. As always, the discussion was lively.

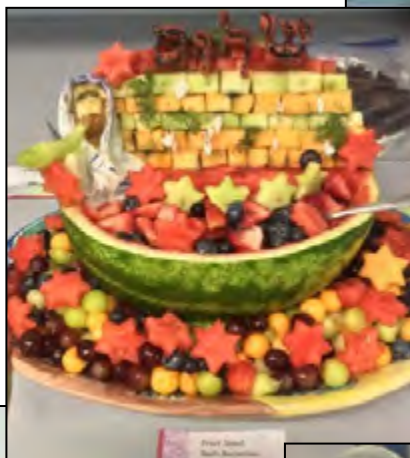


The last subject discussed was Leonard Cohen's poetry. Then a crowd-pleasing surprise. Rabbi Agler had written new lyrics to Cohen's "Hallelujah," and performed them to accompaniment by Dave Feder.

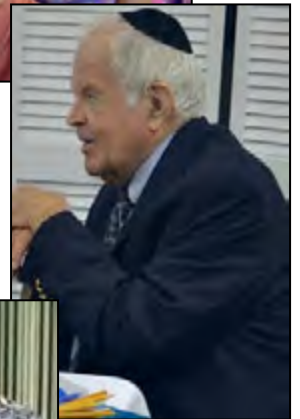




**After a long day of concentrated prayer, Yom Kippur ended with clarion shofar blasts from Zack Schrader-Grace, Sam Weis and Jonah Gross. After Havdalah, above right, it was on to Sisterhood's break-fast, which included an amazing fruit sculpture of the Western Wall by Barbara Bernstein.**



At break-the-fast, lots of smiles...



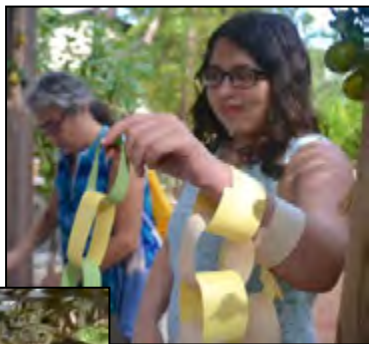




On Sunday, September 16th, a number of us joined the Religious School for the annual decoration of the KJCC Sukkah, in the enduring gazebo donated to us (and personally built by) Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake in honor of their parents. It was a first for 3-year-old Madison Bloom, but everyone else had a wonderful time, too.

Gloria led us in a grateful shehechyanu.







# What Does All This Tell Us About God?

Rabbi Richard Agler  
October 12, 2016  
Keys Jewish Community Center  
10 Tishrei, 5777  
Tavernier, FL  
Yom Kippur

*An important mandate of the High Holidays is to look inside ourselves honestly. Okay, a little honesty here that will surprise no rabbi: most people who attend High Holiday services aren't at peak attention for every prayer, or song, or lesson. We at KJCC are fortunate for many reasons. Very high on that list is the member who happens to be a rabbi and who happens to be willing to lead us on High Holidays. Rabbi Agler has many gifts; perhaps none of them defines him more than his ability to take the complexities of Jewish law and, through his talks and sermons, make them not only accessible but fascinating. As everyone who was here knows, his sermons throughout the High Holidays followed an interwoven trail of ideas and ethics, each building upon the last. With his permission, we reprint the final sermon here, the one from Yom Kippur morning, the one that tied all the ideas and teachings together.*

**W**e've traveled a good distance since Rosh Hashanah morning. With the Holocaust as background, we've addressed some not-so-simple questions: "How Could People Do This?" and "How Could

People Let This Be Done?"

Today's may be more challenging yet: "What Does All This—all this human evil—Tell Us About God?" Once again, we won't answer more than partially, and if you like, we can continue the discussion this afternoon.

Let's begin with something slightly easier: What is the hallmark of the Jewish people? What, more than anything else, has defined us through history? There are many ways to answer but if we asked enough people, I'm guessing that "our relationship with God" would get the most votes. According to the Torah, that relationship goes back to Abraham, who entered into a covenant with the "One Almighty." God basically set the terms. Abraham's job was to "walk with God and be righteous." In return, God would bless him and his descendants.

A few generations later, with Moses and the rest of the nation standing at Sinai, the covenant was expanded. We promised to keep the commandments. God, in return, would protect us. So how well has each party been keeping its end of the deal?

As far as we're concerned, the *machzor* outlines in some detail the numerous ways that we have fallen short. We've been reading and repeating them since last night. In fairness though, in many ways we have also been exemplary. God called us to be a "light unto the nations" and believe it or not, many people consider us to be that. Polls in recent years have shown that we Jews are the most admired religious group in America.

Yes! Go ahead and pinch yourself. It's true. Beyond that, Christians and Muslims, no small percentage of the planet's population, have adopted our "One God who demands righteousness" as their own. So let's say that our record is no worse than mixed.

How about God? How well has "He" held up his end of the bargain? Have we received that promised protection? Think of the Holocaust before you answer. More than a few people consider the Shoah to be a deal-

breaker, or, if you will, a covenant-breaker.

But Jews have been dealing with “gaps” in God’s promised protection for a very long time. Since before there were even Rabbis, over 2,000 years ago, Jews were struggling to fathom, in light of whatever the latest rampage, conquest, exile or enslavement may have been, how God could be doing this to us, or at least, letting it happen to us.

The Shoah was unique in many ways. But as far as our relationship with God is concerned, its questions are not new. We’ve been asking them personally, communally and existentially for a long time.

Before going any further let me say the following: I understand that many people become uncomfortable when their personal religious beliefs are disturbed. It is not my intention to upset anyone or anyone’s relationship with God. On the contrary, I like to think I’m here to strengthen it. But if you are comfortable with your understanding of the Divine and you’ve answered questions like these to your own satisfaction, feel free to doze off. It’s a long day. I won’t be offended, I promise.

On the other hand, if you’ve wrestled with these issues, if your relationship with God has its uncertainties, and especially, if the amount of tragedy in the world, past or present, distances you from a more living faith, you might want to come along.

I don’t claim to possess any higher or hidden truth. I only claim to have thought about the matter. Doing so has helped me enormously. Maybe it will for you, too.

Every rabbi in the last seventy years has been asked the question, “How can you-we believe in God after the Shoah?” For many years, my answer was pretty simple, and I thought, pretty good. I said I believed that the Holocaust was not God’s doing, it was our doing. God did not build the gas chambers. God did not murder the children. God did not march with the mobs. God did not fan the hatred. God did not put authoritarians in power. God was not a perpetrator. To blame

God for the Holocaust is a cop out, I said. It was a human endeavor from start to finish.

I was comfortable with that answer. And I still am. But eventually I realized that it was incomplete. Because “How can you believe in God after the Shoah?” is not just a question about who did what to whom, it is a question about that covenant, the one God made with Abraham and then with Moses and the people at Mt. Sinai. It is a question about protection.

And God did not protect us during the Shoah. Certainly not as well as the Allies, who unfortunately did not get their act together until we were 6 million fewer. And if God didn’t protect us then, of all times, what are we to make of that precious Covenant?

Again, it is not a new question. The Holocaust was not the first mass-scale Jewish tragedy. We have had to respond to things of this nature before. Some say we must have been so irredeemably evil that God decided the Shoah would make a fitting punishment. I suppose you can make that case, but I don’t know how many you’ll get to sign on with you. Certainly not me. However many Shabbas candles we didn’t light, whatever *treif* we may have eaten, whatever gossip or *lashon hara* we may have spread, however unethical we may have been personally or professionally, on no conceivable scale of justice does it add up to six million death sentences.

Others have said that God didn’t protect us because God was “hidden” or “eclipsed” during the Holocaust. Frankly, I have no idea what that means. The moon gets eclipsed. The *afikomen* gets hidden. Neither term makes much sense for a God who is supposedly ever-present.

Others say it happened so there would be a State of Israel or so the murdered could be rewarded in heaven. And there are those who say it happened because God is dead or even because there is no God at all.

None of these are satisfactory to me and I’ll explain why in a moment, but for some people they are and again, if you are one of them, I am not here to separate you from

---

*Jews have  
been dealing  
with “gaps”  
in God’s  
promised  
protection  
for a very  
long time.*

---

whatever beliefs keep you going.

But to me, if God is supposed to be the protector and doesn't protect, it doesn't mean that God is hiding, eclipsed or dead. It doesn't mean that there is no God. It doesn't even mean that God wanted it to happen. What it does mean is that God may not work in the way we have imagined.

The idea that God protects His favored ones is in many of our sacred texts. It is in the sacred texts of most religions. The idea predates even the Bible. Our idol worshipping pagan ancestors sacrificed everything from birds to oxen to children in the belief that God, or the gods, would keep them healthy, prosperous and safe in return. That may sound to us like a primitive notion, an idea that maybe had its day — but its day is not today. It may sound like an idea we need to outgrow, like so many others we've had to outgrow in order to reach a more honest understanding of the world around us.

Like the idea that the world was created in six days, or that the earth is at the center of the universe, or that we can tell our fate by looking at the zodiac. What if the idea that God protects his favored ones doesn't stand up to the evidence any better than beliefs like that?

Karen Armstrong, in her book "A History of God," notes that in both individuals and societies, conceptions of God can and do change over time. Making use of Nietzsche's famous phrase, she writes that for many in the modern world, "God is dead. This is not to say that God is really dead, but rather our ideas of God have not evolved...Our view of God has not kept pace with the complex questions the modern world has forced upon us."

Bullseye. In other words, the fact that God did not save us during the Shoah does not mean that God is dead. It may only mean the idea that God physically protects a particular and favored group of people is dead.

I am extremely grateful that my God is

still alive. After Auschwitz, Nagasaki, napalm and 9/11. After cancer, drunk drivers and tsunamis. After it all. Just because God does not supernaturally protect us from such things, righteous and faithful though we be, it does not necessarily follow that God is dead — or that there is no God.

Once again, each of us is free to believe as we choose. Some people say the fact of Jewish survival is evidence that God protects us. I've said that, too. And it may be true on a spiritual-communal level. But it is not really possible to say that it is true physically. Far too many innocent lives have been lost to claim otherwise.

On the other hand, if you believe that God does not protect us by intervening in history, or that maybe God did so in Biblical times but does so no longer, it does not automatically make you an atheist, or even a "bad Jew."

Maimonides, no less, did not make belief in an intervening God one of his 13 core principles of Jewish faith. So you're in good company.

Centuries before Maimonides, and he lived over 800 years ago, the Rabbis of the Talmud wrestled with these same issues. They looked at God in ways with which we may not be familiar. "Olam k'minhago noheg," they said —

"the world follows its rules."

In other words, we cannot expect God to suspend the laws of physics or alter the rules of nature — not to punish the wicked, not even to save the righteous.

Again, this does not mean there is no God. It does mean that whatever God there is, is likely different from the one who makes people ask, "How can you believe in God after the Holocaust?"

If we hope to live with a faith that is living and meaningful, as opposed to merely decorative, we may need to adjust our beliefs. It is far better that we do this than live with a broken faith, with a faith in which we don't have much faith.

Again, our Sages were more than aware of

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*Maimonides,  
no less, did not  
make belief in  
an intervening  
God one of his  
13 core  
principles  
of faith.*

---

the rampant unfairness and injustice in the world. They taught things like, “When the forces of destruction are unleashed, they do not distinguish between righteous and wicked.” And, “There is death without sin and suffering with-

out transgression.” They seemed to be under no illusions about God’s ability, or lack thereof, to protect even the best of us.

So, to return to our starting point, “What does the Shoah tell us about God?” Not much that has not been told before. God or no God, evil is real and it is our job, not God’s, to do our best to stop it. That may be the most important communal job we have.

This answer may have made you wonder: If God doesn’t intervene in human affairs, why are we constantly asking God to do so?

It’s a fair question. The *siddur* and *machzor* are filled with prayers that ask God to rearrange the natural order in order save us from it. We ask God to heal our sick, provide for our families and bring peace to the world. Students ask God to help them pass tests for which they haven’t studied. Sports fans ask God to help their team score touchdowns.

We do things like this because we’ve been taught and conditioned to. But this is the kind of faith, and the kind of God, that has a difficult time surviving disappointment, to say nothing of injustice.

The Rabbis were aware of this problem too. They taught, if you are entering your city and see a house burning, do not pray, “Please God, don’t let it be my house.” Whose house it is has already been determined and no prayer can change it. Similarly, if a woman is pregnant, she should not pray, “Please God, let the child be a girl” Or “a boy.” That, too, has already been determined. They called

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*“When the forces of destruction are unleashed, they do not distinguish between righteous and wicked.”*

---

such prayers *tefilot shav* — vain, ultimately empty prayers. And if we don’t want our faith to fail us, it is best to avoid them and those like them — and the God we may mistakenly believe is at the other end of them.

So why are all those prayers still in the book, Rabbi? Another good question. Maimonides taught that the Torah is written in everyday language for everyday people. It is filled with narrative, parable and metaphor. The wise can distinguish between its higher truths and the veils around them. The simple cannot, but they at least have something to hold on to. But anyone who seriously asks, “How can I believe in God after the Shoah?” deserves an answer intended for the wise, not the simple.

We have all noticed the supplementary readings that fill our *machzor* — and most *machzorim*. They are also in our year-round *siddur*. These readings, chosen by the editors from our vast tradition, do not usually speak of a protecting or an intervening God. They speak instead about the holiness that can be found in each of us and what we can do to strengthen it within and spread it beyond. We consider that holiness a manifestation of the Divine Spirit, a.k.a God.

It’s an open secret that most of us do not believe that God will alter the laws of nature on

our behalf just because we’ve asked nicely. We have too much experience to the contrary. We do a disservice, to our personal faith and to our spiritual lives when we say prayers we don’t really believe. Faith is far too important to treat that way.

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*Maimonides taught that the Torah is written in everyday language for everyday people.*

---

So once more, “What does the Holocaust tell us about God?” It tells us that God is not the sea-splitting, lightning bolt-throwing, Pharaoh-crushing superhero we find in so many Bible stories. But God can be found, before, during and after the Shoah, in the spirit of holiness



that lives within us and around us, in the spirit that calls us to live righteously, kindly and even heroically, in the spirit that says, repair the world and refine your selves.

This God may not intervene, but this God empowers. This God places responsibility for our lives, and the life of the planet, in our own two hands. This God is also a long way from

dead. And we are grateful for that.

After the Holocaust, after every horror that has ever been and after the ones that are yet to be, having faith in what is right and working to make the right real may well be the only thing that can save us.

May this Divine Spirit seal us with blessing in the new year. *G'mar tov* and *l'shana tovah*. ◇

### **“Be a B'racha”**

*Each year during the afternoon break of Yom Kippur, Rabbi Agler offers the small group who remains something he calls “fast talks.” This year he spoke of the poetry of Leonard Cohen, and then...to the tune of Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” sang (in his own unique way) his own special lyrics for the song, written from his rabbinic perspective and accompanied by co-conspirator Dave Feder. We thought you’d enjoy seeing the lyrics. Sing along if you know the melody.*

Now I've heard there was a secret cave  
Where Rashbi hid for many days  
And thought he heard God sayin', "Overthrow,  
yeah."  
He looked to the left  
And looked to the right  
Then burned down everything in sight,  
"Back to the cave 'til you become a b'racha."  
Be a b'racha. (4x)

Hate comes from fear we all  
can see  
It has a home in you and me  
That we need to, find a way  
to, overcome yeah.  
And those who say “Let’s  
march and arm”  
Are those who do the great-  
est harm  
Better that we, get some  
hope and, be a  
b'racha.  
Be a b'racha. (4x)



We've thought about the refugees  
And how they've crossed the seven seas  
Just looking for a safe place to call home yeah.  
And since we shouted “Never again”  
We will stand up and not abstain  
As together, us and them, become a b'racha.  
Be a b'racha. (4x)

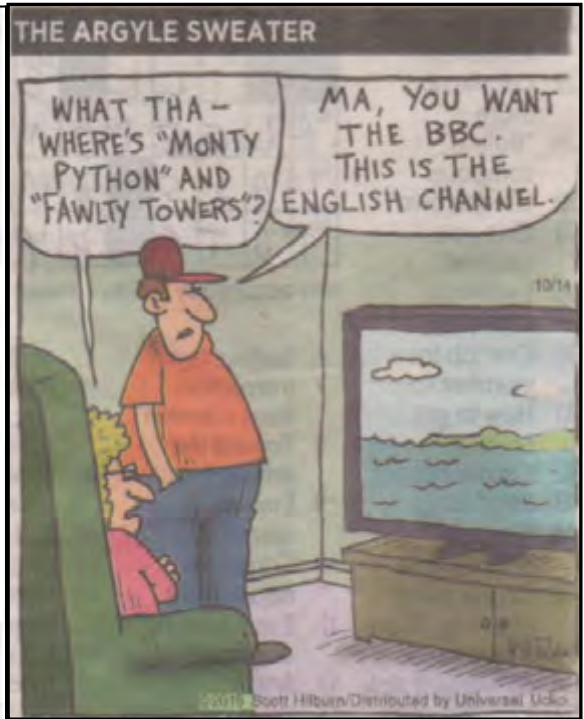
I'm not here to lie, it's pretty tough  
The game of life can get quite rough  
And that's the truth, even  
when they say they  
love ya.  
But in the end the  
question, Jew,  
Is what does God want  
me to do?  
The answer: find a way  
to be a b'racha.  
Be a b'racha. (4x)



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## 2. Palace Training & Education Center

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December 2016

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1 Kislev - 2 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Steve Hartz & Steve Steinbock  <i>Laurie Blum &amp; Gary Margolis, Steve Hartz</i>	3
4  Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	5	6	7	8	9 Joyce Peckman & Gloria Avner <i>Jim Williams, Barbara &amp; Richard Knowles</i>	10  Rabbi Agler Service 10 a.m.
11  KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16  Bernie Ginsberg  <i>Sam Weis</i>	17
18	19	20	21  Homeless Service noon Settler's Park	22	23 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely  <i>Beth Hayden</i>	24  Chanukah First Night Candles
25  First Day of Chanukah	26	27	28	29	30 Beth Hayden  <i>Chanukah Dinner 5:30 Linda Pollack</i>	31

## 2016 - 2017 KJCC Officers and Board

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Lisa Richardson Rutherford

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**  
P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida  
33070@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message Sam Vinicur



There are times when I wish I owned a crystal ball. I don't mean some perfectly formed glass *objet* that sits on a shelf and occasionally delights my eye with its useless though miraculous roundness. (And collects dust, which I suppose has its own date with destiny and has to go somewhere.) I'm talking about one that really works. You know, like the one Margaret Hamilton had where she could watch Dorothy and Toto walking toward her along the Yellow Brick Road. And upon which she rubbed her impossibly bony fingers while cackling, with equal parts malevolence and conviction, "I'll get you, my pretty!" (Not to flack or play witch's advocate for the wrong side here, but you'll remember that when Dorothy's house came down in Munchkinland it did, after all, land squarely upon and quite thoroughly kill her sister. A little empathy here, people.)

Who among us wouldn't love to know what's to happen before it does? The benefits seem endless. (Lottery numbers. Used cars. First dates.) On the other hand, philosophers and thinkers (killjoys and reality-mongers all) have long warned against attempting to know the future. Foreknowledge would utterly spoil the pleasures of unraveling complex book or movie plots. Imagine how

blasé and dulled we'd all become if no day ever offered a surprise. Then there's the single emotion – hope – that undergirds both religion and romance, major staples of human existence. The motivating (and civilizing) power of hope would disappear for those who already know for certain what happens next.

Okay (sigh), a functioning crystal ball isn't such a great idea. But high season is about to begin at KJCC. I need no magic powers to predict that you're going to love what we have planned. There will be lots of films. One will dramatize the famed 13<sup>th</sup> century Judaism/Christianity disputation in Spain led by Nachmanides. (He won, so he was allowed to live. No pressure.) Rabbi Agler has agreed to lead a post-film discussion. The main event of the season, our big fundraiser, will be a live music concert, but this time it's a two-fer. We'll once again be presenting the amazing Dave Feder. But another renowned KJCC member will join Dave on stage: Sam Weis is an internationally acclaimed 12-string guitarist, singer and composer. We'll present guest speakers and other special events. And our annual dinner celebrating our advertisers. And outings, some educational, some strictly social, via our Activities Committee.

The wonder of KJCC is about to be on full display. Buckle up.  
Chai-Lights December 2016 3

# Nosh

## Shabbat Morning with Rabbi Agler

On December 10th, nearly the darkest day of the year, we will join with Rabbi Richard Agler, our KJCC Resident Scholar, for a morning of enlightenment. If you have been to any of his other services, from High Holidays to Bar Mitzvah to previous Saturday morning Torah learning services, you know what a worthwhile way this is to spend a Shabbat morning. You also know that he starts precisely at 10:00 a.m. Come early. You will be engaged by Rabbi Agler's warm, informal teaching style and won't want to miss a moment. There will be a *kiddush* afterwards.

## Mourning Keys Homeless on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

It has become a KJCC tradition, begun years ago by Carol and Steve Steinbock, to join in honoring the homeless who have died each year in the Florida Keys. Rev. Pam Feeser has once again asked KJCC to participate in this National Memorial Day for the Homeless. Fittingly, the ceremony takes place on the darkest day of the year – the Winter Solstice, and in a park near the ocean where homeless people congregate. Come to Settler's Park in Tavernier, Oceanside, MM 91.8, adjacent to the Sunshine Market. The service starts at noon. We may help by reading names, lighting candles, saying prayers and/or blessing each person who has left us. They had sad stories and many were veterans. We will be their family mourners and say *kaddish* for them.

### Meditation Garden Brick

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
RONALD HORN, 1932–2016,  
KJCC FOUNDER  
DEVOTED TO FAMILY,  
FRIENDS AND FAITH.  
FOREVER LOVED AND MISSED.

*By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking*

### Oneg Sponsors for December 2016

*December 2nd* - Laurie Blum and Gary Margolis in honor of their anniversary. Also Steve Hartz to celebrate wife Jan's birthday.

*December 9th* - Jim Williams; Barbara and Richard Knowles in remembrance of lost loved ones: may their memories be a blessing.

*December 16th* - Sam Weis to honor Renee's birthday.

*December 23rd* - Zap's birthday

*December 30th* - Channukah Dinner sponsored by Linda Pollack.

### Coming: "18 Strings and Attitude!"

Get ready for a unique combination concert at KJCC. David Feder, our favorite Hillbilly Flamenco artist, who transcends the explicable and makes crowds happy, will be playing 6 of those strings with lots of that attitude. Sam Weis, new-ish KJCC member and soon-to-be co-president of Sisterhood, is a nationally known, well-respected 12-string guitar artist. Uncategorizable, fluid and complex, she performs compelling original soundscapes and songs you'll want to hear sung again. Yes, that makes a total of 18 strings. Both performers share great patter and stories. It will be a peak experience evening.

Circle Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, on your calendars now; you will be the first to know when tickets go on sale (\$25). Our artists not only have professional chops; they have legions of serious fans. Before we open ticket sales to the public, we will give our members an exclusive heads-up for limited ticket sales. Contact Linda Kaplan, event chairperson, for information on becoming an "Angel" with two levels of opportunity for concert sponsorship.

### Meditation Garden Brick

IN MEMORY OF LES REITMAN,  
WHO OPENED OUR EYES  
ABOUT THE KEYS.  
GOD BLESS.

*By Marshall Kaplan & Family*

## December Birthdays

1st	Paul Hudson
2nd	Joseph Burke Grossman
2nd	Marshall A. Field
3rd	Rick McNew
3rd	Jackie LePree
3rd	Ashley Berk
3rd	Cammie Berk
4th	Judith Klein
4th	Jodi Yeager
4th	Jan Hartz
5th	Geri Smith
5th	Joseph Beth
5th	Stuart Sax
6th	Leslie Boruszak
6th	Haley Borisoff
7th	Franklin Rose
7th	Vada Charity (Bella) Greenbaum
7th	Rhett William Casey
9th	George Swartz
10th	Susan Greenbaum
11th	Sara Rose Friedman
11th	Renee Salant
12th	Laurie Blum
13th	Sarah Boruszak
13th	Robin Margulies Juenger
16th	Samuel Klimpl
16th	Diana Lal
17th	Ariel Fishman
17th	Lilian Forbes
17th	Bruce Forman
17th	Jeffrey Schocket
18th	Emelyn Anne Juenger
19th	Terry Willner-Tainow
19th	Lorena Kaufman
19th	Jonah Gross
20th	Jennifer VanArtsdalen
20th	Alan Schulberg
21st	Roberta McNew
21st	Micah Silverman
22nd	Lisa Miller
22nd	Stuart Smith
22nd	Laura Molly Friedman
23rd	Sydney Pomenti
25th	Lori Kay

26th	Steven Smith
27th	Steve Kasinof
28th	Elaine Schulberg
28th	Kayla Silverman
28th	Emily Sherman
28th	Ira Krieger
28th	Michael Klimpl
29th	Joan Stark
30th	Ellen Bloom
31st	Michele Riley
31st	Bob Pratt

### Meditation Garden Brick

IN MEMORY OF MY DEAR FRIEND  
TAKEN TOO SOON  
CAROL STEINBOCK

*By Elena Diaz-Miranda*

### December Anniversaries

	Years
<b>5th</b>	<b>Gunther &amp; Shirley Karger.....62</b>
7th	Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum.....6
<b>8th</b>	<b>Lawrence &amp; Pearl Jacobs.....63</b>
10th	Linda & Bruce Pincus.....27
<b>11th</b>	<b>Arthur Lee &amp; Johanna Willner.....51</b>
11th	Jamie & Laura Goodman.....11
14th	David & Pat VanArtsdalen.....35
18th	Larry & Deborah Weiss .....33
27th	Dave Mont & Georgia Landau.....5

### BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**PATTY SILVER,**  
BELOVED WIFE OF  
JEFFREY SCHOCKET

*by Muriel & George Swartz*



## "Abstraction," a novel by Sam Weis

Imagine a piece of art and a style of painting so inexplicably powerful, it could change a viewer's personality, so true it could flip every long-held attitude as quickly as turning a switch. What if it could change the world and morph fear and loathing into cooperative contentment? It's a unique premise, and the two quirky but serious artists who are the main characters in this first novel are astounded by the phenomenon themselves. Who knew the dangerous forces such unexpected inventiveness could unleash?

Chock full of twists and turns, brimming with well-developed characters, the novel mixes wacky laugh-out-loud extremists with a cast ranging from scary to warm. The Pacific Northwest coastal setting is described so well the place almost becomes a character. The story takes off at a brisk clip when the paintings are first shown (unintentionally) to people on the street outside a gallery and never slows down. Serious danger is spiked with humor when an out-of-control tour bus in the shape of a duck careens down a hill during a parade at which a painting is about to be wielded almost as a weapon.

Meet these characters and follow the breathless pace yourself. A copy of "Abstraction" has been donated to our library. Check it out and have a good time on your journey, guided perfectly by the imagination of a writer who is not only a wonderful storyteller but is also a master artist herself. (See Sam Weis' series of paintings in the hallway leading to KJCC's sanctuary, part of our "B'reishit" member artist exhibit.)

—Gloria



## Early "Eye on the Arts" Idea

If you are reluctant to drive off the rock for your high quality cultural entertainment fix, there is no better strategy than buying a season ticket for the six concerts presented by the Florida Keys Concert Association (FLKCA) this winter. The concerts will be presented on Tuesday evenings in January and February at the Island Community Church, MM 83.3 bayside in Islamorada. Seats are comfortable, sightlines are good, acoustics work well and almost all of the volunteers that make this annual event happen are members of KJCC. Our Joyce Peckman is president of the entire organization this year. A season ticket costs \$110.00 for all six concerts. The opening performance, on January 16<sup>th</sup>, will be by the world-famous Canadian Brass (\$40 for a single ticket). For a full schedule and to buy tickets on line, check [floridakeysconcerts.com](http://floridakeysconcerts.com) or talk to Joyce.

### Meditation Garden Brick

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
NATHAN AND LINDA DUBOWSKY

By Lyn & Gary Sherman

## KJCC's Chanukah Dinner/Celebration

This year's Chanukah party, replete with a creative variety of *latkes*, other home-made delicious dishes, and the usual applesauce and sour cream fixings, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday evening, December 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be more sparkly and brighter than ever. Lucky us. There will be no charge to members for this *mishpocha*-based potluck, thanks to the generosity of Linda Pollack, who has sponsored this event as far back as we can remember. Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett to RSVP and co-ordinate the dish you will be bringing ([hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)). Jules Seder is back among us and may be persuaded to lead us in traditional holiday songs. And since this night will mark the eve of New Year's Eve, let's bring on the sparkling bubbly a wee bit early this year and have a champagne toast to the secular New Year. L'Chaim!

Onward to a bright, safe, and harmonious 2017.

### **New Chai-Lights Editor Needed**

We hope you've enjoyed seeing and reading Chai-Lights these past years, its information about KJCC, Jewish history, the Jewish cultural experience and photo reports about the many events and special people of KJCC throughout both the high season and all year. Would you like to be the one managing and chronicling all that in the future? Deep experience isn't necessary, but caring and creative energy are. Please let us know if you're the one.

### **Meditation Garden Brick**

FOR MARYON GOULD,  
WHO LOVED MAH JONGG  
AS WE LOVED HER.

*The Mahj Girls 2016*

## **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 Beth Hayden at 305-773-0067 or email her at [Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net](mailto:Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net).

**KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Call Mitch Harvey, 303-521-5240, to arrange your donation.

**KJCC BOOKPLATES for *siddurim* or *Chumashim*:** 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.

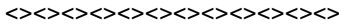
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked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

# *In Memoriam December 2016*

In Memory Of

**Alex Avner**

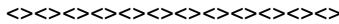
By Gloria Avner



In Memory Of

**Rose Beth**

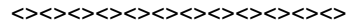
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

**J.D. Stanlake**

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

**Daniel Birnbaum**

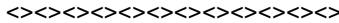
By Norbert Birnbaum



In Memory Of

**Joseph M. Bloom**

By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

**Teddy Sharenow**

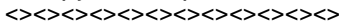
By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

**Betty Abramson**

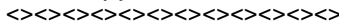
By Joel & Toby Bofshever



In Memory Of

**Burton V. Boruszak**

By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

**Julius Kohlenbrener**

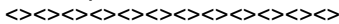
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

**George Paul Tomor**

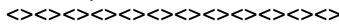
By Barbara A. Caley



In Memory Of

**Leatrice Tomor**

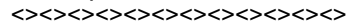
By Barbara A. Caley



In Memory Of

**Harriette T. Cline**

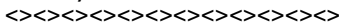
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

**Eva Levine**

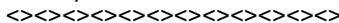
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

**Morris Hitzig**

By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**David M. Orans**

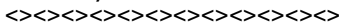
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

**Sidney P. Finklestein**

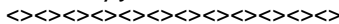
By Max Finklestein



In Memory Of

**Harry Friedman**

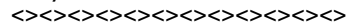
By Jane Friedman



In Memory Of

**Harry Wolfe**

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson



In Memory Of

**Stephan Ban**

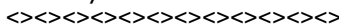
By Franklin & Judy Greenman



In Memory Of

**Sylvia Sarah Grossman**

By Stuart Grossman



In Memory Of

**Fannie Zacks**

By Jerry & Barbara Herson

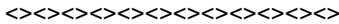


# *In Memoriam December 2016*

In Memory Of

**Dinah Levy**

By Yardena Kameley



In Memory Of

**Kurt Kluger**

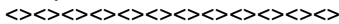
By Nancy Kluger



In Memory Of

**Sue Reiff**

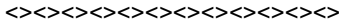
By Rick & Roberta McNew



In Memory Of

**Ruth Greenwald**

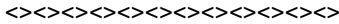
By Paul & Susan Roberts



In Memory Of

**Sylvia L. Singer**

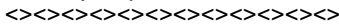
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

**Steve Cimkowski**

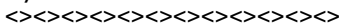
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Rose Beth**

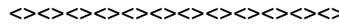
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

**David M. Kaplan**

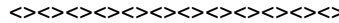
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

**Gary Kreitman**

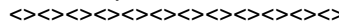
By Marcia Kreitman & John Hawver



In Memory Of

**Claire Lempel**

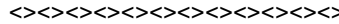
By Linda Pincus



In Memory Of

**Raymond Martell**

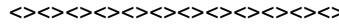
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

**Murray Blinder**

By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

**Bernard Swartz**

By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**J.D. Stanlake**

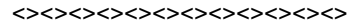
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

**William Kay**

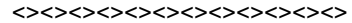
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

**Charles Margolis**

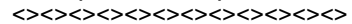
By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum



In Memory Of

**Clayton Allan Rakov**

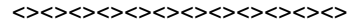
By Neal & Cathy Rakov



In Memory Of

**Rhonie Lee Klipper**

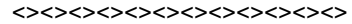
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

**Peter F. Steinberg**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Joseph M. Bloom**

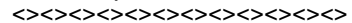
By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

**Alex Avner**

By Gloria Avner





# KJCC Gift Shop

*It's the Time to Shop-  
FREE Chanukah candles with a  
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## Remember us for Chanukah



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**Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585**

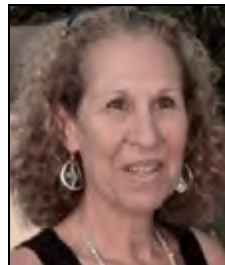
**Sydney! Faye-Davis (305) 613-3010**

**GIFTS**

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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



I love this time of year. We have recovered from the High Holidays, the snowbirds are returning to the Keys, and the spirit of our collective holiday season is in the air. November was fun. We gathered for our monthly Sisterhood meeting, reviewed our holiday season so far, discussed new ideas for the upcoming year, and rejoiced in a job well done by all.

We counted 12 events in October that Sisterhood was involved in, where we nourished (literally) our stomachs, as well as our souls. From a *haymish* Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner to the Yom Kippur break-fast, we provided dinners, lunches, a chocolate oneg extravaganza, two bayside havdalas, onegs in the succah and the Ruth Richardson social hall, food for a shiva and a bar mitzvah; we covered all the bases. We gathered, we connected, we fressed, and we supported each other. That is what Sisterhood is all about.

My term as Sisterhood president will be over at the end of this month. My future involvement with the Sisterhood will be as co-vice president with our current vice president, Susan Gordon. Beth Hayden will continue as our treasurer, and Oneg chairperson. Please contact Beth at [Haden.Eizabeth@Comcast.net](mailto:Haden.Eizabeth@Comcast.net) for your special *simchas* and occasions. Your participation is what keeps our weekly Onegs so special and meaningful. Geri Smith will continue as our recording secretary, and we have added the position of corresponding secretary, for which we are actively seeking a volunteer at this time. Please contact me if you are interested in this position.

I am so pleased to announce that our future Sisterhood presidents will be the dynamic team of Renee Salant and Sam Weis. They have recently joined our KJCC Sisterhood and shul and have jumped right in with their incredible energy and generous spirits. I could not feel any more confident in the future leadership of Sisterhood and I am thrilled to

be continuing to work with this incredible team of women.

We thank everyone who has supported Sisterhood with their generosity of time, energy, donations, and sponsorships. Our weekly onegs, monthly dinners, and special events like the Shabbos Project will continue because of your commitments and help.

The blessing and eating of challah is one of the mainstays of the celebration of Shabbat. Getting together and making challah for Shabbat is a huge mitzvah and a lot of fun. This year for the second time, we joined thousands of people in the worldwide "Challah Bake" as we gathered together to prepare our challah dough, braid and design our challahs, and enjoy spending time together with our 'happy hour'.

Bringing our challahs back and presenting them on the table during our Shabbos Project Shabbat dinner reminded me of "show and tell", or in this case, "show and eat!" Yummy! Our delicious meat dinner, with our challahs, was a wonderful way to relax, and regroup after a hectic month.

So now, in the beginning of December, the earth is still revolving and we are all continuing on. With December we have Chanukah. Love it! So mark your calendars for our annual "latkefest" on Friday December 30th, at 6 pm. Thanks to the generosity of Linda Pollock, there is no charge for this scrumptious potluck dinner. Please let me know if you plan on attending. RSVP to [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com).

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday and look forward to seeing you all at the Chanukah party. Bring your menorah and join your KJCC mishpocha in bringing more light and blessings into your life. ◇

**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

# **Memorial for the Homeless**

**Wednesday, December 21, 2016**

**12 p.m.**

**OLD SETTLER'S PARK**

**MM 92 OCEANSIDE**

**We will be joining our friends from  
around the Keys to mark this annual  
observance honoring the homeless who  
died in the Keys during 2016.**

**All are welcome.**

For information contact Gloria Avner  
geetavner@gmail.com: (305) 619-0216

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## **Bookplates**

Swartz, George & Muriel

## **In Memory of**

Patty Silver

Tallent, Lillian  
Temkin, Robert  
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Samuel Tallent  
Kenny Temkin  
Diana Wolfe

## **General Fund**

Begam, Delores  
Beinfest, Bennett & Deborah  
Ginsberg, Bernard  
Mattison, Brad & Susan  
Milstein, Marilyn  
Shaw, Jonathan & Jill

## **In Honor of**

Please pray for us.

In honor of Sharon Trost's  
60<sup>th</sup> birthday

Stein, Richard

## **Yizkor Book 2016**

Agler, Rabbi Richard and Mindy  
Avner, Gloria  
Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary  
Berk-Moshe, Zoe  
Berman, Sylvia  
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark  
Bofshever, Joel and Toby  
Bolton, William and Donna  
Boruszak, Joan  
Brodie, Thomas & Renee  
Calev, Barbara  
Chasteen, Mrs. Dale  
Cline, Meredith  
Coltman, Barney  
Conklin, Wes & Rita  
Davidson, Foster  
Emkey, Frank & Gerri  
Feinberg, Arthur  
Friedman, Jane  
Goldfinger, David and Toby  
Goodman, Dr. Jamie and Laura  
Gordon, Susan  
Gould, Joe & Marla Berenson  
Grant, Andrew & Randi  
Greenbaum, Marilyn  
Greenman, Frank & Judy  
Gross, David and Patti  
Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Harvey, Mitchell  
Hayden, Elizabeth  
Horn, Dorothy  
Horn, Susan  
Isenberg, Patricia  
Itkin, Arthur  
Kamely, Yardena  
Kaminstein, Beth

## **Meditation Garden**

Diaz-Miranda, Elena

## **In Memory of**

brick – dear friend  
Carol Steinbock

## **Sisterhood General Fund**

Avner, Gloria  
Emkey, Gerri  
Horn, Susan  
Margolis, Gary & Laurie Blum  
Margulies, Stan & Jenny  
Pearl, Scott & Mary Ann  
Peckman, Joyce  
Savar, Sheree  
Steinbock, Steve  
Tainow, Terry  
Tobin, Andrew  
Weis, Sam & Salant, Renee

Shiva – Patty Silver

Shiva – Patty Silver

## **Sisterhood Onegs**

Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Weis, Sam

## **In Honor of**

Jan's birthday  
Renee's birthday

## **Yahrzeits**

Boruszak, Joan  
Isenberg, Patricia  
Kluger, Nancy  
Steinbock, Stephen

Harold Goldstein  
Helene Tulsky  
Fanny Kluger, Kurt Kluger,  
Neel Christensen, Eliza Christensen  
Carol Steinbock



**(2016 Yizkor Book, cont.):**

Kaplan, Marshall & Myra  
Klimpl, Michael  
Kreitman, Marcia  
Krispel, Michael  
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica  
Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie  
Marmar, David and Pamela  
Peckman, Joyce  
Pollack, Linda  
Rakov, Neal and Cathy  
Riley, Michele  
Rose, Frank  
Roy, Medina  
Sachs, Joseph and Susan  
Schulberg, Alan and Elaine  
Schur, Lee

Shabathai, Joseph and Katherine  
Shapiro, Libby  
Sheinker, Miltra  
Silverman, Morton & Gene  
Singer, Mary Lee  
Smith, Steven and Barbara  
Smith, Stuart and Geri  
Solas, Elaine  
Starr, Adam & Judy  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Swartz, George & Muriel  
Tallent, Lillian  
Temkin, Dr. Robert  
Willner, Arthur Lee and Johanna  
Willner, Sherrie  
Wohl, Joan P  
Wolfe, Larry and Dorothy

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

*Yahrzeit Plaques:* KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

*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 wonders 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, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### But Can I Get a Kosher Pastrami on Rye?

The United Nations will begin serving kosher food in its cafeterias. Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the U.N., made the request to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, pointing out that many U.N. employees and diplomats from around the world keep kosher. Cafeterias at the U.N. already offer vegetarian, vegan and *halal* selections. (*Halal* means "permissible" and is used to refer to anything – not just food – that is allowed under Islamic law.) Also of note, this year, for the first time, no official meetings took place on Yom Kippur at the U.N.'s New York headquarters and Jewish employees were allowed to miss work without using vacation hours. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 10-31-16)

### A Breakthrough in a Cure for AIDS

Israeli scientists have discovered a breakthrough drug which causes HIV-infected cells to self-destruct without harming the body's healthy cells. The drug was developed at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is currently being tested at the *Kaplan Medical Center* in Rehovot, a city just south of Tel Aviv. In testing, the drug was inserted into test tubes containing the blood of ten AIDS patients. The HIV virus count in the blood samples decreased by as much as 97 percent in just eight days. The active ingredient in the drug is a peptide that was developed by Abraham Loyter and Assaf Friedler at the Hebrew University. The peptide creates several copies of the virus's DNA to enter the infected cell, instead of just one copy, causing the cell to destroy itself. "We are destroying the cells, so there is no chance that the virus will awaken one day; because there are no cells, there will be no cells that contain the virus," Professor Loyter explained. HIV is currently treated with a cocktail of drugs that slow the progression of the disease but the virus is never entirely gone. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 11-1-16)

### A New, Significant Discovery

The *Israeli Antiquities Authority* (IAA) recently revealed a document written on papyrus containing the earliest known source to mention the word *Jerusalem* outside of the Bible. Two lines of ancient Hebrew script have undergone a paleographic examination of the letters and a C14 analysis was completed. The results indicate that the artifact dates from the seventh century BCE, the time of the First Temple. The word *Jerusalem* is clearly visible and most of the letters are legible. The document was stolen from one of the Judean Desert caves by a group of antiquities robbers and was recaptured in an operation by the IAA's Unit for the Prevention of Antiquities Robbery. This artifact is a rare and original shipping document indicating the payment of taxes or transfer of goods to storehouses in Jerusalem, the capital city of the kingdom of Judah at that time. The document shows that it was a shipment of wine and it came from the settlement of Na'arat. (Na'arat is referred to as representing the border between *Ephraim* and *Benjamin* in *Joshua 16:7*.) Dr. Eitan Klein, deputy director of the IAA's Unit for the Prevention of Antiquities Robbery, said: "The document represents extremely rare evidence of the existence of an organized administration in the Kingdom of *Judah*. It underscores the centrality of Jerusalem as the economic capital of the kingdom in the second half of the seventh century BCE. According to the Bible, the kings *Menashe*, *Amon*, or *Josiah* ruled in Jerusalem during this time; however, it is not possible to know for certain which of the kings of Jerusalem was the recipient of the shipment of wine." Israeli biblical scholar Shmuel Ahituv confirmed the scientific importance of the document, stating that to date no other docu-

ments written on papyrus and dating to the First Temple period have been discovered in Israel, except one from Wadi Murabba'at. (This is where some of the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Jewish fighters hid out in the caves of Wadi Murabba'at during the Bar Kochba revolt, leaving behind documents that include some letters signed by Shimon Bar Kochba himself. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 10-26-16)

### **“A Basic Tenet of Justice”**

In an unprecedented ruling, Israel's state-sanctioned rabbinical authorities have dramatically extended their reach by punishing a man for his son's actions. The rabbinical court system seized the passport of an American businessman and his wife, refusing to allow them to leave Israel, claiming that the father has helped his son live a life of luxury in the United States, refusing to grant his wife a *get* (religious divorce) and leaving her languishing in Israel. (The estranged wife suffered a stroke and became partially paralyzed shortly before requesting the divorce.) For ten years, the man has ignored his wife's request for a divorce as well as a court ruling for alimony. In Israel, the rabbinate presides over marriage and divorce for its Jewish citizens. There are no civil marriages. (Christians and Muslims marry according to their own religious customs.) A Jewish woman needs the approval of her husband to end a marriage, thus granting men enormous power in divorce. Women not granted a *get* are often forced to relinquish child custody rights or alimony payments to convince husbands to give consent, leaving thousands of women – known as *agunot* (“chained women”) – in legal limbo and unable to move on with their lives. For many years now, the rabbinical courts have been able to impose sanctions against husbands who refuse to grant a *get*. They have frozen bank accounts, but never before have they punished a husband's parent. The father in this case is a wealthy member of New York's Hasidic community who runs a real estate company. The rabbinical court argued that by providing his son with a job and stipend, the father is responsible for the

son's defiance. (His lawyers are appealing to the Supreme Court.) “One of the most basic tenets of justice is that a person carries his own sins and is not punished for the sins of others,” read a statement from the man's lawyers. “The father has no control over his son.” Under Israeli law, the court does have the jurisdiction to take the measures it has taken. The New York-based *Organization for the Resolution of Agunot*, which works to help solve Jewish divorce disputes, indicated that the husband – who has a girlfriend – splits his time between a home in Brooklyn and a luxury residence near Miami, both owned by his parents. ([www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org), 11-7-16)

### **Update**

In the November issue of *Chai-Lights* we reported that Larry Sanders, elder brother of former Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders, was running for the House of Commons seat vacated by former British Prime Minister David Cameron. Sanders failed to be elected to the British Parliament. He came in 4<sup>th</sup> out of 14 hopefuls. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 10-23-16)

### **In Memoriam**

★ Leonard Cohen, legendary poet, novelist and folk-rock singer-songwriter widely regarded as “a master of language” and one of only an elite few of music's most revered and prolific visionaries, died in early November. He was 82. Cohen's name was often mentioned as deserving of the *Nobel Prize for Literature* that was recently awarded to Bob Dylan. Born in Montreal, Cohen had a strong Jewish home life. (Even though he spent five years at a California Zen retreat where he was ordained a Buddhist monk, he claimed that he never stopped thinking of himself as a Jew.) Cohen was the grandson of two distinguished Canadian rabbinic scholars, one of whom wrote a thesaurus of the Talmud; the other was instrumental in the founding of Montreal's modern Jewish community. Cohen's songs have been performed and recorded by scores of singers. His first hit song, *Suzanne*, was made famous by folk singer Judy Collins and his most famous song, *Hallel-*

*Iujah*, an allusion to the Psalms and stories from the Jewish prophets, is said to have been recorded hundreds of times by a variety of artists. The song was featured in the film *Shrek*. Many saw Cohen as “the bard of gloom and doom.” His recordings have even been called “music to slit your wrists to.” (Throughout his life, Cohen did suffer from depression.) His lyrics were infused with Biblical imagery and Jewish liturgy. Many of his songs adapted well known Jewish prayers: his song *Who By Fire* is an adaptation of *Unetaneh Tokef*, the High Holy Day prayer about the *Day of Judgment* describing the various ways people will live or die, succeed or suffer over the coming year. This past September, Cohen released his last album, *You Want it Darker*, said to be his most Jewish album. In it, he talks about preparing for death using translated phrases from the *Kaddish*. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 11-11-16)

★ Phil Chess, co-founder of groundbreaking *Blues Record Company*, died at the end of October. He was 95. Chess, born Fiszal Czyz in Czestochowa, Poland, immigrated to Chicago with his family in 1928. He and his brother Leonard started *Chess Records* in Chicago in 1950. They would go on to sign Blues and R&B artists Muddy Waters, Etta James, Bo Diddley, Howlin’ Wolf, Buddy Guy and Chuck Berry. *Chess Records* has been credited with making Chicago the epicenter of early blues rock and laying the groundwork for rock music of the late 1960s and ‘70s. The Chess brothers (Leonard died in 1969 at age 52) were inducted into the *Blues Hall of Fame* in 1995, and Phil Chess won the *Recording Academy’s Trustees Award* in 2013. ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 10-20-16)

### Did You Know....

★ Kobi Ifrach, a 20-year-old Israeli, was named Mr. Universe in the junior division, the first Israeli to win the junior title. Ifrach is from Zichron Yaakov, a town near Haifa. The competition took place at the end of October in Birmingham, England. Ifrach has won numerous titles in Israel. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 11-1-16)

★ Republican Eric Greitens, a former Navy SEAL whose seven military awards include the

Bronze Star, has become the first Jewish governor of Missouri. Greitens, 42, is a former Rhodes Scholar and the founder of *The Mission Continues*, a nonprofit that helps veterans integrate back into their communities through volunteer work. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 11-11-16)

★ In the 2016 *Readers’ Choice Awards* survey, readers of *Conde Nast Traveler* cast more than 100,000 votes for their favorite cities in the world outside of the United States. Readers of the luxury travel magazine voted both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv among the 40 “best cities in the world.” Jerusalem came in at number 28 and was praised for its “cutting-edge art scene” and growing number of notable restaurants. Tel Aviv, which the magazine called “one of the world’s most vibrant, diverse cities,” ranked number 17, with praise of its nightlife, beaches and museums along with the world’s largest concentration of International or Bauhaus-style buildings: more than 4,000 of them comprise Tel Aviv’s *White City*, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (The buildings were constructed by German-Jewish immigrants in the 1920s and 30s.) According to *Traveler* readers, the world’s top city in 2016 was Tokyo. ([www.cntraveler.com](http://www.cntraveler.com), 10-17-16)

★ Vice President Joe Biden and actor Kirk Douglas were honored by the *World Jewish Congress* (WJC) recently for their contributions to the well-being of Israel and the Jewish people. Upon receiving the WJC’s *Theodor Herzl Award*, Biden said, “We have to speak out every time anti-Semitism rears its ugly head...regardless of where it is, regardless of when. Indifference is silence and silence is consent.” He condemned both the anti-Israel *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions* (BDS) movement and the recent UNESCO resolution denying the Jewish link to holy sites in Jerusalem. Legendary actor, producer, director and philanthropist Kirk Douglas received the WJC’s inaugural *Teddy Kollek Award for the Advancement of Jewish Culture*. (The award is named after the late Israeli most famous as long-time mayor of Jerusalem.) Douglas’ son Michael accepted the award for his almost 100-year-old father. ◇



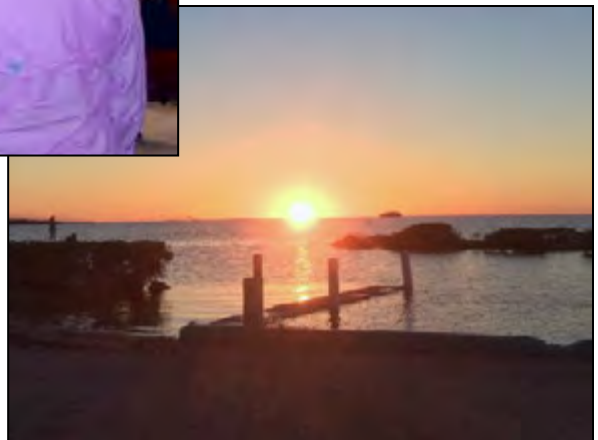
# Photo Gallery



As you saw last month, we decorated our Sukkah on Sunday, October 16th. The following Friday, as we do each year, we celebrated Sukkot in our outdoor Sukkah after services. Everyone got a chance to shake the lulav and sniff the etrog. It's amazing how many people we can get in there.

The following evening, Saturday, October 22nd, all of KJCC was once again invited to the bayside home of Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler for dinner (provided by Sisterhood) and Havdalah in their personal sukkah.

Rabbi Agler led the service, of course, and as always taught us new things about the Biblically mandated holiday of Sukkot. Photos are on both this page and the next.







# Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah

*Monday, September 24th offered a double celebration at KJCC. The Jewish calendar said that Shemini Atzeret, the final day of Sukkot (which includes the year's second of four formal Yizkor services), was to occur on the 24th. And that Simchat Torah, the joyous celebration of the end of the annual cycle of Torah readings and the beginning of the next, was to take place the next day, on Tuesday the 25th. We decided to give the calendar a little nudge and combine them on the same night. As you'll see on this and four succeeding pages, it turned out to be a very good idea.*



**New member Shirley Karger, left, and Mindy Agler lit the candles for the Yom Tov, above. Bernie led both services, center. It wasn't long before the dancing and singing began.**





Simchat Torah (cont)...





All those on one side of the sanctuary were called up together to stand under the tallit and receive a blessing. It sounds a little corny, yes, but everyone there was moved by it. They did know something about us, those ancient rabbis...

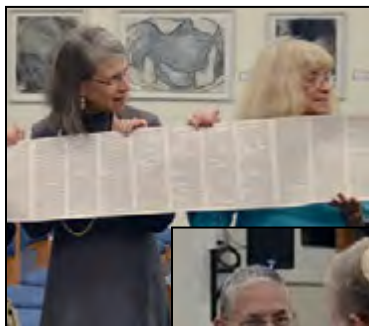
*Simchat Torah, (cont.):*



As he always does, Rabbi Agler helped us with the proper rituals of re-winding each Torah back to where the next reading cycle begins...B'reishit. There's a special prayer for the final reading (above) and another for the first (at right). Did you know that the very last word that appears in the Torah is Yisrael?



**Simchat Torah (cont.):**



**Formalities over, it was time for the event many had come specifically to be part of...Rabbi Agler's famous seven-minute (yes, we time him) simultaneous translation of the entire Torah, B'reishit through Deuteronomy. (Unrolled, even our student Torah extends from the bemah way out into the hall.) Smiles and laughter ensued. His time? 6:41.**





To leave everyone with the sweetest possible taste in their mouth, Sisterhood arranged what they called their chocolate extravaganza oneg for afterwards. There actually was liquid chocolate burbling out of a fountain, as shown above. At the end of the oneg the fountain was very empty.



Led by Sisterhood, KJCC on Thursday, November 10th joined the entire Jewish world in celebrating Shabbat through the Shabbos Project. The first step, that evening, was to fashion the ingredients of

dough to then bake at home for the next night's dinner.





**It was a little messy, but with some (almost) clear instructions and a lot of help from Jane Friedman, everyone fashioned their challah dough into classically braided loaves or even other shapes, such as menorahs.**





**Photos from the next night's pre-Shabbat dinner, on Friday, November 11th. Most brought their freshly baked challah loaves to share.**





Top left, lifelong Chicagoan Lee Schur shows off her brand new "World Champion Cubs" tee shirt. Congrats, Chicago. You had a long wait (108 years.)

Top right, Joyce Peckman spent much of early November visiting son Keith and family in New Jersey. Her grandson is of a set of fraternal twins.



New members Gunther and Shirley Karger rode in the Veterans Day Parade in Homestead.

At right, Stuart Sax sent us this photo of he and Lauren hosting a visit from Sandy and Nancy Yankow. Why is it news for four KJCC members to get together? Well, the Saxes live outside Dallas, Texas and the Yankows live in New Mexico.



The photo at left is of a tree in the KJCC Garden that Medina Roy planted in honor of her mom Bianka. Perhaps not too sure of the season, the tree has burst into brilliant red bloom. (It's red, honest. Go on our web site to see, where all the photos are in color.)



# Islamorada's First Pop-Up Art Show



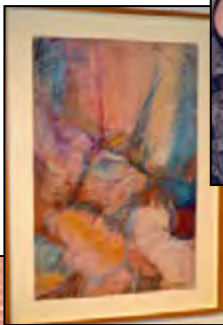
Had you been a screenwriter just before World War II, you would have loved being assigned scripts for the multi-talented dynamo who was then the biggest star in Hollywood. You'd know that the central point of the whole flick would be the moment when the megastar, Mickey Rooney, would turn to his cohort of friends, always including Judy Garland, and say: "hey, kids...let's put on a show!"

Sam Weis and Renee Salant had lived in Seattle for many years before moving to the Keys. Sam was a fixture of



the music scene there, but she'd also studied art for years and was an accomplished painter as well. She'd seen a lot of what they called "pop-up" art shows there, an exhibit that would get pulled together in a whirlwind and then be dismantled in a week

or two. They were something new and exciting and had taken the northwest art scene by storm. (They were also helping perform the wonderful service of selling paintings.) So Sam decided to do a pop-up show in Islamorada, to coincide with one of the monthly Art Walks. She found the place, contacted fellow KJCC artists John Hawver, Marcia Kreitman, Beth Kaminstein and Gloria Avner, and a show was born. The photos on this page and the next were taken at the opening.





**At top, the two-room Pop-Up Gallery fronting the Old Highway in Islamorada. Marcia, Gloria and John stand before their paintings. At bottom, the whole crew assembled together before two of Sam's paintings (l-r): John, Gloria, Sam, Marcia and Beth.**





**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

**SISTERHOOD  
SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**ONEG \$60**

**SHABBAT DINNER \$300**

**YOUR ONEG OR DINNER SPONSORSHIP WILL BE  
ACKNOWLEDGED IN CHAI-LIGHTS AND KJCC  
EMAILS AND ANNOUNCED FROM THE BEMA.**

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event such as a birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, bar/bat mitzvah, safe return, yahrzeit or any other occasion of your choice. Sisterhood will purchase challah, wine, coffee, tea, soft drinks and baked goods. Sponsors may also bring any special dish(es) of choice to share.

Contact: Beth Hayden

[hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net](mailto:hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net) 305-773-0067

# December

519 B.C.E. – Supported by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, the foundations for the Second Temple are laid during the second year of the reign of Persian ruler Darius The Great. It will take four years to complete the project.

220 C.E. – Rabbi Judah Hanasi (Judah the Patriarch) dies. Born in Eretz Israel in 138 (three years after the last rebellion against Rome, the one led by Bar Kochba), Judah's greatest claim to fame is as the compiler of the Mishna, the compilation of Oral Law, which will serve as the basis for both the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds. It served, and still serves, as a code for regulation of all Jewish life. Some of his more famous sayings include: "Be as punctilious in observing a light as a weighty commandment, for you do not know their relative reward." And the favorite of all who teach: "I have learned much from teachers, more from my colleagues, but most from pupils."

321 C.E. – A letter from Emperor Constantine the Great regarding special taxes provides the first evidence of Jews living along the Rhine in central Europe.

771 – Charlemagne becomes sole Frankish king upon the death of his brother, King Carloman. Contrary to typical historical patterns, the consolidation of political power in the hands of one monarch actually helps the kingdom's Jews. Charlemagne is favorably disposed to his Jewish subjects, even to the point of defying edicts of powerful prelates.

1197 – During the Third Crusade, the wife and daughters of Rabbi Eleazar ben Judah ben Kalonymous of Worms are murdered and he is gravely wounded. A Kabbalist, Halachic scholar and religious poet, Rabbi Eleazar describes in *Sefer HaHokhmah* (The Book of

Wisdom) the loneliness he feels after the death of his family and also his teacher, Judah He-Hasid. He ultimately leaves behind a body of writing that still influences Kabbalists almost eight hundred years later.

1254 – Pope Innocent IV dies. During his papacy, Innocent denounces Blood Libels against the Jews as "unfounded." In 1247, Innocent issues a declaration on behalf of Jews stating that the Talmud is an absolute necessity for the Jews, if Judaism is to continue to exist as a separate religion; and that burnings of the Talmud are to cease. This is not a position taken by many medieval Popes.

1655 – Oliver Cromwell convenes a gathering of English notables at Whitehall to decide if the Jews should be readmitted to England. Cromwell is a strong proponent of readmission, as are most of Cromwell's military and government leaders. Opposition comes from merchants and the mainline Christian clergy. The council is stalemated, and eventually disbanded. But conferees do agree that there is no legal reason not to re-admit the Jews since they had been expelled by royal decree and not by an act of Parliament.

1787 – Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. It abolishes all religious tests for public office in 1792.

1847 – Solomon Schechter is born in Rumania to a Chabad Chassidic family. His Chassidic upbringing does not satisfy him, and in 1879 he goes to study at the *Hochschule fur die Wissenschaft des Judentums* at the University of Berlin. He quickly rises to prominence as a rabbinic scholar and spokesman for Jewish traditionalism, gaining international fame as a scholar when he discovers and brings back to London more than 100,000 pages of rare manuscripts from the Cairo Geniza. In 1913 he is



instrumental in founding the United Synagogue of America, the umbrella organization of all Conservative congregations. Though a staunch traditionalist, Schechter admits that there can be change in modern Judaism. He is supposedly quoted as saying, "Gentlemen, in order to be a success in the American rabbinate, you must be able to talk baseball."

1861 – An edition of the *Louisville-Nashville Courier* gives the following details concerning the burning of a bridge at Whippoorwill on the Memphis Branch Railroad: "A detachment of fifty or sixty federal soldiers under the command of a Dutch Jew peddler named Netter fired a volley of over one hundred rounds from Sharp's revolving rifles" at the Confederates guarding the bridge. "Netter" is probably Gabriel Netter, a French-born Jew (not Dutch) living in Kentucky, who within a year would rise to the rank of Lt. Colonel before being killed in fighting near Owensboro.

1864 – A meeting is held in Philadelphia, which results in the establishment of the first Jewish theological seminary in America. The seminary is established under the joint auspices of the Hebrew Education Society and the Board of Delegates of American Israelites, and is named Maimonides College. The school begins operations in 1867. It ceases operations in 1873 due to lack of support and funds.

1875 – Father Bernhard Lichtenberg, anti-fascist German priest and outspoken defender of the Jews of Germany, is born. After *Kristallnacht*, Lichtenberg is the only prominent Church figure to raise his voice publicly and fearlessly against Nazi brutality. "We know what happened yesterday, we do not know what lies in store for us tomorrow. But we have experienced what has happened today: Outside burns the temple. This is also a place of worship." He is arrested in 1941, but continues to speak out. In 1943, Lichtenberg asks to accompany the Jews being sent to the Ghetto at Lodz, Poland. The Church refuses, but the Gestapo orders him sent to Dachau. Not yet seventy, Lichtenberg dies while await-

ing shipment to the concentration camp.

1889 – Poet Robert Browning dies. Browning's poem "Rabbi ben Ezra" is based on the life Abraham ibn Ezra, a leading figure in the Golden Age in Spain and second only in fame to Rashi as a Torah commentator. The poem begins with the famous line "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be..."

1891 – Rachel Sasoon Beer, granddaughter of David Sasoon and daughter of Sasoon David Sasoon, is named editor of *The Observer* in London, making her the first female editor of a national newspaper. During her tenure *The Observer* achieves one of its greatest exclusives: the admission by Count Esterhazy that he had forged the letters used to condemn innocent Jewish Captain Alfred Dreyfus to Devil's Island. The ensuing international outcry leads to the release and pardon of Dreyfus and court-martial of Esterhazy.

1917 – British troops under General Allenby fight their way into Jerusalem, defeating the Ottoman Turks and freeing the ancient Jewish homeland from hundreds of years of Ottoman rule. The whole city turns out to greet the General, as do the Chief Sephardic and Ashkenazi Rabbis. The Jaffa Gate is opened after years of disuse to enable Allenby to enter on foot, but also to enable him to enter the city without having to use a gap in the wall created for Kaiser William in 1898.

1917 – Corporal Louis Isaac Salek, a Gallipoli veteran from New Zealand, hoists and flies the first Jewish flag to fly over Jerusalem since the city's fall to the Romans almost two thousand years ago. The flag is made by an Egyptian-Jewish department store owner named Moreno Cicurel with the assistance of a tailor from Alexandria named Eliezer Slutzkin. Salek's flag design is blue and white – the top half blue, the bottom half white – with a Magen David in the center. Salek plants Moreno's flag atop the Tower of David – the Citadel – where it flies for 20 minutes before being removed by the British. ◇

# A SIMAN TOV, A MAZEL TOV...

**B**ar Mitzvahs have always been cause for great celebration. Friends and relatives “kleib nachas.” (That’s Yiddish for taking pride – see also related concepts “ferklempf” and “qvelling.”) In this particular era, when KJCC B’nei Mitzvot are few and far between, the celebration of this rite of passage well performed is even more significant; it is evidence of our little shul’s commitment to all facets of Jewish life and symbolic of our people’s continuity into the future.

Cole Meurig Silverman’s family came to our synagogue from all parts of the globe. (Literally.) He did them proud. And he did us proud, his extended KJCC *mish-pocha*. Look at the smiling, shiny-eyed faces in the photos. Over the past few years, we have watched Cole morph from an adorable, well-spoken kid to a responsible, gracious and graceful, handsome young man with compassion for others. He has also shown the ability to put Jewish values and commitment into action. Cole’s “mitzvah” project was to raise funds for cancer research, so people like his aunts and



grandmother would not have to endure the pain, grief and loss that this illness brings with it. He learned he could set a goal and take steps to achieve it (he doubled the amount of money he set out to raise). He also learned that something difficult, like chanting Hebrew verses



before his Bar Mitzvah and in giving his Torah talk and speeches. Few will ever forget what he quipped about the honor of chanting from our Holocaust Torah (which came to us from the same house of worship he



without error directly from the Torah, was achievable, working one small bit at a time, if you practice, practice, practice. It also helps if you have the wise counsel of Rabbi Richard Agler guiding and inspiring you as you prepare for and perform your Bar Mitzvah duties. Rabbi Agler's last words to Cole before the service began were: "Remember, this is God's service."



attends when in London with dad Peter - the Westminster Synagogue): "It seems that wherever I go, this Torah also goes."



Cole's poise and confidence was impressive, both in leading the Friday night service





We like to think he will never forget what he learned through KJCC. We look forward to Cole and his family's return next year at High Holidays, when we will ask



him to take two honors, one Aliyah to chant the blessings before and after the *Haftarah* reading (he did them so well!)



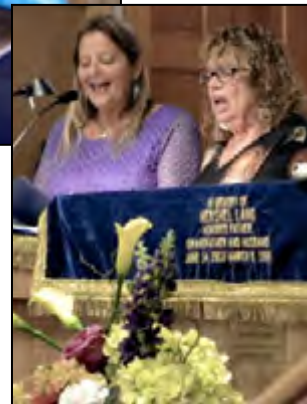
and another to join his fellow *b'nei mitzvot* on the *bimah* for the final blast of the *shofar*, the *Tekiah G'dolah*, signaling the end of Yom Kippur and the Days of Awe. He is already practicing on the shofar gifted to



fully at his KJCC Bar Mitzvah, but especially to mom Jane, who worked tirelessly to support Cole and create a beautiful event. We also congratulate



him by his tutor. We wish another *mazel* to the entire Silverman family, including brother Westley, who also performed beauti-





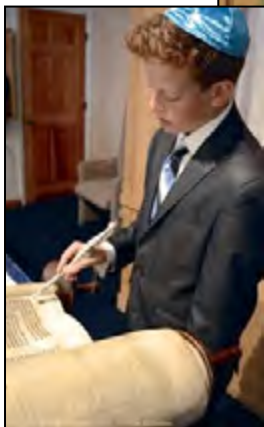


the loving Dr. Michael Berman, proud grandparents Ivy and Marvin Blumenfeld, and all Cole's friends and relatives who joyously showered Cole with candy when his Bar Mitzvah work was done. May you all have more *nachas* to *kleib*.

—Gloria Avner



*Our sincere appreciation to Barbara Knowles Photography for the use of their photographs in this retrospective of Cole's KJCC Bar Mitzvah.*



# KJCC Chanukah

5777

## Champagne Chanukah Pre-New Years Eve Party

### Shabbat Dinner

Friday  
December 30, 2016  
6:00 PM

### Dairy Dinner

Services at 7:30 pm

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# You Got Me Singin'

*A loving goodbye to Leonard Cohen*

by Gloria Avner

*It's not often you get to sit shiva, discuss, praise, and ponder the meaning of a man's life-work, the sadness of his dying, the inspiration of his wrestling with great truths and mourn his passing while the man is still alive. As a congregation, on the afternoon of Yom Kippur, floaty and permeable from hours of fasting, we did just this, thanks to Rabbi Richard Agler.*

So much can happen in fifty days – the amount of time it took the Jewish people to escape from slavery in Egypt, trek through the desert and receive the Torah at Mt. Sinai. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Leonard Cohen celebrated his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday by releasing a new album,



*You Want it Darker.* The title song was brilliant. And it was disturbing. It felt like he was saying goodbye. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, nearly 100 of us welcomed in the New Year, with a *Rosh HaShanah* family feast and with prayer. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, *Yom Kippur*, the last of our traditional Days of Awe, 40 members of the KJCC

*mishpocha*, in between morning and evening services, gathered in the classroom to listen to and discuss the deep Jewish roots of Leonard Cohen's newest songs. Those songs seemed filled with pain and disappointment at the condition of the world, and yet there was, as always, great beauty in the expression of that pain. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Leonard Cohen, one of the finest Jewish poets who ever lived, left the body. But once again, as so often, he was right: through his songs he shall live forever.

*You got me singin'  
Even though the news is bad  
You got me singin'  
The only song I ever had . . .  
You got me singin'  
Even though the world is gone  
You got me thinkin'  
That I'd like to carry on  
You got me singin'  
Even though the world looks grim  
You got me singin'  
'The Hallelujah hymn.*

Leonard Cohen left us this prophetic song, the last on his penultimate album, *Popular Problems*, as inspiration, a prescient and precious gift. He left us many gifts, of course, the greatest of which may be that *Hallelujah* hymn he's *singin'.* How do we continue to live in a world that's looking grim, so grim it might be gone? Leonard told us. We carry on. He didn't say it would be easy. And we keep on singing.

Rabbi Agler was inspired by Leonard Cohen to create an alternate version of *Hallelujah*. It gets even more specific and helpful in its advice for living. He created it for a convention of rabbis. He shared it with us that Yom Kippur afternoon, accompanied by David Feder on guitar. What a joyous experience! We all joined in the chorus. In place of the word *Hallelujah*, we sang out "be a *bracha*, be a *bracha*." (A *Bracha*, of course, is a blessing. It is a call to action. Through kindness, and pursuing peace and justice, we can carry on in a darkened world.) I have word that Rabbi Agler will lead another discussion of Leonard Cohen's newest works next Yom Kippur...and meanwhile we must keep on singing. Leonard Cohen, thank you for everything. In your piece, "Hineni, Hineni, I am ready, Lord" your "still small voice" modeled good behavior for us. But we can't help shedding tears. We already miss you, but your memory will be for a blessing. Forever.

(If you want to hear *Hallelujah* sung in perfect Yiddish, search You Tube for Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" - in Yiddish by Daniel Kahn.) ♦



# “The Grand Mosque of Paris” and “Free Men”

## A Book and Movie Review

### About Heroism Under Duress

by Linda Kaplan

**R**ecent additions to the KJCC library include the children’s book “The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews during the Holocaust,” written by Karen Gray Ruelle and Deborah Durlan DeSaiz, and the movie “Free Men,” a fictional story inspired by the events described in the book, co-written and directed by Ismael Ferroukhi.

*Jewish Book World Magazine* gave “The Grand Mosque of Paris” its top five-star rating and recommended it for children aged 8-11. The fascinating story will interest young adults as well as not-so-young adults. The book is remarkable not just for the narrative but also for the beautiful double-page oil paintings, which convey both hope and the danger and desperation of the Nazi occupation of Paris.

“The Grand Mosque of Paris” tells the story of how Muslims at the Paris Mosque rescued Jews during the Nazi

occupation. The Grand Mosque was built in 1926 when Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia were under French rule and many Muslims had come to Paris from those countries. It included a community center, library, steam baths, gardens, clinic, restaurant, and apartments for those who worked there. The land for the mosque was a gift from the French

government to thank the half-million Muslims who fought for France during WWI.

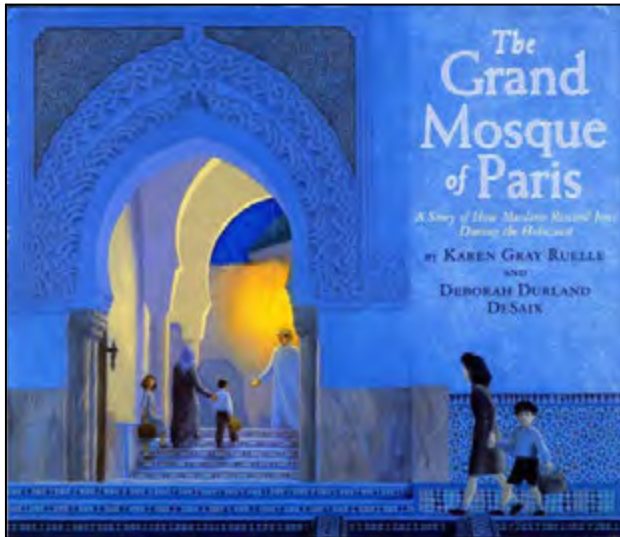
In July of 1942 almost thirteen thousand Jews were arrested in Paris. The book quotes a letter, believed to have been written during the summer of 1942, which was found in the papers of a Tunisian-owned Paris café. It was translated from Kabyle (a language from the Atlas Mountains of Algeria):

*“Yesterday at dawn, the Jews of Paris were arrested. The elderly, the women and the children. In exile like ourselves, workers like ourselves. They are our brothers. Their children are like our own children. Anyone who encounters one of his children must give that child shelter and protection for as long as misfortune – or sorrow – lasts. Oh man of my country, your heart is generous.”*

The book speculates whether the letter was read out in the café, or circulated among the Kabyle workers of Paris or the board-

ing houses where the men lived, but concludes that this letter seems to be a call to action, and proof of the strong bond between the North African Muslims and Jews.

The book explains that the people of North Africa, Jew and Muslim, lived as neighbors, shared similar cultures, referred to each other as brothers and looked very much alike.



**The cover of the children’s book about wartime Jews being rescued, now in the KJCC Library.**

This is why Salim, a gay Jewish man from Algeria, was able to safely live in the Mosque and pretend to be Muslim. Some of the people who worked and lived at the Mosque had children, which allowed them to hide North African Jewish children among their own.

Below the sub-basement of the mosque were tunnels, damp rooms (in which the Jewish adults were harbored) and hundreds of miles of dark passageways in which one could easily be lost or, if you knew the corridors, make your way to an escape on the River Seine. Jews who could not pass for North African Muslims were hidden for a few days at the Mosque, until they could escape via a barge to a central wine market on the banks of the Seine. Two of the people who escaped via the barge were Albert Assouline, a Jew, and Yassa Rahal, a Muslim, who were friends from North Africa. After they escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany they managed to get to Paris, and sheltered at the Mosque for a few days until they could be smuggled onto the barge and hidden among the wine barrels for their escape.

Ahmed Somia, a Muslim doctor from Tunisia, worked to protect Jewish children at risk of arrest by fabricating illnesses and sending them to clinics away from Paris. They provided some with false identity papers showing them to be Muslim or Christian. At the Muslim hospital where he worked, he and the other doctors hid Allied parachutists and pilots (whose planes had been shot down by the Nazis) by day, and treated them at night. Some of the patients treated had come to France as spies. After they were treated, they were transported to shelter at the Mosque.

The book includes a glossary and an extensive bibliography. It includes the message: "Save one life, and it is as if you've saved all of humanity" which is both an Islamic *Hadith* (saying of the Prophet Muhammad) and a Jewish Proverb.

The movie "Free Men," which was inspired by the story in "The Grand Mosque of Paris," premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. The film weaves fictional characters into the story alongside real characters. Algerian-born Jewish historian Benjamin Stora acted as an

adviser on "Free Men." Younes, a fictional character, is a young Muslim man from Algeria who sells cigarettes, eggs, and whatever else he can sell on the black market. He is caught by the French Immigration Police, who recruit him to spy on the Mosque. In his efforts to spy for the police, Younes meets the rector of the Mosque, Si Kaddour Benghabrit and Salim Halali (both real people.)

Si Kaddour Benghabrit was considered to be the most influential Muslim in France. Salim was a young Berber Jew from Algeria, a celebrated singer, pretending to be Muslim. After the rector mentors him, Younes begins to assist him and Salim in aiding the escape of the Jews in Paris. Younes becomes interested in Leila, a beautiful Jewish woman living as a Muslim in the Mosque.

Salim had been provided a Certificate of Conversion to show that his grandfather had converted to Islam. When the Nazis began suspecting that the Mosque was providing false Muslim birth certificates and fake conversion certificates to Jews, the rector arranged to have an unmarked tombstone in the Muslim cemetery engraved with Salim's family name. That saved his life when the Nazis picked him up.

The movie was selected as Film Movement's DVD of the month for new, award-winning independent and foreign film. They said, in part, "*Free Men.... does not tell a story we have already heard a million times, but rather brings to light a very little-known chapter of French history – a surprising and powerful story of camaraderie, tolerance and humanity between religions that is as relevant today as it was in Vichy Paris. Moreover, the film does not merely rely on its fascinating background but develops complex characters, builds suspense, pays incredible attention to detail in its set design, costumes and lighting and features stellar performances from some of the biggest names in French cinema today, including the veterans Michael Lonsdale and the young César Award winner Tahar Rahim.*"

Both the book and movie are available in the KJCC library. The film is also available on Amazon Prime. ◇

# CHANUKAH ON CHANUKAH

## “A light unto the nations”

by Gloria Avner

This year we will really be in the dark as Chanukah begins. When we light the first candle, at sunset on December 21<sup>st</sup>, it will mark the exact onset of Winter Solstice, shortest day of the year and the longest, darkest night. The world too seems tilted to the dark side as we approach Chanukah this year – with incivility and divisiveness raging among people of different races, religions, held values, and political beliefs all over the world.

What exactly did Isaiah envision when he channeled this assignment from G-d to our forebears and, eventually, to all of us, to be “a light unto the nations?” Ancient rabbis had their view, which we can glean from Torah and Talmudic sources. Some say that the light referred to the nation of Jews alone. Others posit that it is the prophet Isaiah himself who is supposed to be a light unto nations. In a book titled “Judaism, Human Value and the Jewish State,” author Yeshaya Leibowitz speaks passionately for that view and claims that early Zionists had political reasons for altering the intended meaning.

The Torah’s words, however, never change. We learned that, down to the last stroke of the last letter, when we hosted our scribe on Holocaust Torah Rededication Day last March. (Yes, we remember that the word Chanukah itself means “dedication.”) Meaning

and interpretation vary in the eye of the beholder, especially in Judaism, where minds are strong and we are encouraged to argue with G-d. (The precedent was set by Abraham, our earliest forebear.) There are many Jewish leaders and educators who encourage viewing all Biblical exhortations through the lens of modern day challenges, that many things have changed since the days of the First Temple.

Contemporary rabbis definitely have their own take. One particularly well-articulated view came out just before Chanukah last year, in a position paper titled “Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Seeks Chanukah’s Light at a Dark Time.” (The CCAR is the largest organization of Jewish clergy in the world, 2,000 rabbis strong.) It was a prescient article, written a whole year before developments they focused on were thrown into ever-greater relief. They were concerned about racial injustice, unchecked gun violence, the disastrous consequences to our planet if environmental commitments made in Paris at the world’s recent environmental conference were not kept. The rabbis saw violent religious extremists threatening world peace. The threat to women’s reproductive liberty, they said, had never been greater. Their statement, published exactly a year ago, had *kavanah* behind it: heart-felt intent.



The rabbis got very specific. One act they called for was an “opening of hearts and borders to rigorously vetted Syrian refugees.” Yes, their words and concerns sound (and are) political; and we are usually firm about not bringing politics into KJCC. But let’s look at this upcoming celebration and ask ourselves two questions: who actually were the Maccabees? And what was the real miracle? Perhaps it’s not about the oil at all. What if the miracle was that this tiny band of students – *yeshiva bochers*, not warriors – was victorious at all over a civilization as mighty and cultured as the realm left to his generals at the death of Alexander the Great. The “boys” took back the Temple, and however you look at it –

as fact, expanded metaphor or myth – the truth is this; the light representing Jewish values was re-lit; and we, Abraham’s descendants, are

supposed to keep it burning, especially so when beset by a dark, dark time. Isn’t light’s deepest purpose that it was given us as an alternative to darkness and the void?

The CCAR Rabbinate looked back at the days in which our earliest religious leaders called for a festival to bring light into darkness, and offered this prayer:

*“As we praise our Creator, Who worked wondrous miracles for our people at this season in ancient days, we pray that the Divine Source of blessing may grant light to every dark corner of our troubled world, to our people and to all people, at this and every season.”*

Soon we’ll be lighting the candles of our family *chanukiahs* at a KJCC dinner, service

and party on December 30<sup>th</sup>. (*We once again thank Linda Pollack for her annual sponsorship of this event.*) The light will be dazzling. How significant that the eighth and final Chanukah candle will be lit this year on New Year’s Eve, the cusp of new beginnings! Put your candleholders in windows, in spots where they can easily be seen by the “nations.” (The way it was originally intended to be. The practice was only halted in medieval Europe and other regions when it became dangerous to advertise one’s family as Jewish.) Invite your neighbors in for latkes. Let your light shine beyond our *chanukiahs*, beyond metaphor, with brightness permeating every act of kindness and effort toward mutual respect.

Isaiah’s words will echo in our ears along with this holiday’s traditional songs: “One for each night, they shed a sweet light to remind us of days long ago.” It is good to remember,

through our songs and the words of the prophet Isaiah, that we are intended to be God’s partners in *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world). It’s often a daunting task, but God never seems to have promised us that doing the work commanded would be easy. Nor did our ancient prophets, who were believed to be bringing God’s authentic voice and wishes to His people. We are meant to bring that sweet and piercing light forward into action, today and all year long. And one of the most accessible and joyous symbols of light we have is the brilliance of the Chanukah candles, defying gravity and this world and reaching with their light toward the heavens.

*Chag Sameach* and happy, healthy New Year to all. ♦



**Scenes from the candle-lighting at last year’s KJCC Chanukah dinner and celebration. The joy and wonder of Maddie and Sean filled the entire room.**





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